



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 100, October 27, 2010
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

CAGONT

Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division



CAGONT 2010 @ Ryerson University: The Department of Geography (Faculty of Arts) and the Centre for the Study of Commercial Activity (Ted Rogers School of Management) at Ryerson University welcomed 192 attendees to the CAGONT 2010 Annual Meeting from October 15-16, 2010 in Toronto, Ontario. This tied the existing attendance record for a CAGONT annual meeting. Other numbers of note include: 107 total papers (new record) with 94 oral paper presentations (new record), 11 poster presentations, and 2 special session paper presentations.

The awards in the Student Paper competition went to: Benita Tam - University of Toronto (Doctoral Research Paper), Antony Chum - University of Toronto (Doctoral Paper), Alexander Todd - York University (Masters Paper), and Yasmine Mohamed - York University (Undergraduate Paper). The Service to Ontario Geography Award was presented to Dr. Jean Andrey - University of Waterloo by outgoing CAGONT President Dr. Bill Crumplin from Laurentian University. Dr. Marilyne Jollineau from Brock University was elected the new CAGONT President, while Chelsea LeBlanc - Brock University was elected as the new Student Representative on the CAGONT Executive. Chelsea also won the inaugural CAGONT Best Poster Award.

The CAGONT 2010 website will remain as an archive and the final Book of Abstracts can be accessed by going to: <http://www.geography.ryerson.ca/cagont2010>.

The CAGONT 2011 Annual Meeting will be hosted at the Lakehead University - Orillia Campus in October 2011.

Mount A's Sarah Quann Wins Best Undergraduate Student Presentation at ACAG 2010: Mount Allison University's Sarah Quann won best overall undergraduate presentation at the 22nd annual Atlantic Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference in St. John's, NL. Quann, from Ingonish, NS, competed in an open forum against students from across the region to win the award. Quann presented results from a directed studies project on past mining activity at the Joggins Fossil Cliffs, which she carried out in her second year under the guidance of geography and environment professor Dr. Colin Laroque. Her presentation highlighted results of a dendroarchaeology investigation of wood left over from past mining activity that is eroding out of the cliffs. [Mount Allison News](#)

Geography Students at Vancouver Island University Learn About Their World: VIU's Geography program provides a balance of theoretical and applied course work designed to strengthen student communication skills (oral, written, visual), deliver a range of employable skills (e.g., geographic communication, spatial analysis, statistics, remote sensing [RS], and geographic information systems ([GIS]), and challenge students to think critically, analyze problems, and seek resolutions to conflicts in any number of areas of geographic interest. Geography students enjoy the privilege of learning GIS and RS applications in a dedicated, state-of-the-art lab. Interpreting aerial photographs, satellite images, and topographic maps are an integral part of the geography curricula. For more information, check out viu.ca/geography and [E-VIU](#)

York U and U Toronto Geography Students Winners at CAGONT 2010: The recent CAGONT meeting hosted by the Department of Geography at Ryerson University was attended by almost 200 delegates. Among the many presentations, were award winning presentations by University of Toronto students [Benita Tam](#) (Best Doctoral Research Paper) and [Antony Chum](#) (Best Presentation by PhD candidate). The award for best presentation by a masters student went to Alexander Todd from the Department of Geography at York University. Yasmine Mohamed, also from the Department of Geography at York University, won the award for best undergraduate student presentation. [CAGONT News](#)

U Toronto Student Carlos Avendano Recipient of L.R. Wilson Award: [Carlos Avendano](#) was this year's recipient of the L.R. Wilson Award for the Best Student Paper presented at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the AASP Palynological Society (Halifax, Oct 2010). The title of Carlos' presentation: "Tropical Palynology and Paleoecology in the Central Guatemalan Lowlands and Highlands".

UVic and UBC Graduate Ian Baird Specializes in Upland Peoples of Southeast Asia: Ian Baird took his new job, as a geographer specializing in the upland peoples of Southeast Asia, knowing that members of one of those groups, the Hmong, were disappointed with the scope of his assignment. Some Hmong in Madison, Wis., had hoped that the new position at the University of Wisconsin there would focus on how their ethnic group was faring in the United States. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

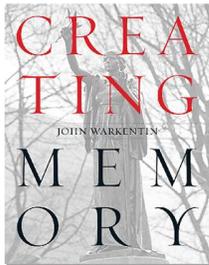
U Guelph's Ze'ev Gedalof Warns Not to Count on Forests to Offset Carbon Emissions: A new study from the University of Guelph in southern Ontario found rising carbon levels failed to stimulate faster growth in 80 per cent of the world's trees, despite the fact that the gas typically accelerates growth in plants. Only 20 per cent of trees appeared to respond positively to higher carbon levels, prompting researchers to urge countries to rethink their long-term environmental policies. Ze'ev Gedalof, Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Guelph and co-author of the study, said the results challenge long-held assumptions about forests' role in the fight to curb carbon emissions. [University of Guelph News](#) | [Brandon Sun](#) | [Metro News](#) | [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

U Toronto's Deborah McGregor Comments on Traditional Knowledge and Sustainability: "TEK is about sustaining a creative reciprocal relationship with all of creation," writes Deborah McGregor, a geography professor at the University of Toronto who studies traditional knowledge, "and about fulfilling our lives as human beings in relation to creation." More than that, she adds, "traditional knowledge is an authority system. To be sustainable means to take responsibility and be spiritually connected to all of creation, all of the time. Everyone and everything carries this responsibility and has duties to perform." [Miller-McCune](#)

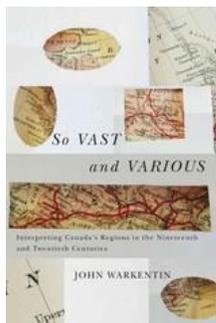
U Guelph Geography Hosts Canadian Geophysical Union Hydrology Section Meeting: The Canadian Geophysical Union Hydrology Section is holding its tenth annual meeting on December 4th, 2010 (with an icebreaker on the 3rd) at the University of Guelph, hosted by the Department of Geography. Conference Information @ <http://www.uoguelph.ca/~hydrogeo/CGU-HS/>

Memorial U's Kelly Vodden Fills Regional Development Gap: Geographer Kelly Vodden is the principal investigator on a major SSHRC-funded project that aims to look at new regionalism in a Canadian context and how innovations in regional development can be shared across provinces and jurisdictions. Her project, *Canadian Regional Development: A Critical Review of Theory, Practice and Potentials*, will look at how Canadian regional development has evolved over the past two decades in four selected Canadian provinces chosen to represent central, western and eastern Canada – British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador, and the extent to which lessons from experiences have been reflected upon and shared within and across these provinces. [Today @ MUN](#)

York U's John Warkentin Publishes Books on Outdoor Sculpture and Regional Writing in Canada:



John Warkentin has published two books in 2010, one at a local and the other at a national scale. [Creating Memory. A Guide to Outdoor Sculpture in Toronto](#) (Becker Associates/City Institute at York University, 347 pp) is a geographical and historical interpretation of Toronto as seen through its more than 600 public monuments and sculptures. Illustrated by 34 maps and 30 photographs the book is also a guide to these features.



[So Vast and Various](#) (McGill- Queen's, 508 pp) is an anthology of descriptive and interpretive regional writing on Canada in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It starts in the 1830s with Joseph Bouchette, author of the first serviceable geography of British North America, and ends in the 1970s with Justice Thomas Berger's insights on the North. Included are excerpts from George Parkin's interpretation of Canada at the turn of the nineteenth century, followed in the twentieth century by J. D. Rogers' emphasis on regional spatial forces and geometrics, the early Harold Innis on Canada's main regional civilizations, R. C. Wallace on the North, and Bruce Hutchison's vivid portrayals of Canada's major regions and cities. An essay on the evolution of regional writing on Canada introduces the volume, and the chapters and excerpts have explanatory notes

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Alison Bain, York University

Dr. [Alison Bain](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at York University. Alison completed her BA in Geography at Queen's University, an MA in Geography at the University of Toronto, and her PhD in Geography at University of Cambridge, England. Her research interests focus on urban development, creative capacity of mid-size cities, occupational identity construction by Canadian artists, suburban cultural production, and spatializing queer identity politics.

Her recent publications include:

Bain, A.L. (2010) Re-imaging, re-elevating, re-placing the urban. In Trudi Bunting, Pierre Filion, and Ryan Walker (eds) *Canadian Cities in Transition: New Directions in the 21st Century*. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 262-275.

Bain, A.L. and Marsh, J. (forthcoming, 2010) Peterborough: a georegion in transition? In G. Nelson and S. Preston (eds) *Many Places, Many People: Understanding and Planning for the Diverse Georegions of Ontario*. Montreal and Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press.

Bain, A.L. and McLean, D.M. (forthcoming, 2010) Eclectic creativity: interdisciplinary creative alliances as informal cultural strategy. In Bas van Heur and Anne Lorentzen (eds) *Cultural Political Economy of Small Cities*. London and New York: Routledge.

Bain, A.L. and McLean, D.M. (forthcoming, 2010) From post to poster to post-industrial: cultural networks and eclectic creative practice. In Myrna Breitbart (ed) *Cultural Economies in Post-Industrial Cities: Creating a (Different) Scene*. Aldershot: Ashgate.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Anna Pujadas-Botey. 2010. "[Interdisciplinarity in Ecosystem Management](#)." Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. Supervisor: Theresa Garvin.

Benjamin Deschamps. 2010 "Evaluation of three semi-empirical soil moisture estimation models with RADARSAT-2 imagery". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Matt Maloley. 2010. "Thermal remote sensing of urban heat islands: Greater Toronto Area". Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario.

Other "Geographical" News

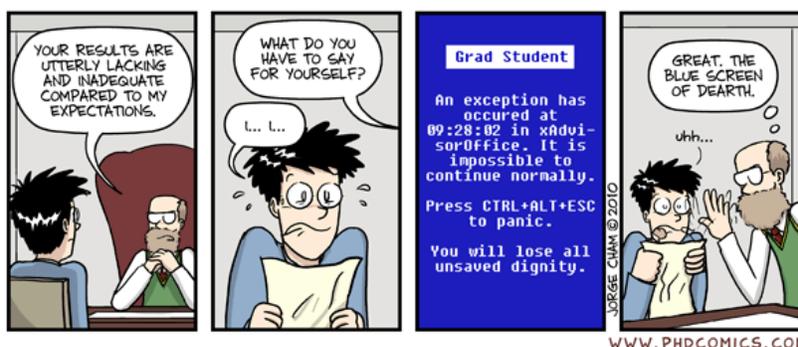
New UVic Tool Rates Environmental Impact of Aquaculture: University of Victoria marine ecologist Dr. John Volpe and his research team have developed the Global Aquaculture Performance Index (GAPI), an unprecedented system for objectively measuring the environmental performance of fish farming. [UVic Media Release](#)

Canadian Geoscience Education Network Draws Attention to Classroom Resources: Go to http://www.edgeo.org/en_CA/ and click on "Resources" to find two new free downloadable manuals full of lesson plans and activities for the classroom. "Bringing Earth Science to Life" pulls together all you need to know about putting on an EdGEO workshop and provides over a hundred classroom-ready activities that have been used successfully and finetuned in EdGEO workshops all over Canada. "Putting the Earth into Science" aims to integrate Earth science topics into the core subjects of physics, chemistry, biology and mathematics. Through an interdisciplinary approach, EdGEO hopes to expand Earth science content in Canadian high schools.

Drought May Threaten Much of Globe Within Decades: Many populated countries face a growing threat of severe and prolonged drought in coming decades. According to results of a new study warming temperatures associated with climate change will likely create increasingly dry conditions across much of the globe in the next 30 years. The drought may reach a scale in some regions by the end of the century that has rarely, if ever, been observed in modern times. Dryness is likely to increase substantially across most of the Western Hemisphere, along with large parts of Eurasia, Africa, and Australia. [EurekaAlert!](#)

Clues About Carbon Dioxide Patterns at End of Ice Age: New research puts to rest the mystery of where old carbon was stored during the last glacial period. It turns out it ended up in the icy waters of the Southern Ocean near Antarctica. [Science Daily](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>