



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Geographer Michael Goodchild Discusses the Changing Face of GIS: Change is coming in the way people create knowledge about the geographic environment in which they live, and it's causing seismic paradigm shifts. Community mapping, a form of citizen science whereby local people participate in geographically defining an area, is increasingly taking on greater significance--especially during times of emergency and natural disaster. As part of the National Science Foundation's Distinguished Lecture series, geographer Michael Goodchild gave a talk titled, "From Community Mapping to Critical Spatial Thinking: The Changing Face of GIS (geographic information systems)." [National Science Foundation](#)

U Toronto's Danny Harvey Participates in Quirks & Quarks 35th Anniversary Special: In 1975 a group of young and inexperienced producers were launching a radical idea: a weekly one-hour program devoted entirely to science, hosted by a young scientist from Vancouver, named David Suzuki. It was called, Quirks & Quarks. To celebrate this special occasion, 10 Canadian scientists, representing 10 different fields of science, were brought together and to tell about the extraordinary changes that have occurred in each of their fields, since Quirks first went on the air. [CBCRadio](#)

U Waterloo's Jean Audrey and Su-Yin Tan Receive Grants to Support Teaching Research: Research about how to tackle students' misconceptions about spatial relations and research about students' learning styles was awarded support by the UW Learning Initiative Fund and Program Initiative Fund. [UW Daily Bulletin](#)

U Waterloo's Bruce Mitchell Assumes New Academic Title: Associate provost (academic and student affairs) — geography professor Bruce Mitchell — will now be titled "associate provost (resources)". Bruce will be responsible for space management, as well as four existing functions: the library, co-operative education and career action, academic integrity, and the WatPD program. [UW Daily Bulletin](#)

Roger Tomlinson Put Geography on the Map: Roger Tomlinson changed the face of geography as a discipline when he introduced geographic information system technology (GIS) in the late 1960s, which scans maps into a computer and allows data built into those maps to be analyzed along with related statistical information about the region. Mr. Tomlinson's mapping system is the enabler of our modern computer mapping and global positioning systems. It laid the foundation for Google Maps and GPS receivers in cars. The Ottawa-born geographic information systems are now used in over 400,000 institutions in more than 135 countries; far from being just an academic success, millions of people are now involved in the \$51-billion per year industry. [The Globe and Mail](#)

David Atkinson Joins UVic Department of Geography: David came to the Department of Geography in 2010 after working for 6 years as a research scientist and professor at the International Arctic Research Center/Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Before that he held Post-Doc positions at Bedford Institute of Oceanography, focusing on environmental forcing of arctic coastal regions, and the University of Ottawa, focusing on high-arctic data issues and computer methods for hemispheric paleo-climate reconstruction. His PhD (University of Ottawa) focused on high-arctic climate issues that included data rescue work, statistical analyses, and the development of a distributed surface air temperature prediction model. [New Faculty: David Atkinson](#)

U Toronto's Jing Chen Receives Professional Achievement Award: [Jing Chen](#) is the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award from the Chinese Professionals Association of Canada. Professor Chen received his award from The Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. [CPAC](#)

UVic's Ian O'Connell Honoured with Teaching Award at Fall Convocation: Ian O'Connell is a senior instructor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria. He teaches a wide variety of courses to students, who describe his ability as exceptional. Through his infectious sense of humour, his willingness to work tirelessly and individually with students, his ability to inspire students by pointing out their unique abilities, and his generosity in offering timely career advice, he has touched the lives of his students. He treats those in his classes with the utmost respect—a respect that is reciprocated deeply. [UVic The Ring](#)

U of S / CSHS Kananaskis Short Course on Principles of Hydrology: The University of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Society for Hydrological Sciences is offering an intensive course on the physical principles of hydrology with particular relevance to Canadian conditions. The course will take place at the University of Calgary's Biogeoscience Institute's Barrier Lake Station in the Kananaskis Valley from February 28 – March 11, 2011. The course is intended for hydrology and water resources graduate students and early to mid-level career water resource engineers, hydrologists, aquatic ecologists and technologists from Canada who are either working directly in hydrology and water resources. [Course Announcement](#)

Memorial U's Rodolphe Devillers Helps Establish Community Garden: The Memorial University community garden was launched with the help of more than 80 volunteers. The garden is the result of a university-wide team effort led, in part, by Rodolphe Devillers of the Department of Geography. "As an island, Newfoundland is one of the most sensitive places in Canada regarding food security as we, unfortunately, import almost everything we eat. As the only university on the island, Memorial has a unique responsibility to contribute to the food security needs of the province," commented Dr. Devillers. [MUN Today](#)

McMaster U's Ed Reinhardt and Mike Waddington on CHCH TV News: Geography experts at McMaster University say an explosion like the one in Mexico is almost unheard of. Ed Reinhardt and Mike Waddington note that there is a potential for similar disasters at other resorts in Mexico. [CHCH TV News](#)

Queen's U's Sophie Edwards and Neal Scott Receive Community Service Learning Award: Sophie Edwards and [Neal Scott](#) were successful in their application for a Community Service Learning Award. This Award was for Community-partnered Field Research, a course for 3rd-4th year students. The field research will take place on Manitoulin Island in partnership with 4elements Living Arts and their Land/Art Institute (a non-profit organisation). [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Jason Hackworth, University of Toronto

Dr. [Jason Hackworth](#) is an associate professor of geography and urban planning at the University of Toronto. His research focuses on how large-scale economic and political movements shape local policy and development outcomes in North American cities. Topically, this has included a focus on urban form, social housing, municipal finance, and gentrification. Geographically, this has included a focus on New York, Toronto, Chicago, Phoenix, Seattle, Nashville, and Philadelphia among other cities.

Jason's recent book, [The Neoliberal City: governance, ideology and development in American urbanism](#), was published by Cornell University Press. In *The Neoliberal City*, Jason argues that neoliberal policies are in fact having a profound effect on the nature and direction of urbanization in the United States and other wealthy countries, and that much can be learned from studying its effect. He explores the impact that neoliberalism has had on three aspects of urbanization in the United States: governance, urban form, and social movements.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Geoff Hill and Greg Henry. 2010. [Responses of High Arctic wet sedge tundra to climate warming since 1980](#). Global Change Biology. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-2486.2010.02244.x

Felicia Pickard, André Robichaud and Colin P. Laroque. 2010. [Using dendrochronology to date the Val Comeau canoe, New Brunswick and developing an eastern white pine chronology in the Canadian Maritimes](#). Dendrochronologia. doi:10.1016/j.dendro.2010.08.004

W.L. Quinton; M. Hayashi; and L.E. Chasmer. 2010. [Permafrost-thaw-induced land-cover change in the Canadian subarctic: implications for water resources](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.7894

Other "Geographical" News

Playing God with Planet Earth: Can science roll back the effects of global warming? Many believe we can't remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere fast enough to avoid a global catastrophe. So genengineering schemes – like spraying acid in the sky to block out the sun – may be our only hope. Will we save the day? Or cause planetary disaster? Premiering Thursday, November 25 at 9pm ET/PT on [Doc Zone, CBC Television](#).

Mackenzie Pipeline Report OK'd by N.W.T., Ottawa: The proposed \$16.2-billion Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline is a step closer to reality after the federal and Northwest Territories governments agreed Monday with most of the recommendations set out by a review panel last year. They said they can eliminate or mitigate any potential adverse impacts if the 1,200-kilometre natural gas pipeline goes ahead. [CBC News](#)

Catastrophic Drought Looms for Capital City of Bolivia: Catastrophic drought is on the near-term horizon for the capital city of Bolivia, according to new research into the historical ecology of the Andes. If temperatures rise more than 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius (3 to 5 degrees Fahrenheit) above those of modern times, parts of Peru and Bolivia will become a desert-like setting. The change would be disastrous for the water supply and agricultural capacity of the two million inhabitants of La Paz, Bolivia's capital city, scientists say. [EurekAlert!](#)

Scientific Grand Challenges Identified to Address Global Sustainability: The international scientific community has identified five Grand Challenges: 1. Forecasting—Improve the usefulness of forecasts of future environmental conditions and their consequences for people. 2. Observing—Develop, enhance and integrate the observation systems needed to manage global and regional environmental change. 3. Confining—Determine how to anticipate, recognize, avoid and manage disruptive global environmental change. 4. Responding—Determine what institutional, economic and behavioural changes can enable effective steps toward global sustainability. 5. Innovating—Encourage innovation (coupled with sound mechanisms for evaluation) in developing technological, policy and social responses to achieve global sustainability. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



Where in the World is Scuba Jack? The Adventures of Scuba Jack has devised a Facebook game that gives their followers the opportunity to participate in learning. Fans will embark on an adventure game for the whole family as they search for Scuba Jack. Explorers of all ages can follow Scuba Jack on his adventures as he travels the world. Followers are challenged to guess where Scuba Jack is by looking at photographs of Scuba Jack in a variety of locations throughout the world. A new photo will be posted weekly and hints will be given until a winner emerges. Parents and children will have a great time together learning the basics of geography by following hints and looking at maps and other geographical resources. [PRWeb](#)

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