



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo's Johanna Wandel Examines Vulnerability of Homelessness to Climate Change:

Results of a study conducted by Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo researchers suggest that those experiencing homelessness are among the most vulnerable in Canada to the effects of global climate change. A team of university-based and peer researchers conducted the study, led by Riemer and Johanna Wandel, co-principal investigator and assistant professor of human geography at the University of Waterloo. The team interviewed 48 people experiencing homelessness in Waterloo Region. Participants discussed how they typically deal with the challenges of severe weather. Interview results were then linked to southern Ontario climate data and models estimating climate changes for the region over the next few decades. [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

U Guelph's Ze'ev Gedalof on CBC's Quirks and Quarks: It is well known that trees soak up carbon dioxide, and can grow faster as a result. But they are not the major greenhouse gas vacuum cleaners they were thought to be. This is according to a [new study](#) by Dr. [Ze'ev Gedalof](#), a Professor of Geography at the University of Guelph. By studying over 2,300 archived tree rings, representing over 100 species of trees from forests all over the world, the study expected to find a general rule about the relationship between tree growth and the amount of CO₂ being soaked up. Instead, it found that CO₂ resulted in faster tree growth in only about 20% of sites worldwide; and that 20% was puzzlingly random. An astonishing 80% of forests showed no CO₂ induced growth. The findings suggest that trees not be counted on to counter CO₂ emissions, as they have been. [Quirks and Quarks](#) | [Listen to this item](#)

Queen's U's Neal Scott Renews CRC and Receives CFI Funding: An official announcement was made regarding [Canada Research Chairs](#) (CRC). Neal Scott's Tier II CRC in Greenhouse Gas Dynamics and Ecosystem Management was renewed. The 310 chairholders included in the announcement will conduct research across a range of fields. Neil also received funding to support the purchases of field analyzers for measurement of ecosystem carbon exchange processes. [CRC Announcement](#) | [Neil Scott - FABRECC Homepage](#) | [CFI News](#)

UBC's David Ley Asks Whose Buying Houses in Vancouver: Vancouver is popular as a lifestyle destination for those who can afford it. UBC geographer David Ley has attempted to address the question of "Who's buying these places?" in a different way, checking sales data for Vancouver neighbourhoods against variables like interest rates, unemployment levels and house construction—none of which correlated well. Instead, the strongest indicators of price movement were related to international investment and immigration. The arrival of other Canadians from elsewhere in the country actually dampened prices. The same effect showed up when Ley widened his lens to Greater Vancouver: The highest values occurred in areas with high immigrant populations and a predominant Chinese ethnicity. [The Globe and Mail](#)

Guelph U's Barry Smit Participates in Canada Research Chair Summit: Nearly 1000 of Canada's top researchers, scholars and members of the country's scientific community are meeting this week in Toronto to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Canada Research Chairs Program. Participating was Barry Smit from the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph who holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change. Five years of social science research in Canada's arctic has taught Barry a thing or two about climate change's "human face." [CNW Announcement](#) | [CRC Press Release on Barry Smit](#)

UVic Geography Master's Graduate Mary Sanseverino Receives Legacy Award for Teaching: Energetic, engaging, innovative – they're all attributes that her students and colleagues typically cite when they talk about Sanseverino's teaching style. She goes above and beyond to connect with students – even in large classes of 200 – reaching out to them even before the first day of class. Sanseverino is also known for her groundbreaking use of instructional technology to enhance the learning process. She's a proponent of the use of "iClickers" – hand-held devices that students use to provide instant responses to questions during lectures. [UVic Media Release](#) | [Victoria Times Colonist](#)

McGill U's Gail Chmura on 'Climate Change is a Real and Present Danger': There are some people who do not believe that global warming is a reality, others who have vested interests in the status quo, and others who do not appreciate the science. Averting a global catastrophe should be the No. 1 priority of humankind. Over 80% agreed that we need to have an economy that is in harmony with nature and that the Canadian government should invest in green jobs. It is distressing and ultimately tragic that Canada and other industrialized nations are not willing to make structural changes that will assure a bright future for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and the community of life on the planet with which we share our heritage and destiny. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Nipissing U's April James Holds CRC in Watershed Analysis and Modelling: April James holds the Canada Research Chair in Watershed Analysis and Modelling announced today by the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, in a speech at the Metro Convention Centre in Toronto. James' research focuses on the movement of water through the terrestrial environment as it makes its way to streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands. The movement and storage of water in the landscape affects a vast number of water systems that people rely on for potable water as well as industrial uses, recreation and ecological health. James is interested in how long water resides in a watershed, where it is stored and the pathways that it travels. [Nipissing News](#)

Memorial U's Evan Edger Talks About Deep-Sea Coral Research: In honour of the fiftieth anniversary of Memorial University's Geography Department, the Johnson Geo Centre is hosting a lecture series. Edinger, a joint biology and geography professor at Memorial, gave a lecture on a research project he is involved with on deep-sea corals. While Edinger is an expert on both tropical and cold-water deep-sea corals, his lecture focused on cold-water corals, such as those found in Newfoundland and Labrador waters. Cold-water corals act more like animals; they eat food from the surrounding water. Because of this, bleaching does not occur in cold-water corals. There are about 40 species of coral in the waters of Newfoundland and Labrador; although, none of these are actual reefs. [The Muse](#)

UVic's David Lai's Stories Used in 'Red Letters' Play: The story is set at the time of Canada's punitive head tax and the Exclusion Act aimed at Chinese immigrants in the 1920s, but the new dramatic musical Red Letters isn't intended as a history lesson. "... it's really about one man's struggle to become successful and provide for his family," says playwright Kathy Leung. She delved into books and memorabilia from the 1920s to flesh out her fiction, tapping retired Victoria geography professor David Lai and Vancouver's Sid Tan for their stories. [The Province](#)

UT Scarborough's Benita Tim Honoured by Canadian Association of Geographers: Benita Tam, a PhD candidate in Geography at the University of Toronto and affiliated with UTSC, has won the 2010 Doctoral Student Paper Award from the Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division. Ms. Tam presented her winning paper at the annual CAGONT conference held at Ryerson University on October 16. "It's an honour to receive the 2010 CAGONT award," says Tam. My achievements would have not have been possible without the support and guidance from my supervisor, Bill Gough." Ms. Tam is affiliated with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences here at UTSC. Her work is supervised by the department chair, climatologist William Gough. [UTS News & Events](#)

Queen's U's Scott Lamoureux and Melissa Lafrenière Featured in ArcticNet – Eastern Arctic Newsletter: The research is conducted primarily at the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory on Melville Island, near the Nunavut/NWT border, with additional work at Polar Bear Pass on Bathurst Island. Their integrated watershed network will provide an understanding of the sensitivity and anticipated future effects of climate change to the High Arctic water, permafrost and ecosystem. The goal is to develop impact models to assess linkages between anticipated environmental change and possible adaptations by communities and government agencies (clean water supply and ecological integrity) and industry (resource ex-traction, infrastructure protection). ArcticNet - Eastern Arctic [Website](#) | [Project Profile November 2010](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Marilyne Jollineau, Brock University

Dr. [Marilyne Jollineau](#) is an Associate Professor in the [Department of Geography](#) at Brock University. Marilyne received her BA from Carleton University, an MES from the University of Waterloo, and her PhD from the University of Waterloo. Her research focuses on the integration of geomatics approaches for improved vineyard management; hyperspectral remote sensing of wetland ecosystems; hyperspectral image-analysis techniques; and, water quality in the Great Lakes Basin. Marilyne is the current President, Canadian Association of Geographers - [Ontario Division](#).

Jollineau, M., Wilson, H. and P. Howarth. 2008. [Heterogeneity characteristics of an inland wetland environment through spatio-spectral analysis](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 34(3):206-219.

Jollineau, M. and P. Howarth. 2008. [Information extraction from hyperspectral data for inland wetland mapping](#). International Journal of Remote Sensing 29(12):3609-3631.

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Dean Carson. 2010. [Political economy, demography and development in Australia's Northern Territory](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00321.x

Bryan A. Poirier and Rob C. de Loë. 2010. [Protecting aquatic ecosystems in heavily allocated river systems: the case of the Oldman River Basin, Alberta](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2010.00322.x

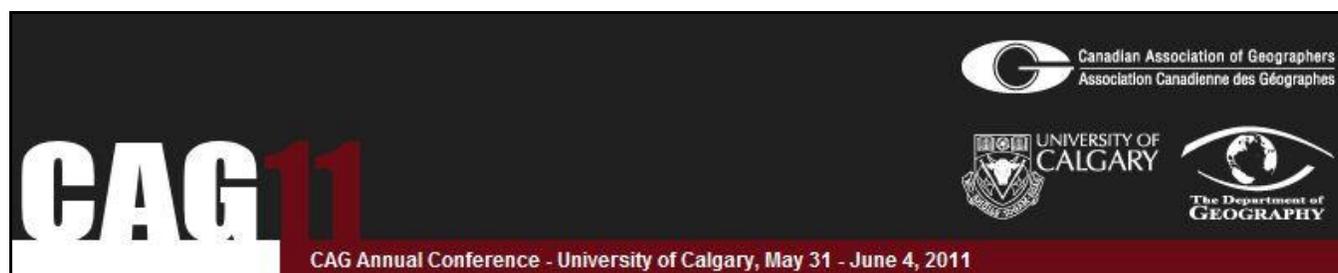
Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Geraldine Pratt. 2010. [Collaboration as feminist strategy](#). Gender, Place and Culture. DOI: 10.1080/09663690903522214

Harun Rashid. 2010. [Interpreting flood disasters and flood hazard perceptions from newspaper discourse: Tale of two floods in the Red River valley, Manitoba, Canada](#). Applied Geography 31(1):35-45.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Donald Leffers. 2010. 'Contested Discourses of Sustainability in Old Ottawa South.' Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography & Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Patricia Ballamingie.



The University of Calgary Geography Department is hosting the CAG's 2011 annual conference and meeting, May 31 - June 4, 2011. UofC Geography is also celebrating 50 years of research, teaching and service, and the Geography Department at Mount Royal University is celebrating 100 years of the school's existence as well as its new University status. It's a great time to look at what Geographers have accomplished, look at the big and small changes, and celebrate the New Geographies emerging today. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the Canadian Cartographic Association and with the first Canadian meeting of the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs. [CAG11 Webpage](#)

Other "Geographical" News

GeoGratis News: Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) announce the release of 237 new, updated or re-released **Canadian Topographic Maps** accessible via [GeoGratis](#). This release includes new maps covering regions of Canada's North previously unmapped at 1:50 000 scale, as well as updated maps for areas in Ontario, Manitoba, and the Atlantic Provinces. See the [list of newly released topographic maps](#) on GeoGratis.

Proposed Australian National Geography Curriculum Lacks Clarity and Quality: NSW geographers are concerned it contains an inadequate focus on physical geography or the study of "capes and bays", which underpins the study of the discipline. The NSW Board of Studies argues the proposed curriculum will overemphasise social and economic geography at the expense of the study of

the physical world. The sample structure for the course suggests students take a "cultural/social constructivist" approach. The Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority said the geography paper proposed that students become familiar with the various ways geographers approach their study. [The Australian](#)

Climate Change a Threat to Nigeria's Corporate Existence: Adamu Tanko, an associate professor of geography and agricultural development and the head of Geography Department, Ado Bayero University, Kano, discovered in Cifatake, a village in Kaduna State, a gradual decrease in the amount of rainfall from 1000-1200 mm about 50 years ago to 884-1000 mm in recent times. Coupled with tree-felling for firewood, the vegetation cover is gone and erosion has set in, said Mr. Tanko, resulting in low yield. So, the people are taking up other professions as hunters and blacksmiths. [next](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

Geografia Memo Block:



These fabulous memo note blocks take the contours of the earth and turn them into a geographical piece of stationery.

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