Dalhousie U’s Shannon Sterling Assess the Health of Watersheds: Nova Scotia introduced the province’s new Water Resource Management Strategy. The first project announced under the new strategy, the Nova Scotia Watershed Assessment Project is a three-phase project that will bring together information currently available on Nova Scotia’s major watersheds and create the first comprehensive assessment of the health of watersheds in the province. The first phase of the project will be led by Shannon Sterling’s Hydrologic Systems Research Group at Dalhousie. Dr. Sterling’s team includes Peter Horne and Gillian Fielding. The watershed health information will eventually be mobilized to the public and to other researchers and stakeholders to promote integrated watershed management in Nova Scotia, not only at the community level, but at all levels of government so they can best use the information. Dal News

Queen’s U’s Laura Cameron Named AAG 2010 Distinguished Historical Geographer: Laura Cameron approaches her research projects as opportunities to connect. “I have a great sense of adventure when I embark on projects, especially when working in the archives,” says Dr. Cameron, who was named the 2010 Distinguished Historical Geographer by the Association of American Geographers and the journal Historical Geography. “Along the way, I try to fit the pieces together.” Making connections is central to Dr. Cameron’s work, especially in her forthcoming book Freud in Cambridge, co-authored with John Forrester, head of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Cambridge. Queen’s News Centre

UBC-O’s Bernard Momer on Car-Centric Kelowna: Kelowna’s population has swelled over the past 35 years to 115,000 from 50,000, resulting in rapid urban sprawl and an influx of personal vehicles. “Kelowna is very car-centric,” said Bernard Momer, an associate professor of geography at UBC Okanagan who studies urban planning and sustainability. That reliance on cars and trucks has given Kelowna some of the highest per-capita greenhouse gas emissions in B.C. So, in 2002, Kelowna opened its first 1.2-kilometre path that separates cyclists from other traffic and developed a plan for similar corridors in all of the city’s major neighbourhoods. “They started finally to get the message that bike paths are not just a couple of feet of pavement on the side of the road,” Prof. Momer said. Globe and Mail

Trent U Geography Alumna Kristen Gage Wins Award for Honours BA Thesis: Trent University geography alumna Kristen Gage (BA’10) recently won an award from the Society of Camp Directors for her undergraduate honours BA thesis: “The Effects of Outdoor Green Space and Activities on Children with Special Needs at Summer Camps”. The award recognizes excellence in writing on organized children’s camping in Canada and is designed to encourage research and writing that enhances professional practices and qualified directorship in Canadian summer camps. Trent University News & Events
Queen’s U Students Produce Award Winning ‘Geography Matters’ Video: Queen’s students (Aisling Brady, Kevin D’Souza, Olena Kolodij and Jasmeet Sikand) produced a winning video entitled ‘Geography Matters’ for an international contest sponsored by the National Council for Geographic Education. You can find the winning video on the NCGE website: Geography Matters

Youtube Video of Landslide in Newfoundland: The AGU Blogosphere drew attention to a Youtube video featuring a landslide resulting from coastal erosion in Newfoundland. Shown is a house falling over the cliff at the start and a slip at the end of the sequence. See the landslide in action at Newfoundland Landslide

U Guelph’s Tristan Pearce on Effect of Sea Ice Change on Inuit Communities: Changes in sea ice is but one of several changes that are already affecting Arctic communities. Tristan Pearce, Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Geography, has worked for the past six years in the Inuit community, Ulukhaktok, which is located in the western Canadian Arctic. His research focuses on documenting the human dimensions of climate change; how environmental changes are translating to affect Inuit livelihoods and how Inuit are adapting. Pearce describes overall changes happening throughout the Arctic. The Ontarian

Brock U’s Hugh Gayler Takes Spotlight in Mall ‘Flash Mob’: He’s a long-time Geography professor and expert in urban geography and urban planning. But this week, Hugh Gayler has a different claim to fame: he was part of a choral flash mob that has become an Internet sensation. As vice-chair of Chorus Niagara, the Brock professor was in the thick of a surprise rendition of “Hallelujah Chorus” that broke out in the food court of the Seaway Mall. The Brock News

U Toronto’s Jason Hackworth on Public Housing Vouchers: The voucher model isn't perfect, cautions Jason Hackworth, a geography and urban planning professor at the University of Toronto. While marketed as giving tenants more choice, some American jurisdictions have seen a limited number of landlords accept vouchers, in effect relegating those who rely on them to neighbourhoods as poor or as segregated as the projects from whence they came. National Post

Geographer of the Week: Dr. William Crumplin, Laurentian University

Dr. William Crumplin is an Assistant Professor at Laurentian University. Past-President of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers, Bill completed his BA Hons at the University of Western Ontario), MAs at the University of Victoria and University of Waterloo, and his PhD at Queen’s University. He is a human geographer and teaches courses in Introduction to Human Geography, Cultural and Population Geography, Introduction to Geographic Information Systems and Urban Geography. His current research interests focus on family geographies: impacts of travel on families with competitive athletes; critical assessments of geographic information systems; youth out-migration from remote mid-sized cities; and, the spatial determinants of obesity in urban Canada.


Other “Geographical” News

P.E.I. Loses Lighthouse to Storm: The Beach Point Lighthouse, at the southeastern corner of P.E.I., was knocked off its foundation and driven inland by a storm surge. The damage to the lighthouse was one of the worst reported problems caused by storm surges around the east and north shores of the province. CBC News

Moon Mapping: For those who have already been everywhere on our planet, you might want to start planning a trip to the moon. NASA’s Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is allowing researchers to create a precise topographic map of the moon’s heavily cratered landscape. “This dataset is being used to make digital elevation and terrain maps that will be a fundamental reference for future scientific and human exploration missions to the moon”. Read more and see topo maps at Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

Geography Professor named NASA’s Chief Scientist: Waleed Abdalati has been named as NASA’s chief scientist, effective January 3, 2011. Abdalati is an associate professor in the university’s geography department. His research has focused on the study of polar ice cover using satellite and airborne instruments. Geospatial World

Some not so “Geographical” News

Contrary to popular belief, the earth is not flat. Therefore it stands to reason that a geography book should pop up, spin, and reveal the world's secrets in all its three-dimensional glory. This truly Amazing Pop-Up book, virtually explodes with action and visual stimulation. Each page is jam-packed with flaps to lift, wheels to dial, tabs to pull, and exciting pop-ups. There’s even an expandable globe hanging on an elastic string, so even the reluctant geographer will have no problem mastering the basics and much more. Disastrous Dan, Julian Journey, and Otis Ocean guide readers through the pages, and encourage everyone to take good care of the world. Amazon

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