



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 111, January 5, 2011**  
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**U of Gueph's Barry Smit and Tristan Pearce Featured on CNN:** U of G geography professor Barry Smit was featured recently by CNN international news. The news story, which is available online and includes several colour photographs, focuses on a new book that Smit co-authored that looks at how climate change is affecting the lives and livelihoods of the Inuit people. The book, [\*Community Adaptation and Vulnerability in Arctic Regions\*](#), paints a picture of the impact of rising temperatures on Arctic communities across the North and how these communities are struggling to adapt. Also mentioned in the CNN story is PhD student [Tristan Pearce](#), one of Smit's researchers. He has been traveling to Ulukhaktok, Northwest Territories, for the past six years to study the implications of climate change. Pearce spends up to six months a year living in the northern village of about 400. [CNN](#)

**UWO's Dr. Jason Gilliland presented with London's Old East Village 'Angel Award':** "The Old East Village BIA "Angel Award" award was presented to Dr. Jason Gilliland at the Old East Village Business Improvement Association for his outstanding, consistent contribution to the Old East Village Revitalization Initiative. As a director of the Old East Village Business Improvement Area Board for the past seven years, Jason has contributed his skills, knowledge and expertise to the Old East Village community to assist us to accomplish our revitalization goals. Of particular note is Jason's ability to apply his academic skills and knowledge to our revitalization challenges and opportunities. He does this in a manner that recruits and honors local skills, knowledge and assets while increasing our capacity to respond to the challenges of urban core renewal. A well known " face" at our local market and cafes, Dr. Gilliland is a friend, mentor and champion of the Old East Village". His webpage is found at: <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/faculty/gillilandj/>

**U Ottawa's Robert McLeman on Bringing Broadband to Canadians:** Robert McLeman, an associate geographer at the University of Ottawa, is completing a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded report on rural connectivity as part of national consultations on Canada's digital economy. He notes: "The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is currently holding hearings to determine whether rural and remote communities are entitled to the same level of connectivity as urban centres. All Canadians have an interest in this issue, not just the six million who live in rural areas and small towns. Setting a goal of broadband for everyone is in our national interest." [The Globe and Mail](#)

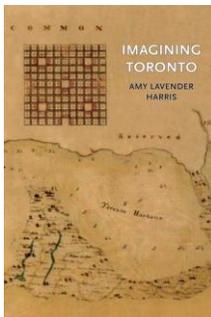
**UWO's Gordon McBean elected as a Fellow of the RCGS:** Gordon McBean has been elected to the College of Fellows of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). The RCGS is dedicated to imparting a broader knowledge and deeper appreciation of Canada — its people and places, its natural and cultural heritage and its environmental, social and economic challenges. Professor McBean's webpage is found at: <http://geography.ssc.uwo.ca/faculty/mcbeang/index.html>

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**U Alberta Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Lone Geographer Carl Amrhein:** Amrhein explains that geography belongs in both the arts and sciences. But Amrhein, an economic geographer, is at a loss for why the word geography, as applied to a discipline, seems to be fading into the history books. He says some are even advocating for relabeling the discipline. "There are very, very few jobs with geography in the title now. Almost no one is hired as a geographer," he said. "There might be a desire to pick a label that's more prestigious. But most likely, it is to pick a label that people will understand. In time they may succeed, but the reason they may not succeed is that no one label covers all of geography," he said. "Geography will not survive if it becomes very narrow, because if you take any particular piece of geography, there are others who will do it just as well." [University of Alberta Express News](#)

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**New Book:** Amy Lavender Harris. 2010. [Imagining Toronto](#). Mansfield Press.



Imagining Toronto isn't a study of literary Toronto. Rather, it's a study of how the city has been described and revealed in and through literature. Amy Lavender Harris, a geographer at York University, gives us her compass bearings at the beginning. She examines works both revered and forgotten because, together, they "represent the only reliable map to the city within the city, the city at the centre of the map." Her mission is to do more than simply "inventory thematic dimensions of this city's literary culture." [Quill @ Quire](#)

[Amy Lavender Harris](#) teaches in the Department of Geography at York University, where her work focuses on urban identity and the cultural significance of place.

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#### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

McGowan, S.; Leavitt, P.R.; Hall, R.I.; Wolfe, B.B.; Edwards, T.W.D.; Karst-Riddoch, T.; and Vardy, S.R. 2011. [Interdecadal declines in flood frequency increase primary production in lakes of a northern river delta](#). *Global Change Biology* 17(2):1212-1224.

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#### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Ellen Desjardins. 2010. "Place and food: a relational analysis of personal food environments, meanings of place and diet quality". Unpublished PhD dissertation. Dept. of Geography and Environmental Studies Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Advisor: Dr. Bob Sharpe.

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## **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Alexander Brenning, University of Waterloo**

Dr. [Alexander Brenning](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. Alexander received a Diplom-Mathematiker at TU Freiberg and his Dr. rer. nat. at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. His research interests are in statistical geocomputing, spatial classification, applied geostatistics, terrain analysis, the integration of R with GIS software, rock glaciers in the Andes, and landslide susceptibility modeling. Be sure to check out his geographically-aware, [geotagged biography](#).

Azocar, G.F.; and Brenning, A. 2010. [Hydrological and geomorphological significance of rock glaciers in the dry Andes, Chile \(27 degrees-33 degrees S\)](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes 21(1):42-53.

Bodin, X.; Rojas, F.; and Brenning, A. 2010. [Status and evolution of the cryosphere in the Andes of Santiago \(Chile, 33.5 degrees S\)](#). Geomorphology 118(3-4):453-464.

Mueller, M.E.H.; Brenning, A.; Verch, G.; Koszinski, S.; and Sommer, M. 2010. [Multifactorial spatial analysis of mycotoxin contamination of winter wheat at the field and landscape scale](#). Agriculture Ecosystems & Environment 139(1-2):245-254.

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### **Other “Geographical” News**

**Statistics Come to Life:** Statistics come to life when Swedish academic superstar Hans Rosling graphically illustrates global development over the last 200 years. The focus is on changes in global health over the past 200 years in 200 countries. It is an interesting way to convey ideas and information. [BBCFour](#)

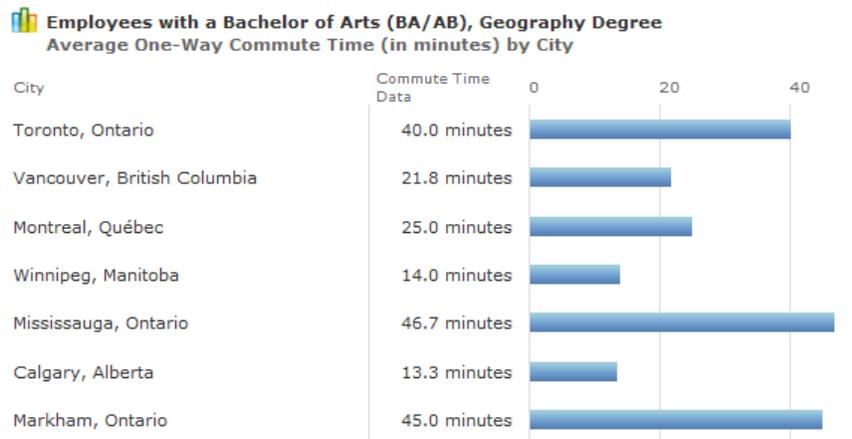
**Seismic Shifts in Mapping Information to Geography:** What do people call carbonated beverages in a can in various parts of the country? There's a map for that. Want to hear stories regarding particular streets and locations in Toronto, Canada? There's a map for that. Or maybe you're interested in up-to-the-minute geographic information about a hurricane or a forest fire? Yes, there are maps for that too. World-renowned geographer Michael Goodchild, director of the University of California, Santa Barbara's Center for Spatial Studies, says these are examples of the changing face of geographic information systems or GIS. Gone are the days when authoritative professionals hold sole custody of analyzing data and generating new maps; they're now augmented by community mapping, a form of citizen science whereby local people participate in geographically defining an area using distributed, real-time, social networks. Goodchild's research in urban and economic geography, GIS, and spatial analysis convinces him that the rate of change in the way people create knowledge about geographic environments mirrors that of society... it's accelerating and causing seismic paradigm shifts. See a [video of Goodchild](#) in a recent Distinguished Lecture presentation at the [National Science Foundation](#)

**Yukon Woolly Mammoth Remains Find Modern Uses:** Scientists are hoping ancient woolly mammoth tusks and bones from Yukon will help their modern-day research, from finding a cure for osteoporosis to cracking down on mislabelled food products. [CBC News](#)

**What is Hot for the Geography of Alberta – Trending Topics:** The following link takes you to a site showing the current most viewed articles on Wikipedia within Wikipedia's Geography of Alberta category. Think of it as a What's Hot list for Geography of Alberta. [More info at the full wiki](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



Source: [PayScale.com](https://www.payscale.com)

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