



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 113, January 17, 2011
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Memorial U's Trevor Bell and Joel Finnison CBC's Crosstalk: Listen Trevor Bell and Joel Finnison from the Department of Geography on CBC's Crosstalk programme on the topic: "[Is climate change happening now?](#)"

Ryerson U's Hidden Treasure: The Geospatial Map and Data Centre (GMDC) is one of Ryerson University's hidden treasures. Located on the main floor of the Library, the GMDC provides access to a wide range of information resources for students, faculty and staff. The centre's virtual presence - the [Maps and Data at Ryerson \(MADAR\) website](#) - provides access to geospatial and social science data that can be applied across disciplines. Members of the Ryerson community, who include both traditional and non-traditional geographers, are taking advantage of this free service to create custom maps and perform geographic information systems analyses with the support of the GMDC staff. [Ryerson University News & Events](#)

U Manitoba's John Iacozza on Potential Impact of Climate Change on Polar Bears: University of Manitoba's John Iacozza, Department of Environment and Geography in the Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, discusses the potential impact of climate change on polar bear populations. Iacozza's research focuses on the physical controls of habitat selection of Arctic marine mammals such as polar bears, ringed seals, and whales. He uses remote sensing technologies and geographic information systems to study the Arctic environment. Iacozza is also interested in investigating snow distribution over sea ice at various scales and developing modeling techniques to estimate the distribution using meteorological inputs. [Watch on YouTube](#)

U Waterloo's Huntsville Summit Centre Building Open: The university's newest building is the Huntsville Summit Centre, erected in Huntsville, Ontario. The Centre will house undergraduate and graduate courses, and workshops, as well as training for midcareer professionals in such areas as ecosystem restoration, strategic environmental assessment, sustainable tourism, environmental planning and green business, based in the Faculty of Environment. Its research program will involve ecology, climate change, tourism, land-use planning and local economic development. [U Waterloo Bulletin](#)

U Toronto's Angela Loder - Fulbrighter of the Month: Angela Loder is a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto in the Department of Geography and the Centre for the Environment. Her primary research focus is the relationship between health, well-being, and perceptions of urban greening projects, looking specifically at green roofs and the workplace. She is particularly interested in the possibilities that green buildings and green roofs can bring to the ecological city, as well as how nature informs our sense of place and belonging in an urban context. Angela has worked with Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, the leading green roof industry and research organization in North America, as well as the City of Chicago and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service on social perceptions of urban nature and green roofs. [Fulbright Canada](#)

Memorial U's Norm Catto on CBC News Speaks on Unusually Warm Newfoundland Weather: Watch Dr. Norm Catto from the Department of Geography at Memorial University on CBC News speak on the topic: "[Weird Weather](#)"

UBC Okanagan's Jon Corbett Tracks Social Side of Okanagan Forest Fires: Today's cartographers can marry traditional methods with online software, letting these new three-dimensional maps reveal not only the geographic coordinates of a place but also its social landscape. This was the starting point for two students in Jon Corbett's undergrad cartography and society class. Corbett, an assistant professor of geography at the University of British Columbia's Okanagan campus, in Kelowna, helped his students develop the [Okanagan fire-mapping project](#) to provide a history of the fires and share stories. It's an interactive online map that layers images, videos, details about individual fires and a scrollable 25-year timeline of local fires over a standard Google map of the Okanagan. [Canadian Geographic](#)

U Regina's Joe Piwowar Assumes Headship: Joe Piwowar assumed the headship of the Department of Geography at the University of Regina on January 1. He assumes this role from the outgoing head Bernie Thraves (head since 2008) and Ulrike Hardenbicker (acting head, fall 2010). Joe was one of the co-chairs of the Prairie Summit meeting last June. Joe also holds a Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability and is the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Remote Sensing Society. [Piwowar Homepage](#)

U Toronto Graduate Geoffrey Bannister Named President of Hawai'i Pacific University: Hawai'i Pacific University's Board of Trustees has named Dr. Geoffrey Bannister as HPU's next president, effective July 1, 2011. Dr. Bannister is an economic geographer who was born in the United Kingdom and reared in New Zealand, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in Geography from the University of Otago. He earned a Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Toronto in Canada, before coming to the U.S. to pursue his academic career. [Inside Indiana Business](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

David Michael Reynolds. 2010. [Vulnerability assessment of skiing-dependent businesses to the effects of climate change in Banff and Jasper National Parks, Canada](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta.

Geography Apps

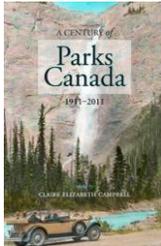


[National Geographic GeoBee Challenge](#)

New Books

[A Century of Parks Canada, 1911-2011](#)

Edited by Claire Elizabeth Campbell. 2011. University of Calgary Press.



Dr. Campbell, the editor of an upcoming book on Canada's national parks, explores a variety of issues, ranging from the tensions between the local cottage community and the federal agency in the establishment of Saskatchewan's Prince Albert National Park in the 1920s, to the resistance of Acadian families to leave their homes as New Brunswick's Kouchibouguac National Park was being established almost 50 years later. [Dal News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

K.C. Fraser. 2011. [Canadian Geography: A scholarly bibliography](#). Reference Reviews 25(1):56 – 57.

Sarah A. Finkelstein and Sharon A. Cowling. 2011. [Wetlands, temperature, and atmospheric CO2 and CH4 coupling over the past two millennia](#). Global Biogeochemical Cycles 25, GB1002. doi:10.1029/2010GB003887

Jim Glassman. 2011. [Cracking hegemony in Thailand: Gramsci, Bourdieu and the dialectics of rebellion](#). Journal of Contemporary Asia 41(1):25-46.

Rachel A. Hirsch and Jamie Baxter. 2011. [Context, cultural bias, and health risk perception: the "everyday" nature of pesticide policy preferences in London, Calgary, and Halifax](#). Risk Analysis. DOI: 10.1111/j.1539-6924.2010.01560.x

Nina Schuldt and Harald Bathelt. 2011. [International trade fairs and global buzz. Part II: Practices of global buzz](#). European Planning Studies 19(1):1-22.

Julie Siemer. 2010. A plea for attractive and correct maps. Cartouche 79:10-11.

Jon Unruh. 2011. [Tree-based carbon storage in developing countries: neglect of the social sciences](#). Society and Natural Resources 24(2):185-192.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Julie Ruiz, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

Dr. [Julie Ruiz](#), Professeure, Département des Sciences humaines, Section géographie, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières. Formation académique: Ph.D. Aménagement, Université de Montréal. Domaines de recherche: écologie du paysage, aménagement du territoire, géographie rurale et agricole. Intérêts spécifiques: dynamiques physico-spatiales des paysages (rétrospectives et prospectives), relations des populations au territoire, multifonctionnalité des territoires et des paysages, géographie des restructurations rurale et agricole contemporaines, zone d'intensification agricole

Domon, G et J. Ruiz 2010. Vers une stratégie de prise en compte du caractère multifonctionnel des paysages : défis et pistes d'interventions en zone d'intensification agricole. In: B. Jean et D. Lafontaine, (Éds). [La multifonctionnalité de l'agriculture et des territoires ruraux, enjeux théoriques et d'action publique](#). CRDT et GRIDEQ, Rimouski.

Ruiz, J. et G. Domon. 2009. [Analysis of landscape pattern change trajectories within areas of intensive agricultural use: case study in a watershed of southern Québec, Canada](#). Landscape Ecology 24:419-432.

Voulligny, E., G. Domon et J. Ruiz. 2009. [Assessment of ordinary landscapes by an expert and by residents: landscape values in areas of intensive agricultural use](#). Land Use Policy 26(4):890-900.

Other “Geographical” News

Parks Canada Eyes Bowen Island Property for National Park: Parks Canada is placing a "very high" priority on several publicly owned properties of interest on Bowen Island for a proposed national park reserve, according to a federal draft feasibility document. Bowen Island Mayor Bob Turner said in response Monday that rolling the premier public lands into a national park reserve would protect about half of Bowen Island in perpetuity and serve as a model of ecological sustainability while preserving recreational opportunities next to a major urban area. Bowen Island off Horseshoe Bay covers 5,260 hectares and has a population of about 3,500 permanent residents. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

New World-Class Training Centre Will Change Landscape of Social Science: The Universities of Bristol, Exeter and Bath have come together to form one of the UK's largest Centres of postgraduate research training for social scientists in fields ranging from economics and human geography to quantitative methodology and psychology. Together, the three Universities educate over 5000 masters and 1600 doctoral students in the social sciences. The new Centre will draw on the established research excellence of the partners, including the expertise of more than 750 social science research staff. This represents one of the largest groupings of social scientists in the UK. [U Bristol News Release](#)

New App to Report Sudden Oak Death on Smartphones: California's majestic oak trees have been felled by the hundreds of thousands by a disease first reported in 1995 and dubbed "sudden oak death." To get a broader perspective on the disease, UC Berkeley Geospatial Innovation Facility scientists have developed a smartphone app for hikers and other nature lovers to report trees they find that have succumbed to sudden oak death. Maggi Kelly, a geographer explained why she uses crowd sourcing to collect data for her research. "OakMapper is a citizen science project, collecting information about oak mortality from the general public, and it is an outreach tool, showing people where the disease is and providing them with information about the disease." [Physorg.com](#)

Mapping the Monster: Saving a Town from Disaster: Christina (Tina) Cummings, a graduate student in the University of North Dakota's Department of Geography, has spent the past two years writing her

master's thesis on the flooding threat Devils Lake poses to Minnewaukan, a tiny town eight miles away. According to the North Dakota State Water Commission, Devils Lake has risen nearly 29 feet since 1993. In April 2010, the lake covered 277 square miles, increasing in area by four times and volume by six times over the past seven years. Nobody knows when or if the lake will stop rising, but it is known that when the lake's elevation reaches 1,458 feet, it will spill over into the Tolna Coulee and then drain into the Sheyenne River and the Red River. [Directions Magazine](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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