



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 114, January 21, 2011

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Simon Fraser U's Nicholas Blomley on Densification in Downtown Eastside Vancouver: A phalanx of former politicians, planners and university academics are all warning Vancouver council it will seriously damage the fragile Downtown Eastside neighbourhood if it proceeds with plans to allow a number of highrise towers in the surrounding historic area. Nicholas Blomley, a Simon Fraser University geography professor, gathered the support of academics in a separate letter to council. He said the group is deeply concerned the city is focused on densification without considering the fragility of the Downtown Eastside. "It seems to my mind somewhat irresponsible to increase density if that risks impacting the already fragile housing market, particularly in terms of the affordable housing stock," he said. "There are a number of things that need to be going on at the same time that aren't happening." [The Vancouver Sun](#) | [Georgia Strait](#)

Thompson River U's Gilles Viaud on Kamloop Population Growth: Kamloops added more houses than it did people in 2010. Despite robust building statistics, the city's population didn't grow at all last year. The latest numbers from B.C. Stats show Kamloops population at about 87,000 people, virtually unchanged from 2009. Gilles Viaud, a geographer at Thompson Rivers University, said the flat growth is not surprising. In Kamloops, Viaud said the recovering economy and impact of the mountain pine beetle are to blame. "People needed to look for jobs elsewhere." [The Kamloops Daily News](#)

Mount Allison U's Stuart Semple Establishes Fund for Improving Geographical Education in Atlantic Region: Stuart Semple received the Geographic Literacy Award for 2010 from the Canadian Council for Geographic Education, together with a cash prize from the National Geographic Society. Stuart has decided to devote the entire prize money to improving geographical education in the Atlantic region and a fund for that purpose is being established with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. The fund is designed to offer financial incentive to a promising geography graduate who registers in a B.Ed. program to become a geography/social studies teacher (junior and senior high school level). The fund allows for Atlantic Division members of the CAG to be involved without impeding the academic work of its members; and it is organized in a way that is equitable within Atlantic Canada. [CCGE Website](#)

U Western Ontario's Jeremy Schmidt Argues for Democratic Resource Policies: Policy and media circles are all abuzz lately with the term "ethical oil," largely due to Ezra Levant's book of the same name. The book argues for a provocative thesis: that it is more ethical to buy oil produced in Canada – Alberta oilsands included – than from nations whose track record on such things as human rights, environmental responsibility, and wage-labour fairness is weak. Jeremy Schmidt, a Trudeau scholar and PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, argues for open, democratic resource policies in "[Ethical oil: a moral misnomer](#)" featured at [The Mark News](#).

U Waterloo Announces that André Roy will be Next Dean of the Faculty of Environment: The University of Waterloo President announced that [André Roy](#), now a Canada Research Chair at the Université de Montréal, will be the next dean of the Faculty of Environment. He'll arrive on August 1 and serve "an initial five-year term ending June 30, 2016". Professor Roy is a highly respected leader, administrator and teacher, and an internationally recognized scholar. Following the completion of his PhD in 1982 at the State University of New York at Buffalo, he joined the University of Montreal as assistant professor. Since 1993 Professor Roy has been a full professor at U of M. Between 1994 and 2008 he served both as head and as interim head of the Department of Geography, and associate dean, research of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. [UW Daily Bulletin](#)

U Western Ontario's Phil Stooke's Map of Future Lunar Landing Sites: [Phil Stooke](#), of the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, has put together a proposed landing site map based on published data from the [Google Lunar X PRIZE](#) Teams. [Universe Today](#)

U Fraser Valley's Olav Lian to Speak on Seeing "the World in a Grain of Sand": For University of the Fraser Valley geography professor Dr. Olav Lian and his student research assistants, it's more a case of seeing how aspects of the physical world have changed over time by analyzing long-buried grains of sand. As geochronologists, Lian and his associates view time very differently than many of us; they do this by studying the physical environment as it has changed over the millennia. Lian is the featured speaker at this month's installment of the University Lecture Series at UFV. He will speak at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 26, in Room B121, on the Abbotsford campus. [AbbyNews.com](#)

U Trent's Jim Buttle Ponders the Future of the Trent-Severn Waterway: The Trent-Severn Waterway plays a big role in the communities along its course, including tourism, power generation and quality of life. Dr. Jim Buttle, a geography professor at Trent, says water levels and quality have big impact on everything else. "People aren't going to come to a degenerated ecosystem," he says. He's done a lot of work around water quantity and says they need a good handle on the amount of water flowing in certain sections. Some years there is a lot of snow, other years not so much. Some years it melts early, other times it melts late. He says climate change plays into the difficulty in monitoring. [myKawartha.com](#)

Geography Apps



[National Geographic World Atlas](#): The National Geographic World Atlas contains 7 different levels of National Geographic cartography. Flags and Facts database which contains concise geographic and socio-economic data.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Barrie R. Bonsal, Elaine E. Wheaton, Aston C. Chipanshi, Charles Lin, David J. Sauchyn and Lei Wen. 2011. [Drought Research in Canada: A Review](#). ATMOSPHERE-OCEAN. *Online*

Eugene McCann. 2011. [Urban Policy Mobilities and Global Circuits of Knowledge: Toward a Research Agenda](#). Annals of the American Association of Geographers 101(1):107-130.

Lisa Melymuk, Matthew Robson, Paul Helm, and Miriam Diamond. 2011. [Evaluation of passive air sampler calibrations: Selection of sampling rates and implications for the measurement of persistent organic pollutants in air](#). Atmospheric Environment. DOI:10.1016/j.atmosenv.2011.01.011

Michael D. Preston, M. Catherine Eimers and Shaun A. Watmough. 2011. [Effect of moisture and temperature variation on DOC release from a peatland: Conflicting results from laboratory, field and historical data analysis](#). Science of the Total Environment DOI:10.1016/j.scitotenv.2010.12.027

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Kara Przewczek. 2011. Assessment of Optimum Snowmelt Model Complexity, Cariboo Highlands, British Columbia, Canada. Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George. Co-supervisors Drs. Brian Menounos and Stephen Déry.

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Allison Williams, McMaster University

Dr. [Allison Williams](#) is an Associate Professor in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University. Allison received her BA from Bishop's University, her MA from the University of Toronto; and, her PhD at York University. Her research interests include health geography; population health; triangulation; environment and health; and women's health.

A. Williams, P. Kitchen, L. DeMiglio, B. Newbold, J. Eyles, D. Streiner . "[Sense of Place in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada: Empirical Results of a Neighbourhood-Based Survey](#)". Urban Geography 31(7): 905-931.

A. Williams. 2010. "[Exploring Spiritual Therapeutic Landscapes: A Case Study of St. Anne de Beaupre, Quebec, Canada](#)". Social Science & Medicine 70(10):1633-1640.

Other "Geographical" News

Wheeler House Demolished: "The simple two-storey house on Sulphur Mountain was once owned by Arthur Oliver Wheeler, a pipe-smoking land surveyor who made his mark christening Kananaskis Country peaks, demarcating the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia (and co-founding the Alpine Club of Canada). Despite its history, and outrage from some Banff residents and Wheeler's descendants, Parks Canada followed through with long-standing plans to demolish the 90-year-old summer home." [Vancouver Sun](#)

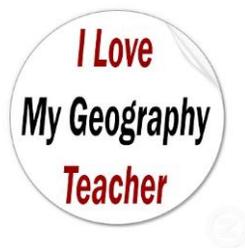
The Geography of Gun Deaths: Terrible tragedies like last week's mass shootings in Tucson cause us to search for deeper answers. Arizona has been ground zero for the battle over immigration. Were

the state's political and economic travails a contributing factor? A map charts firearm deaths for the 50 states plus the District of Columbia. As of 2007, 10.2 out of every 100,000 people were killed by firearms across the United States, but that rate varies dramatically from state to state. [The Atlantic](#)

Montrealers Are Feeding Fish Prozac: Around one in four Montrealers take some kind of anti-depressant, and according to new research, the drugs are passing into the waterways and affecting fish. The findings are internationally significant as the city's sewage treatment system is similar to that in use in other major cities, and moreover, it is reputed to be the third largest treatment system in the world. [Science Daily](#)

Geography Gets Cool: Running on smartphones and tablet computers, Augmented Reality (AR) overlays digital information - text, graphics, games -- on images of the world around us. Maki-Mantila is one of Navteq's 1,000 geographers and spends a lot of her days sitting beside a driver in a van topped with a futuristic video camera. As she made her way around the snowy streets of Helsinki late last year, she recorded the street layout in a monotone voice - crossroad, crossroad, restricted turn, crossroad. Occasionally she took out a touch screen PDA and scribbled some notes on it. "It's a dream job for a geographer," she says. [Calgary Herald](#) | [Globe and Mail](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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