



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Western Ontario's Isaac Luginaah Says Sarnia Air Monitors Lacking: Local industry and the Ontario government need to work together to reduce the high levels of air pollution over Sarnia-Lambton. So says Isaac Luginaah, a University of Western Ontario health geography professor and researcher. The Ontario 2009 Air Quality report showing Sarnia has the dirtiest air in Ontario while the rest of the province improves underscores the problem, he said. "Overall air quality seems to be improving. But in Sarnia you have localized problems." Luginaah was a lead researcher in a 2007 study that examined pollution levels and hospital admission rates in Sarnia, Windsor and London for respiratory illness. [The Observer](#)

Vancouver Island U Geography Grad Works to Undo Wartime Animosity: A group of Vancouver Island University anthropology students, a geography grad with high-tech skills, and Prof. Imogene Lim are working with Cumberland Museum and Archives to undo one of the injustices spurred by wartime animosity. Fuelled by wartime resentment and racism, the small Japanese cemetery in Cumberland was vandalized and many of the grave markers were damaged or destroyed. "Almost every Japanese cemetery on the Island was vandalized," said Lim. VIU geography graduate Brent Schofield is providing valuable technical assistance in their cemetery research. Schofield, who works for [Lewkowich Engineering Associates](#) examined the Japanese cemetery with ground-penetrating radar and is compiling technical data to create a map showing where the earth has been disturbed and possible location of human remains. [Nanaimo Bulletin](#)

UBC Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira Helps Organize Affordable Housing Research Discussion: The B.C. Affordable Housing Research and Action Roundtable scheduled for Kelowna is the third of three sessions held around the province over the past year. A province-wide initiative, the discussion moves to Kelowna on Feb. 18. "After meetings in Victoria and Vancouver, it was a good idea to bring this important event to the Interior of B.C. and particularly to the Okanagan Valley," said Carlos Teixeira, associate professor of geography at UBC Okanagan and one of the organizers of the event. kelownacapnews.com

Universite Laval's Michel Allard on Salluits Shaky Ground: Since 1998 Salluit, the province's second northernmost community, has been hit by a series of landslides. Scientists blame it on the melting of the permafrost, the fragile underground layer of soil and rock that remains frozen year round -or is supposed to. There has even been talk of relocating the entire village. Village officials have been working closely with a team of researchers from Universite Laval, led by Michel Allard, a geomorphologist who studies changes to the Earth's surface. The people of Salluit and those like Allard, who spend a great deal of time here, have no doubts about the existence of global warming. That's because its impact is so dramatic in the North. [The Gazette](#)

University of Northern BC (UNBC) graduate student JP Laplante is interviewed on Alert Radio! to discuss his article co-authored with Dr. Catherine Nolin (Geography) in the most recent issue of Canadian Dimension. The interview focuses on the issue of voluntary corporate social responsibility in the Canadian mining industry operating abroad and the need for legal reforms. JP's segment runs from 36 min. to 46 min. in the podcast at: <http://canadiandimension.com/alert/episode-170/>

January Issue of Geog @ UBC Newsletter: The latest issue of UBC Geography's Newsletter has been posted on the website. Jim Glassman tells the tale of his sabbatical, or how to take a leave without getting away. Some new faces at UBC include sessional instructors Mike Witiw and Sean Connelly, as well as Tristan Sturm who is a postdoctoral fellow working under the supervision of Derek Gregory. A feature story is on New Zealander born Ian McKendry. Ian notes that the large blimp used for night-time research is often times mistaken for a UFO hovering over Vancouver. The Geography grads reportedly held a Mardi Grad in the geography lounge complete with purple and gold balloons, multi-coloured strands of beads and masks adorned with feathers and glitter. [Newsletter 6\(5\)](#)

News from the School of Geography and Earth Sciences at McMaster U: The School has announced that Dr. [Sean Carey](#) will be joining them starting July 1, 2011. The annual SGES Photo Contest has come to a close. Check out the [winners photo gallery](#).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Valorie A. Crooks, Heather Castleden, Neil Hanlon and Nadine Schuurman. 2011. [Heated political dynamics exist ...": Examining the politics of palliative care in rural British Columbia, Canada](#). Palliative Medicine 25(1):26-35

Valorie A. Crooks, Leigh Turner, Jeremy Snyder, Rory Johnston and Paul Kingsbury. 2011. [Promoting medical tourism to India: Messages, images, and the marketing of international patient travel](#). Social Science & Medicine. doi:10.1016/j.socscimed.2010.12.022

R.I. Ferguson, D.J. Bloomer and M. Church. 2011. [Evolution of an advancing gravel front: observations from Vedder Canal, British Columbia](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.2142

Neil Hanlon, Greg Halseth and Alec Ostry. 2011. [Stealth voluntarism: An expectation of health professional work in underserved areas?](#) Health and Place 17(1):42-49.

Mary Waterstone and Sarah de Leeuw. 2010. [A sorry state: Apology excepted](#). Human Geography: A New Radical Journal, 3 (3).

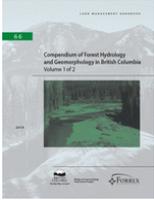
Geographer of the Week: Dr. Bill Burgess, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Dr. [Bill Burgess](#) is a faculty member in the Geography and Geology program at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. Bill received a Ph.D. in economic geography from UBC, an MA in urban planning from UBC and a BA in economics from Queen's University. His Ph.D dissertation was about Canada as an imperialist state and is available at [Burgess \(2002\)](#). Bill is currently working on two projects: 1) the effects of social inequality on population health; and 2) ownership connections between financial and industrial corporations in Canada.

New Books

[Compendium of Forest Hydrology and Geomorphology in British Columbia](#)

Editors: R.G. Pike, T.E. Redding, R.D. Moore, R.D. Winkler, and K.D. Bladon



The Compendium consolidates current scientific knowledge and operational experience into 19 chapters. Chapters summarize the basic scientific information necessary to manage water resources in forested environments, explaining watershed processes and the effects of disturbances across different regions of the province. In short, the Compendium is about British Columbia and has a uniquely regional focus compared to other hydrology texts. At over 800 pages, the Compendium showcases the rich history of forest hydrology, geomorphology, and aquatic ecology research and practice in British Columbia. Download the two volumes or individual chapters from: [Land Management Handbook 66](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Road May Disrupt Migration, Ruin Serengeti: Building a highway through Serengeti National Park may devastate one of the world's last large-scale herd migrations and the region's ecosystem, according to new research. by an international team of ecologists, including a University of Guelph professor. The researchers studied the effects of a proposal by the Tanzanian government to build a road that would bisect the northern portion of Serengeti National Park. The researchers found that the road may cause a 35-per-cent reduction in wildebeest herds, plus direct and indirect effects on many other species and ecosystem processes. [UGuelph News](#)

Digital South Asia Library: The Digital South Asia Library project (DSAL) assembles information for scholars, public officials, business leaders, and other users requiring reference materials about South Asia. It is an international project based at the Association of Research Libraries in Chicago. Featured resources include: dictionaries; historical gazetteers; photographs; maps (mostly circa. 1907-1909, from the Imperial Gazetteer of India); statistics from the colonial period; bibliographies; journals; books; and links to websites. [intute](#)

Ice Cores Yield Rich History of Climate Change: On Friday, Jan. 28 in Antarctica, a research team investigating the last 100,000 years of Earth's climate history reached an important milestone completing the main ice core to a depth of 3,331 metres (10,928 feet) at West Antarctic Ice Sheet Divide. This is the second deepest ice core ever drilled, exceeded only by the ice core drilled at Russia's Vostok Station in the 1990s. [Science Daily](#)

B.C., Washington State Sign Climate Action Partnerships: A pair of climate action agreements between B.C. and Washington State will strengthen cross-border efforts to reduce carbon pollution while advancing the low- carbon economy. [BC Press Release](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

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