



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Film Shows Inuit Views on Climate Change:** While most academics publish research papers, geography professor Ian Mauro has taken a different tack — making documentary films. Mauro's latest research project, titled *Qapirangajuq – Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change* is the world's first documentary on climate change as told by Inuit in their language. In 2008, Mauro completed his PhD in the University of Manitoba's department of Environment and Geography. He then created *Qapirangajuq* as a post-doctoral study through the University of Victoria. His new employer, Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, will get \$500,000 to allow Mauro to teach students what he calls the "Human Dimensions of Environmental Changes" using video techniques. [CBC News](#)

**U Manitoba's Ronald Stewart on Flood School:** The University of Manitoba's Disaster Research Institute is hosting a workshop for scientists, policy-makers and community leaders to share ideas on flood management risk by reflecting on the 1997 and 2009 Red River Floods. "Flooding represents one of Manitoba's greatest threats and this workshop presents an excellent opportunity to discuss this multi-faceted issue in order to minimize its impacts," said Ronald Stewart, Professor and Head of Environment and Geography at the U of M, and co-director of the Disaster Research Institute. [UManitoba Newsroom](#)

**Edmonton Geographer Austin Mardon Recipient of the Order of Canada:** Austin Mardon has a PhD in geography, is one of Edmonton's best-known champions for people living with mental illness and a recipient of the Order of Canada. He is also living with schizophrenia, a diagnosis that overshadows his accomplishments for many people, he says. Mardon is one of an estimated 300,000 Albertans who will have a diagnosable mental illness during the course of their lifetimes. [Edmonton Journal](#)

**UBC-Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira on Affordable Housing Solutions:** High housing costs in the Okanagan Valley will be discussed at an upcoming discussion in Kelowna later this month. Carlos Teixeira, associate professor of geography at the UBC-Okanagan campus and one of the organizers of the event, said it is expensive to buy or rent a home in Kelowna and the surrounding areas. "Few other mid-sized cities in Canada are confronted with such a problem," he said. "Lack of affordable, adequate and suitable housing in the valley is a major issue. It has made the news for the last decade or so." [Summerland Review](#)

**U Waterloo Geography Graduate Barbara Mason Recognized as one of 2010 Canada's Top 100™ Women:** Barbara Mason (BES '80, Geography) was a recipient of the prestigious 2010 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100™ Awards, Canada's most recognizable award for the country's highest achieving female leaders in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors. [WXN](#)

Barchyn, T.E.; and Hugenholtz, C.H. 2011. [Comparison of four methods to calculate aeolian sediment transport threshold from field data: Implications for transport prediction and discussion of method evolution](#). *Geomorphology*. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.01.022

Biron, P.M.; Carver, R.B.; and Carré, D.M. 2011. [Sediment transport and flow dynamics around a restored pool in a fish habitat rehabilitation project: Field and 3D numerical modelling experiments](#). *River Research and Applications*. DOI: 10.1002/rra.1488

Crooks, V.A.; Stone, S.D.; and Owen, M. 2011. [Enabling university teaching for Canadian academics with multiple sclerosis through problem-focused coping](#). *Canadian Journal of Occupational Therapy* 78(1):45-49.

Fritz, M.; Wetterich, S.; Meyer, H.; Schirrmeister, L.; Lantuit, H.; and Pollard, W.H. 2011. [Origin and characteristics of massive ground ice on Herschel Island \(western Canadian Arctic\) as revealed by stable water isotope and hydrochemical signatures](#). *Permafrost and Periglacial Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.714

Hea, L.; Chena, J.M.; Zhang, S.; Gomez, G.; Pan, Y.; McCullough, K.; Birdsey, R.; and Masek, J.G. 2011. [Normalized algorithm for mapping and dating forest disturbances and regrowth for the United States](#). *International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation* 13(2):236-245.

Kienzle, S.W.; Nemeth, M.W.; Byrne, J.M.; and MacDonald, R.J. 2011. [Simulating the hydrological impacts of climate change in the upper North Saskatchewan River basin, Alberta, Canada](#). *Journal of Hydrology*. doi:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2011.01.058

Lewkowicz, A.G. 2011. [Slope hummock development, Fosheim Peninsula, Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, Canada](#). *Quaternary Research*. doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2010.12.013

Millward, A.A.; and Sabirb, S. 2011. [Benefits of a forested urban park: What is the value of Allan Gardens to the city of Toronto, Canada?](#) *Landscape and Urban Planning*. doi:10.1016/j.landurbplan.2010.11.013

Seemann, M.; Onur, T.; and Cloutier-Fisher, D. 2011. [Earthquake shaking probabilities for communities on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada](#). *Natural Hazards*. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-011-9727-6

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Duncan, A. 2011. [Spatial and temporal variations of the surface energy balance and ablation on the Belcher Glacier, Devon Island, Nunavut, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. Supervisor: Martin Sharp.

Ziegler, J. 2010. [Assessing the sustainability of whale shark tourism: a case study of Isla Holbox, Mexico](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. Supervisor: Phil Dearden.

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## Geographer of the Week: Dr. Ryan Danby, Queen's University

Dr. [Ryan Danby](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and School of Environmental Studies at Queen's University. Ryan received a B.E.S. from the University of Waterloo, his M.E.S. at Wilfrid Laurier University and his Ph.D. at the University of Alberta. After completing his dissertation, Ryan remained in Edmonton as a post-doctoral fellow on the International Polar Year and as sessional lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences. He came to Queen's in the summer of 2008.

Ryan's research interests lie at the interface of ecology and geography and his work draws upon and contributes to the fields of biogeography, landscape ecology, and conservation biology. Current research focuses on the study of terrestrial ecosystem change at multiple scales. This includes examining the responses of forest, shrubland and tundra ecosystems to past and future climate change; but he is equally interested in the implications of such change for land and resource management, particularly parks and protected areas. The geographical focus of his research is primarily the circumpolar north, and particularly northern Canada and Alaska, but he also has longstanding interests in the settled landscapes of Ontario and in mountainous regions worldwide.

Danby, R.K. and D.S. Hik. 2007. [Variability, contingency and rapid change in recent subarctic alpine treeline dynamics](#). *Journal of Ecology* 95: 352-363.

Danby, R.K. and D.S. Hik. 2007. [Responses of white spruce \(\*Picea glauca\*\) to experimental warming at a subarctic alpine treeline](#). *Global Change Biology* 13: 437-451.

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## New Books

Rencz, A.N. and Kettles, I.M. (Eds). 2011. [Presentations and recommendations from the workshop on the role of geochemical data in environmental and human health risk assessment, Halifax, 2010](#). Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 6645. doi:10.4095/287934



It is recognized that knowledge of geochemistry is an important component of environmental and human health risk assessments. Although much geochemical information needed to better inform risk assessments exists already, these data are not well represented in many of these assessments. As a step towards improving practice in this area, Health Canada and Environment Canada sponsored a workshop on the role of geochemical data in ecological and human health risk assessments. The Workshop was presented by scientists from the Geological Survey of Canada with recognized expertise in bedrock and surficial sediment geochemistry. The Workshop was by invitation and included federal and provincial representatives and members of the environmental consulting community.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Fur Trader David Thompson Mapped the Columbia:** David Thompson could be the world’s most accomplished geographer having mapped more ground than anyone else. Included in his extensive travels is the first record of a European to pass by the Revelstoke area on September 12, 1811. While working in the fur trade, he surveyed the area between Hudson Bay and the Pacific Ocean, walking and paddling over 100,000 kilometres over a 28-year period. His most significant exploration was the mapping of the convoluted course of the Columbia and Kootenay rivers, in search of a practical route to the Pacific Ocean. [Revelstoke Times Review](#)

**Free and Open Source Software for GIS Education:** The goal of this paper is to assist GIS educators at various institutes towards understanding the potential role of open source software (or free and open source software -- FOSS) in GIS education. The free and open source software "movement" has significantly impacted all aspects of information technology (Tiemann, 2009). We, as GIS educators, are already using many open source software packages daily and may not be aware of them. [GeoTech](#)

**Develop Population Data BC Skills with Free Online Workshops:** Four free, online workshops are now available from the Education and Training Unit of Population Data BC. Visit the links above for more information on each workshop, including video clips outlining workshop content and sign up instructions through UVic Continuing Education. [Administrative Data 101](#); [Spatial Epidemiology](#); [GIS and Epidemiology](#); [Introduction to Space-Time Disease Surveillance](#)

**Loss of State-Owned Forests in UK:** The UK will be disposing of all its State owned Forests in England (only 18% of English woodland cover) which are currently managed by the Forestry Commission. The UK is already one of the least wooded countries in Europe. A small area of land will likely go over to conservation NGOs but the vast majority will fall into private ownership and unsustainable commercial exploitation. [England's Forest Sell-Off](#) | [The Guardian](#)

**New Drumlin Field Discovered in Southern Patagonia, Chile:** A new field of drumlins has been discovered in the eastern sector of Lake Viedma, located in the Los Glaciares National Park in Southern Patagonia, Chile. This is one of the most important findings of a project aimed at charting the paleoclimate in regions of Patagonia and reconstructing the dynamics of glaciations from thousands of years ago. According to the results, the area also contains a minimum of 19 and 199 flutes and megafutes, with some of the latter formations measuring over four kilometres in length. [ScienceDaily](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News





[I'm an Expert in Geography](#)

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