



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U Western Ontario's Graham Smith Receives Pleva Teaching Award:** During his 26-year academic career, Graham Smith of the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario has been recognized as a teacher exceptionally invested in his students' welfare. Not only are his courses in high demand, they are constantly cited among the best the university offers. His teaching evaluations place him far above the norm for his department and his faculty. His success has also gone beyond the classroom. During his time at Western, Smith has supervised more than 77 undergraduate honour theses. The Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching is the culmination of several teaching awards won or nominated for during his career. [Western News](#)

**Memorial U's Josh Lepawsky on Need for Senior Tuition Break:** Sitting in the front row of a Memorial University geography class, Herb Burton is surrounded by students young enough to be his great-grandchildren. And he's more than twice as old as Prof. Josh Lepawsky. Lepawsky agrees there should be a tuition break for seniors. "It seems like as a public institution there is a responsibility to the community, and people post-retirement have contributed their entire working lives to the tax system which supports public education. It's hard to imagine it would be some kind of burden on the system," Lepawsky said. [The Telegram](#)

**UNBC Geography Students Take on Human Rights in Guatemala:** A team of UNBC students and their professor are demanding the Government of Canada investigate alleged human rights abuses by Canadian mining companies in Guatemala. Geography professor Catherine Nolin and eight students partnered with Rights Action, a human rights advocacy group, in May 2010 to travel to Guatemala. The group interviewed victims of alleged human rights abuses, and on July 5 filed a human rights complaint with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon. Ph.D. student Claudette Bois is one of the eight students who spoke about their experiences at a recent UNBC event. [The Prince George Citizen](#)

**U Western Ontario's Jason Gilliland Looks at Environmental Influences on Children's Health Issues:** If you've ever wondered where your children go when they leave the house, just ask Jason Gilliland. Gilliland, Urban Development Program director in The University of Western Ontario's Faculty of Geography, takes a unique approach with his research looking at environmental influences on children's health issues. "Our work is based on the idea that where you live matters. We've all heard the saying 'You are what you eat,' but it's also true that you are where you live," Gilliland says. His research analyzes the way communities are designed, looking specifically at potential barriers the built environment poses to healthy living. One of the ways Gilliland studies these barriers is by tracking the movement of children in the London area. [Western News](#)

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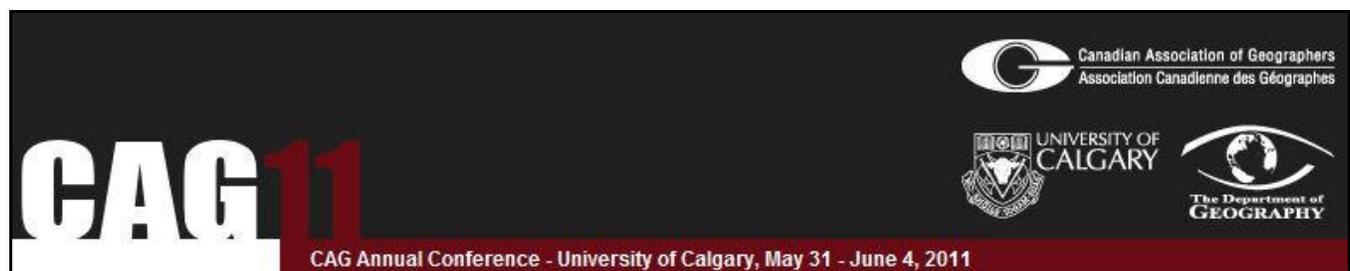
**U of T Scarborough's Bill Gough Sheds Light on Relationship Between Permafrost and Polar Bear Habitats:** Bill Gough, a climatologist and vice-dean at U of T Scarborough, has been studying permafrost and Arctic sea ice for the past 10 years. He has travelled to Hudson Bay for the past three summers to conduct a study that aims to shed more light on the relationship between permafrost and polar bear habitats. Gough's research team has confirmed that there is continuous permafrost along the Hudson Bay coast of northern Ontario but it is vulnerable to climate change. [News @ UT](#)

**Carleton U's Simon Dalby Reviews Laurence C. Smith's Book:** Laurence C. Smith's book on the future works precisely because he avoids both the temptations of fear and of unbridled optimism. Smith shows how in a lively account of the long journey from his office in the geography department at the University of California, Los Angeles, north in search of insight into what is coming. Mixing anecdote and big-picture analysis effectively is rarely easy, but he succeeds, not only because he writes well but because, like many of his fellow geographers, he is passionate about his planet and its peoples. [The Globe and Mail](#)

**McMaster PhD Student Kate Mulligan Speaks at Prestigious Science Conference:** Kate Mulligan is still working on her PhD, but she already knows how it feels to be a high-profile international scientist. The McMaster researcher, who specializes in water and health, represented Canada at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C. She sat as the emerging researcher on a panel of senior Canadian scientists, all speaking on the subject of water and promoting Canada's climate for research and innovation. Mulligan raised questions about longstanding associations between the tropical illness and poverty. She has studied the modern Malaysian city of Putrajaya, planned and built as a model of advancement. Despite its high-quality water and public services, the city still has a major problem with the mosquito-borne Dengue virus, drawing the poverty connection into doubt. [thespec.com](#)

**Nipissing University's Department of Geography Weather Stations in Northeastern Ontario:** Nipissing University's Department of Geography, in partnership with the Northeastern Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (NEOSCIA), has set up three weather stations in north eastern Ontario to monitor weather conditions for local farmers and students. The weather stations are currently located in Verner, Temiskaming Shores (New Liskeard), and Sturgeon Falls. The data from all three weather stations can be accessed through [Weather Data for Northeastern Ontario link](#).

**UBC's David Edgington on the Policy Dilemmas Posed in Rebuilding Christchurch:** The rebuilding of Christchurch after the magnitude 6.3 earthquake on Tuesday poses many questions for policymakers, and lessons from disasters elsewhere are mixed. It took the Japanese city of Kobe ten years to recover from a magnitude 6.8 earthquake in 1995 and its economy never fully recovered, David Edgington, an associate professor at the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia. The recovery from the Christchurch earthquake would have to be a national project, Prof Edgington said. [guide2.co.nz](#) | [National Business Review](#)



Laura J. Brown, Vahid Taleban, Bahram Gharabaghi, and Lee Weiss. 2011. [Seasonal and spatial distribution patterns of atmospheric phosphorus deposition to Lake Simcoe, ON](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research. doi:10.1016/j.jglr.2011.01.004

Jim M. Buttle. 2011. [Streamflow response to headwater reforestation in the Ganaraska River basin, southern Ontario, Canada](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8061

Irena F. Creed, Gabor Z. Sass, Jim M. Buttle and Julia A. Jones. 2011. [Hydrological principles for sustainable management of forest ecosystems](#). DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8056

James D. Ford, Tristan Pearce, Jason Prno, Frank Duerden, Lea Berrang Ford, Tanya R. Smith and Maude Beaumier. 2011. [Canary in a coal mine: perceptions of climate change risks and response options among Canadian mine operations](#). Climatic Change. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-011-0029-5

Alice J. Hovorka and Dawn Dietrich. 2011. [Entrepreneurship as a gendered process](#). The International Journal of Entrepreneurship and Innovation 12(1):55-65.

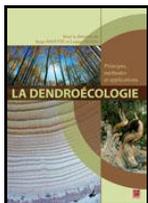
Perry Hystad, Nancy Ross, Paul Demers, Elanor Setton, Alejandro Cervantes-Larios, Michael Brauer, Karla Poplawski, Steeve Deschenes, Dan Crouse, Ryan Allen and Mark Goldberg. 2011. [Associations between socioeconomic status and air pollution exposure in Canadian cities: implications for environmental justice and epidemiological research](#). Epidemiology 22(1). doi:10.1097/01.ede.0000392388.28666.a4

Jamie Peck. [Geographies of policy: From transfer-diffusion to mobility-mutation](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132510394010

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## New Book

Serge Payette et Louise Filion. 2011. [La dendroécologie. Principes, méthodes et applications](#). Presses de l'Université Laval



L'ouvrage fait le point sur les aspects fondamentaux de ce domaine de recherche. La génétique, l'anatomie et la morphologie des arbres font l'objet de la première partie, les méthodes d'analyse dendroécologique, de la deuxième partie, et ses nombreux champs d'application, de la troisième partie. Écologistes et biogéographes, les rédacteurs, Serge Payette et Louise Filion, professeurs titulaires à l'Université Laval de Québec, ont réuni en 26 chapitres, des textes écrits par 46 auteurs, tous reconnus pour leur grande expertise dans le domaine de la dendroécologie. Ce volume rassemble des connaissances, des données souvent inédites et des exemples qui permettront aux lecteurs de découvrir et d'apprécier les plantes ligneuses qui, par la simple formation de bois et de cernes annuels de croissance, se transforment en véritables archives environnementales.

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## Geographer of the Week: Dr. Maria Strack, University of Calgary

Dr. [Maria Strack](#) joined the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary in January 2007. She completed her B.Sc. in ecology and Ph.D. in physical geography, both at McMaster University. Her Ph.D. dissertation focused on the potential effects of climate change on peatland carbon biogeochemistry. She also completed a short NSERC PDF in the Department of Geography at University of Waterloo.

Maria directs the [Wetland Soil and Ecohydrology Laboratory](#) where she and her students are investigating the interaction between ecology, hydrology, biogeochemistry, and soil properties in wetland ecosystems. Current projects include examinations of the: response of peatland carbon cycling to disturbance; the spatio-temporal variability in peat hydrophysical properties; dynamics of subsurface methane in peatlands; and, the ecohydrology of Sphagnum moss.

Waddington, J.M., Kellner, E., Strack, M., Price, J.S. 2010. [Differential peat deformation, compressibility, and water storage between peatland microforms: Implications for ecosystem function and development](#). Water Resources Research. 46, W07538, doi: 10.1029/2009WR008802.

Strack, M., and Mierau, T. 2010. [Evaluating spatial variability of free-phase gas in peat using ground penetrating radar and direct measurement](#). Journal of Geophysical Research - Biogeosciences, 115, G02010, doi: 10.1029/2009JG001045.

Lucchese, M., Waddington, J.M., Poulin, M., Pouliot, R., Rochefort, L., and Strack, M.. 2010. [Organic matter accumulation in a restored peatland: evaluating restoration success](#). Ecological Engineering, 36, 482-488.

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## Other "Geographical" News

### 'Climategate' Undermined Belief In Global Warming Among Many TV Meteorologists:

'Climategate' -- the unauthorized release in late 2009 of stolen e-mails between climate scientists in the US and United Kingdom -- undermined belief in global warming and possibly also trust in climate scientists among TV meteorologists in the United States, at least temporarily. Doubts were most pronounced among politically conservative weathercasters and those who either do not believe in global warming or do not yet know. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Live Video Webcast Workshop on Lessons from Earthquakes in Haiti and Chile:** The Disasters Roundtable of the National Academies is holding a workshop on March 1 to examine how the similarities and differences between the devastating earthquakes in Haiti and Chile last year offer opportunities for reducing risks from future natural disasters. Among the speakers are Leslie Voltaire, an architect and urban planner who was a candidate in Haiti's recent presidential election; Roberto Matus, deputy chief of mission, Embassy of Chile to the U.S.; and Paul Weisenfeld, senior deputy assistant administrator for USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. They will join disaster, emergency-management, and search-and-rescue experts to discuss the two earthquakes and how experiences from these events can better prepare the international community for the next disaster. The workshop runs from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m [EST]. on Tuesday, March 1. A [live video webcast](#) of the event will be available

Some not so “Geographical” News

100 YEAR COVER-UP  
REVEALED  
We Lived With DINOSAURS!



- How They Really Became Extinct
- Is Evolution Also a Century-Old Hoax?

[100 Year Cover-up Revealed: We Lived With Dinosaurs!](#)

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