



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McGill's Jason Samson and James Ford on Why Developing Countries Most Vulnerable to Climate Change: A new study conducted by McGill PhD candidate Jason Samson, offers credibility to long-standing warnings that the effects of climate change will be the greatest for countries that contribute to global warming the least. The study presents the projected effects of climate change on the human population in 2050. According to McGill Geography professor James Ford, these findings are nothing new. "We have known that for quite a long time but it adds credibility to countries that say: 'The climate is changing and we are being impacted the most'," said Ford. Samson noted the consistency he found in his results. "With the models I was doing I just kept obtaining the same results," he said. "That was just mind blowing." [McGill Daily](#) | [McGill Newsroom](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser Quoted on Theories Behind Food Riots: Geography professor Evan Fraser is mentioned in an online CBC news column this week by veteran reporter Brian Stewart on the price of food. He mentions Fraser's book, *Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations*, and his theories behind food riots. Fraser, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Human Security, has written extensively on the subject with Andrew Rimas, co-author of *Empires of Food*. In previous articles, they've discussed the connection among rising prices, hunger and violent civic unrest, and cautioned that policy-makers today must be mindful of the psychological causes of food riots when discussing trade and protectionism. [CBC News](#)

Trent U's Peter Adams on Challenges Facing the Otonabee River: Protecting the Otonabee River is on the minds of many Peterborough residents. Ask anyone their thoughts, and they could likely identify challenges and pressures facing the Otonabee River in the future. In the mind of Peter Adams, former Peterborough MP and Trent University geography professor, there are at least two others of note. One, he says, will stem directly from future growth in the area. "I know another bridge over the Otonabee will be needed at some point," Mr. Adams predicts. Another issue is climate change and the potential for more severe weather that may make water control measures along the Otonabee River, and the entire Trent-Severn Waterway, more complicated and challenging, he adds. [myKawartha.com](#)

U Calgary's Byron Miller Researching the Bicycle Culture in the Netherlands: European cities such as Copenhagen (Denmark), Freiburg (Germany) and Amsterdam and Groningen (the Netherlands) are renowned for their bicycle culture and sustainable urban planning. Dr. Byron Miller, associate professor in geography and director of the urban studies program at the University of Calgary, is in Groningen investigating why cities like these make significant progress in implementing alternative modes of transportation while others do not. Miller, who has not driven in six months since arriving in Groningen, says while most North American city planners understand the infrastructure required, what is lacking is an understanding of how political and policy planning processes achieve success. [Calgary U](#)

Memorial U Geography Alumni Reunion Dinner: The Department of Geography at Memorial University will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary with a Alumni Reunion Dinner, May 7th, 2011 in St. John's. [Details Pending](#)

Département de géographie de l'Université de Montréal; Une forêt fossile dévoile des indices sur les changements climatiques: Aux confins du Grand Nord canadien se trouve l'île Bylot. Ce petit morceau de terre abrite un site rarissime : une forêt fossile datant de 2,5 millions d'années étonnamment bien conservée. Cette découverte fournit des indices sur les changements climatiques qui surviendront dans une centaine d'années. [YouTube](#)

UBC's Graeme Wynn Awarded Brenda and David McLean Chair in Canadian Studies: Endowed by University benefactors Brenda and David McLean, the Chair is occupied by a distinguished Canadianist for a period of two years. As the McLean Chair Graeme Wynn of the [UBC Department of Geography](#) will teach the Senior Seminar in Canadian Studies (CDST 450), and, in the second year of tenure, give the McLean Lectures in Canadian Studies.

U Alberta Remembers Geography Department Founder William C. Wonders: The university community was saddened to hear of William C. Wonders' death Jan. 24. Wonders' association with the University of Alberta was long and rewarding, beginning in 1953, when as an assistant professor of geography in the Department of Political Economy, he established the first courses in geography. From 1957 until 1967 he was the founding head of the newly formed Department of Geography at the U of A. Named member to the Order of Canada in 1999, Wonders was recognized often during his career and awarded numerous honours and awards, including as an elected fellow to the Royal Society of Canada. Wonders retired from the U of A in 1987 and over the course of his 35 years at the university he provided the academic leadership that developed a leading geography department and saw the foundation of important Northern-related institutes such as the CCI and CINS. The U of A and affiliated research communities have lost a well-recognized leading Canadian geographer and friend. His impact to the science remains and will be long remembered. [UA Folio](#)

GeoHorizons from WLU Department of Geography and Environmental Studies: The Winter 2011 issue of [Geohorizons](#) introduces new professors Drs. Rob Milne and Colin Robertson; Margaret Walton-Roberts reports on the National Association of Geographers India Conference 2010; Master's student Daniel Lamhonwah provides "A Story of a Graduate Student, GIS-Modeling and Ontario's Sugar Maple Trees"; GG399 reports on their Leamington field course in October; there is a report of the lectures presented by Dr. Rod Negrave in November 2010; and, the GGA Co-President Scott James reports on recent activities. [Geohorizons Winter 2011](#)

Laurentian U's Certificate in Applied Geography: Applied geographers use geographical knowledge and skills to form solutions to spatial problems. The courses that constitute the Certificate in Applied Geography provide students with both relevant training and general education. The courses demonstrate how spatially-referenced information can be manipulated to tackle a wide range of location-allocation problems. Knowledge of these skills can accrue into numerous public and private sector employment opportunities including: resource management, natural environment conservation, regional/urban land use planning and marketing analysis. [LU Certificate in Applied Geography](#)

Queen's U's George Lovell Awarded 2011 Killam Research Fellowship: George Lovell of the Department of Geography at Queen's University has been awarded a 2011 Killam Research Fellowship for his project entitled *Enduring Conquest: A Cultural History of the Guatemalan Maya*. [George Lovell Homepage](#)

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Catherine Eimers, Trent University

Dr. [Catherine Eimers](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Trent University. Catherine completed her B.Sc.(Hons) at the University of Toronto; her M.Sc. at Trent University and her Ph.D. at the University of Waterloo. Catherine's research focuses on the relationships between changes in climate, hydrology and water quality. Her current work investigates the effect of extreme weather events and shifts in temperature and precipitation on surface water quality and quantity.

Casson, N.C., Eimers, M.C., Buttle, J.M. 2010. [The contribution of rain-on-snow events to nitrate export in the forested landscape of south-central Ontario, Canada](#). Hydrological Processes 24(14):1985-1993.

Adkinson, C.J.; Eimers, M.C., Watmough, S.A. 2010. [The adsorption and release of sulfur in mineral and organic soils of the Athabasca Oil Sands Region, Alberta, Canada](#). Journal of Environmental Quality 39(3):1108-1112.

Other "Geographical" News

Jeopardy! Computer Makes Basic Canadian Geography Blunder: IBM's mega-machine Watson took on its human competitors in a three-day man-versus-machine Jeopardy! showdown. But the supercomputer's easy lead throughout the game made its mistake all the more puzzling in the Final Jeopardy! round. Under the category of "U.S. Cities," the competitors were asked to name a city with an airport named after a Second World War hero and one after a Second World War battle. While Watson's human contestants correctly responded with Chicago, the clearly befuddled computer answered: "What is Toronto?????" [The Globe and Mail](#)

United Nations Global Issues: Understanding issues such as atomic energy, AIDS, and human rights can be tremendously difficult. The United Nations (UN) is involved in addressing many of these weighty global issues, so it is fitting that they have established this website to provide summary overviews of these pressing matters. Over two dozen topics are covered here, including demining, atomic energy, family, and water. Within each topic area, visitors will find an essay that includes links to other United Nations publications and materials that provide more details on the subject in question. Each essay also includes a separate "Related Links" area that includes links to resources like project overviews and working papers from UN affiliate organizations. [UN Global Issues](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

Travel Agents and Geography:

A man called, furious about a Florida package we did. I asked what was wrong with the vacation in Orlando. He said he was expecting an ocean-view room. I tried to explain that is not possible, since Orlando is in the middle of the state. He replied, "Don't lie to me. I looked on the map and Florida is a very thin state." [Travel Agents](#)

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