



GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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UBC's David Edgington Analyzes Effects of Japan's Recent Earthquake: David Edgington of the Department of Geography at UBC offers YouTube insights into Japan's earthquakes. [The Great Sendai Earthquake?](#); [Kobe vs Sendai](#); [Applying Lessons from Kobe to the Sendai Earthquake](#); and [Local, Regional and National Disaster Response and Assessment](#)

Mount Allison's Ian Munro Honoured by Apple: Mount Allison University geography and environment professor and Canada Research Chair in Human Dimensions of Environmental Change, Dr. Ian Mauro has been selected as a 2011 Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) by Apple Corporation. Dr. Mauro is one of only two University professors in Canada to receive this international honour. Mauro is widely-known for his teaching and research endeavours, working to help people tell their stories and experiences regarding climate change, food security, and associated human adaptation. He uses multi-media research techniques to help record and share knowledge in and across indigenous and non-indigenous cultures. [Mount Allison News](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser Featured in National 'Thinking Big' Program: The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences has chosen Guelph geography professor Evan Fraser to help launch its new "Big Thinking" initiative. Fraser appears in Episode One of the series. In the interview, he discusses food riots, what his food utopia would look like and what it takes to make us change the way we think about our food. Fraser co-wrote the book *Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations* about how and why human culture depends on food, what happens when a culture runs out of it and our likely future. [UGuelph Campus Bulletin](#) | [Exchange](#)

SFU Geographer Sarah Hunt on How Criminalizing Sex Workers Harms the Most Vulnerable: Sarah Hunt, a PhD student in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University, wrote a column protesting Ottawa's appeal against an Ontario court ruling that overturned anti-prostitution laws. In its brief, Ottawa argued that the government "is not obliged to minimize hindrances and maximize safety for those that [engage in prostitution] contrary to the law." Wrote Hunt: "What is the government saying by arguing in court that it's not their job to protect sex workers? They are placing the blame on the victims of violence, who may already be struggling with the impact of poverty and neglect in their lives. Is that their fault too?" [rabble.ca](#)

Queen's Erin Jaggard Awarded 2011 ECO Student Award for Environmental Excellence: Erin Jaggard won a 2011 ECO Student Award for Environmental Excellence. These awards, which attract applications from across the country, recognize the excellence in environment-related research being carried out by post-secondary students in Canada. Erin's project was entitled *Carbon Sequestration under Switchgrass Production in South-eastern Ontario*. [ECO Canada](#)

UBC's Simon Donner on China and Climate Change: Analysis shows the increase in China's emissions will be the order of a 74 to 90 per cent in absolute terms by 2020. University of British Columbia Professor in Geography Simon Donner calculates in an article titled "China's emissions pledge depends entirely on economic growth" that the Chinese emissions "intensity" targets would still result in substantial emissions increases. He says: "If China keeps up the planned 8%/year growth, emissions in 2020 will be 74-90% higher than 2005 levels". [National Times](#)

UBC-Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira Receives Public Education through Media Award: [Carlos Teixeira](#), associate professor of geography, was honoured with the Public Education through Media Award for outstanding service to the university and the community by actively and creatively sharing his research expertise via the news media. Teixeira is the priority leader for the "Housing and Neighbourhoods" domain of the national Metropolis project. His research focuses on migration processes, community formation, housing and neighbourhood change, ethnic entrepreneurship, and the social structure of Canadian cities. In February, Teixeira was involved with organizing the public BC Affordable Housing Research and Action Roundtable at UBC's Okanagan campus. [UBC Campus Life](#)

Mount Allison's Michael Fox Hosts First-Ever Sackville Council Meeting Held on Campus: Believed to be the first town council meeting ever held on the Mount Allison campus, Monday's night three-hour session attracted probably its largest crowd ever – from university students and staff to area residents who got to experience, many for the first time, the inner workings of municipal government. The idea to host the meeting on campus was the brainchild of Mount Allison geography professor Michael Fox. Fox teaches both a community planning class and a community classroom course in which the students are required to learn more about the municipal planning process. So he thought hosting a town council meeting on campus would provide an easier way for all 75 students to attend a session. "So instead of just presenting the theory, they will actually have attended a council meeting and can use that to decide whether it's a reasonable process," he said. [Sackville Tribune Post](#)

U Alberta Researchers Report Northern Peatlands a Misunderstood Player in Climate Change: Alberto Reyes and Colin Cooke were PhD students in the U of A's Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences when they began their research into the response of northern peatlands to climate change. The U of A team revealed that the peatlands did not colonize the north until 500-1000 years after the abrupt increases in atmospheric methane. These results show that other methane sources, such as tropical wetlands, were the likely drivers of the initial rises in methane levels at the end of the last ice age. The research by Reyes and Cooke points to the miscalculation of the role of northern peatlands and wetlands in the methane rise 10,000 years ago as an example of how complex and easily these huge areas of the planet can be misunderstood. [ScienceDaily](#)

Queen's Audrey Kobayashi in "Campus lefties never tire of crying racism": Peter Li, a professor of sociology at the University of Saskatchewan says that racism is still "regularized and embedded in the social process" of Canadian academic hiring, promotion, governance, research, and in the curriculum. His article states that every new report on systematic racism has had the unfortunate effect of producing a "backlash." According to Audrey Kobayashi, a professor of geography at Queen's University, one of the effects of this backlash "is to prevent progressive people from acting progressively" in the universities. These are her words; I am not trying to be amusing. How can the most leftist institution in Canada be accused of curtailing the efforts of progressives to fight against racism? [National Post](#)

Memorial U's Norm Catto on Occurrence of Tsunami on Newfoundland Coast: Geography Professor Norm Catto says Newfoundland has had some minor earthquakes over the past decade, but the chances of experiencing a major seismic event are very low. [VOCM](#)

York U's William Jenkins on Significance of Saint Patrick's Day: William Jenkins, a York University professor and historical geographer, came to Canada in 1996 when he was 24, but grew up in Clondalkin, a suburb of Dublin. "When I was growing up in Ireland, St. Patrick's Day was a very solemn day," Jenkins explains. There was a parade, but the pubs weren't open. And there was no such thing as green beer. Even today, St. Patrick's Day is a national holiday in Ireland. The day celebrates the patron saint of Ireland who is widely credited to bringing Christianity to the Irish. Jenkins says he's got nothing against the way Canadians choose to celebrate. "What you get here is this kind of a Celtic Disneyland — giant leprechauns (and) inflatable Guinness glasses," Jenkins explains, adding our "Disneyfication" of St. Patrick's Day has made its way back to Dublin. [Toronto Star](#)

McMaster U's Gavin Andrews Knows Why Bono Can Turn a Lemon into a Beautiful Day: Gavin Andrews is head of the Health, Aging and Society department at McMaster University. Andrews is not only a health expert, but also a devoted pop music fan. Andrews is a geographer with a background in nursing, which he says gives him an understanding of how sense of place pertains to one's health. For researchers like him, geography is about social science — the impact a specific setting has on how we feel. "Through geography, I have a different line of research on how music connects to our health," says Andrew, who has also studied the different ways music hits us, whether it's in a car, at a nightclub or in a sold-out concert hall. "Music connects with listeners on a personal level — as a geographer, it's my job to study that place." [National Post](#)

Queen's Betsy Donald Leads Geography New York City Field Study: On Friday February 11, 2011, thirteen geography students enrolled in Geography 403: Sustainable Food Systems at Queen's University took a trip led by Dr. Betsy Donald to New York City to examine various food systems and issues in the region. Their field studies began the next day at the Green Market at Union Square, after which they went Chelsea Market for a Foods of New York tour and met with New York City Coalition Against Hunger Executive Director Joel Berg. [Geog403 Photo Essay](#)

New Homepages for SFU Geography: SFU Geography is proud of its role as a founding Department of the University and the Faculty of Arts in 1965; as well as their position as a founding unit of the new [Faculty of Environment](#) at SFU. The department should be equally proudly of their stunning new webpages. [SFU Geography](#)

UVic's Jed Long Student Award Winner at SKI 2011: Jed Long, a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, was recognized at SKI 2011 for his award winning presentation on *Sports, Time Geography, and Mobility Data*. [Spatial Knowledge and Information Canada](#), or SKI, brings together researchers of GIS and the geoweb who live and work in Canada. SKI 2011 was held in Fernie, BC at the Best Western Fernie Mountain Lodge. [Jed Long 2011](#)

U Regina's Joseph Piwowar on Tsunamis Dangers Across Pacific Coast: The physical impact of the earthquake in Japan was felt around the world, including British Columbia. Even though the waves lost much of their strength along the way, they were still powerful. Waves reached one metre in some areas, which University of Regina Geography Professor Joseph Piwowar says can still be very dangerous. "A one metre high wave, we could not stand against it," Piwowar said. "Even just splash against your house, there would be so much power behind it that it would knock the house down. It would knock cars over." A stark reminder you do not need to be near the epicentre to be in a dangerous situation. [Global News](#)

Report of the 53rd Annual Meeting of CAG Western Division



The 53rd AGM and Conference was hosted by the SFU Department of Geography, March 10-12, 2011. With 270 participants and 140 paper and poster presentations (65% by students), geography is alive and well in the West and appears to be in very good and capable hands.

The award for: **Best Graduate Poster** went to Megan L. Hendershot (Simon Fraser University); **Best Undergraduate Poster** went to Amy Ganton (University of Victoria); **Best Graduate Presentation** went to Jamison Miller (Simon Fraser University); and **Best Undergraduate Presentation** went to Cail Smith (University of Victoria). The **J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service to the WDCAG** was awarded to Dr. Dan Smith from the University of Victoria.

A new executive was elected at the AGM: Craig Coburn (Secretary-Treasurer – UofL); Barb McNicol (Councillor – MRU); Zoë Meletis (Councillor – UNBC); Fes de Scally (Councillor – UBC-O); Justine Cullen (BC Student Rep – UFV); and Sirina Hamilton-McGregor (Alberta Student Rep – UofA). Jim Windsor (Awards Officer – UNBC), Ken Brealey (Archivist – UFV), and Claire Beaney (Newsletter Editor – UFV) remain at their position for another year. Tom Waldichuk (TRU) was appointed BC Education Chair. Theresa Garvin (UofA) moves from her post of Vice-President to become the Division's new President for 2012-2013.

Damian Collins (KUC) and Darryl Carlyle-Moses (TRU) were appointed as co-editors of *Western Geography*. Sincere thanks were offered to Neil Hanlon (UNBC) for his excellent leadership as editor of the journal since 2006.

Warm thanks were offered to Valorie Crooks and Ilja Tromp-van Meerveld, the Department of Geography and the horde of student volunteers from the Simon Fraser University, for putting together a most convivial and wonderful conference.

WDCAG 2012 will take place on the University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus.

From notes provided by WDCAG Past-President Gilles Viaud

Geographer of the Week: Dr. Chantelle Richmond, University of Western Ontario

Dr. [Chantelle Richmond](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario cross appointed with First Nations Studies. Chantelle is a First Nation scholar who has trained primarily in health geography. Both from a personal and academic perspective, she is concerned with the current health and social inequalities endured by Indigenous Canadians, and the contributions of environmental change to these realities. Her research draws from various methods to examine the social and environmental determinants of Indigenous health, and to better understand the dimensions linking health and place among Indigenous peoples in Canada and around the world. She

has research interests in the ways that social, environmental, economic and political processes – broadly defined - work to affect the environments within which Indigenous peoples live. Chantelle is particularly interested in understanding how these environments shape access to, and the quality of, social determinants of Indigenous health.

Richmond, C.A.M. 2009. [The social determinants of Inuit health: A focus on social support in the Canadian Arctic](#). International Journal of Circumpolar Health 68(5):471-487,

Richmond, C.A.M. and Ross, N.A. 2009. [The determinants of First Nation and Inuit health: A critical population health approach](#). Health and Place 15(2):403-411.

The logo for 'Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers' features the text in a white, sans-serif font on a dark, textured rectangular background with a subtle orange and yellow glow on the left side.

Sarah Boon. 2011. [Snow accumulation following forest disturbance](#). Ecohydrology. DOI: 10.1002/eco.212

Tim P. Duval, J. Michael Waddington and Brian A. Branfireun. 2011. [Hydrological and biogeochemical controls on plant species distribution within calcareous fens](#). Ecohydrology. DOI: 10.1002/eco.202

Jason N. Goetz, Richard H. Guthrie and Alexander Brenning. 2011. [Integrating physical and empirical landslide susceptibility models using generalized additive models](#). Geomorphology. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.03.001

Angela Kross, Richard Fernandes, Jonathan Seaquist and Elisabeth Beaubien. 2011. [The effect of the temporal resolution of NDVI data on season onset dates and trends across Canadian broadleaf forests](#). Remote Sensing of Environment. doi:10.1016/j.rse.2011.02.015

Robert P. Larson, James M. Byrne, Daniel L. Johnson, Matthew G. Letts, and Stefan W. Kienzle. 2011. [Modelling climate change impacts on spring runoff for the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Alberta I: Model development, calibration and historical analysis](#). Canadian Water Resources Journal 36(1):17-34.

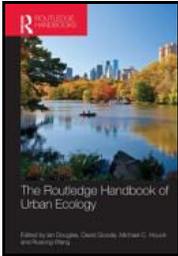
Jennifer Lynes, Susan Wismer, and Mark Andrachuk. 2011. [The role of education in entrepreneurship: Two Canadian stories](#). Advancing Women in Leadership 31:14-22.

Rajesh R. Shrestha , Yonas B. Dibike and Terry D. Prowse. 2011. [Modelling of climate-induced hydrologic changes in the Lake Winnipeg watershed](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research doi:10.1016/j.jglr.2011.02.004

Kathi Wilson, Cleo Boyd, Liwen Chen and Sarosh Jamal. 2011. [Improving student performance in a first-year geography course: examining the importance of computer-assisted formative assessment](#). Computers & Education. doi:10.1016/j.compedu.2011.02.011

New Book

Ian Douglas, David Goode, Mike Houck and Rusong Wang. 2011. [The Routledge Handbook of Urban Ecology](#). Taylor & Francis Group.



The birds, animals, insects, trees and plants encountered by the majority of the world's people are those that survive in, adapt to, or are introduced to, urban areas. Some of these organisms give great pleasure; others invade, colonise and occupy neglected and hidden areas such as derelict land and sewers. Urban areas have a high biodiversity and nature within cities provides many ecosystem services including cooling the urban area, reducing urban flood risk, filtering pollutants, supplying food, and providing accessible recreation. Yet, protecting urban nature faces competition from other urban land uses. The [Handbook of Urban Ecology](#) analyses this biodiversity and complexity and provides the science to guide policy and management to make cities more attractive, more enjoyable, and better for our own health and that of the planet.

Other "Geographical" News

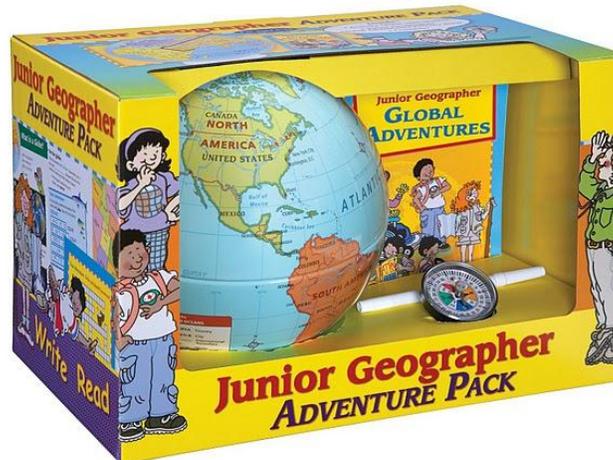
Mummified Trees on Ellesmere Island Could Take Climate Scientists Back to the Future: When in Quttinirpaaq National Park in the Canadian Arctic, Ohio State University Earth scientist Joel Barker initially spotted some pieces of dead trees scattered on the barren ground near a glacier. Immediately, he knew he had found something akin to a looking glass peering into the Arctic's ecological past. The Hazen Plateau on Ellesmere Island, a polar desert where winter temperatures can currently dip down to 50 below zero, is currently too cold and dry to support forests; the only living trees that now dot the park's desolate landscape are dwarf willows. Therefore, the pieces of wood must have come from trees that lived millions of years ago, when the Arctic was still warm enough to support forests. [NSF Discovery](#)

NASA's Most Extensive Survey of Canadian Arctic Ice: Researchers and flight crew arrived in Thule, Greenland, on March 14 for the start of NASA's 2011 Operation IceBridge, an airborne mission to study changes in Arctic polar ice. This year's plans include surveys of Canadian ice caps and expanded international collaboration. Sea ice is thought to be thinning in recent years in addition to shrinking in the area covered. A high-priority is to fly over the Barnes and Devon ice caps of the Canadian Arctic Archipelago. "The Canadian ice caps are notably smaller than the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets, but are still significant potential contributors to sea-level change in the next few decades," said Charles Webb. "They also serve as potential early-warning indicators, responding more sensitively to temperature changes than the more massive ice sheets." [ScienceDaily](#)

Ecological scorecards to help assess status, trends in North America's marine protected areas: A new Guide to Ecological Scorecards for Marine Protected Areas in North America from the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) aims to provide a standard method for managers to report on the status and trends of marine protected areas (MPAs). North America's 2,000 MPAs—all of

which have been mapped as part of the North American Environmental Atlas—represent an important effort by Canada, Mexico and the United States to safeguard the continent's fragile marine environments. Although intended primarily for MPA managers, this guide emphasizes the need to involve local communities in the ecological condition reporting process. [EuerkAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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