



# GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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**U Winnipeg's John Ryan Betrayed by Manitoba Hydro:** The co-author of a recent Manitoba Hydro study says he feels "betrayed" by the Crown utility, believing his study's results were skewed for public consumption. John Ryan, a retired University of Winnipeg geography professor, was among the five-person team examining the feasibility of running a transmission line along the bottom of Lake Winnipeg in the future. A press release issued by Manitoba Hydro Friday notes that the study concluded a high-voltage, alternating current line along the lake bed "is not a viable option at this time," in part due to "current cable technology and unproven cable transportation methods." But Ryan said that's misleading because the study wasn't focused on the present, but 15 years down the road. [Winnipeg Sun](#)

**U Toronto's Emily Gilbert Interviewed in "True North: What does Canada stand for now?":** "More and more, Canada is seen as an environmental dinosaur," says Emily Gilbert, a professor of geography and the director of the Canadian Studies program at University College. Gilbert notes that the Conservative-controlled Senate recently killed, without debate, a climate-change bill passed by a majority of MPs that called for the reduction of greenhouse gases to 25 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020. "That's typical of some of our domestic policies that I think is getting Canada maligned on the international stage," Gilbert says. "The defeat of the bill will only encourage the perception of Canada as the colossal fossil." [UofT Magazine](#)

**McGill's James Ford Remarks on Earth as a Hot Potato:** At McGill, Ford teaches a class on the human dimensions of climate change. For one of their projects, student groups choose a country and simulate international climate talks. Canada generally ranks very poorly, Ford says, a reflection of its reversals in recent years on emissions targets, attempts to thwart improvements and general incalcitrance. He cited a recent McGill study that showed that over the last decade, Ottawa had spent roughly \$60 million on research into climate change and health spending. "That may sound like a lot, but it amounts to roughly five cents per Canadian per year. Not much if you are really serious about tackling these issues." [The Gazette](#)

**U Toronto's Kalina Soltys Wins AAG Transport Geography Specialty Group Thesis Competition:** Kalina Soltys (Master of Arts, Geography and Planning, University of Toronto) has won the Transport Geography Specialty Group of the Assoc. of Amer. Geographers Masters competition for her thesis, "Toward an understanding of carpool formation and use". Her masters was supervised by Professor Ron Buliung, Department of Geography, University of Toronto Mississauga. Her results indicate that municipalities with the highest rates of carpooling are in relatively affluent exurban/suburban areas. The most significant factor in the carpool process was found to be proximity to other Carpool Zone users. Other factors include; motivations to save time (use of High Occupancy Vehicle lanes), gender, and current use of public transit.

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**U Waterloo's Alexander Brenning Sabbatical Plans:** Alexander Brenning, geography and environmental management: "The early sabbatical is intended to prepare for the application for tenure and promotion in 2011 by conducting research on spatial modeling in mountain geomorphology on campus and abroad. A 3-month stay at Catholic University, Santiago, Chile is planned during this leave. This planned stay would be partly funded by funds available at UW, and partly with funds applied for at the Chilean university." [Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

**Ryerson U's Harald Bauder on Need for Health Networks to Offer Language Appropriate Service:** Two regional health networks' decision to offer French-language services raises the question of whether this answers the needs of a rapidly evolving population. The census reports almost 1,800 francophones in Guelph, almost 6,000 in Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge, 13,400 in St. Catharines and more than 9,700 in Hamilton. But there are also significant populations of people speaking Chinese, Italian, German, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Arabic and Vietnamese. "They have to be served, too," said Bauder, a former University of Guelph professor now teaching at Ryerson University. In Guelph, the nearly 1,800 francophones were outstripped by 2,670 speaking Chinese dialects. Chinese speakers amount to almost 7,700 in Waterloo Region, more than 2,900 in St. Catharines and more than 9,200 in Hamilton. [GuelphMercury.com](#)

**U Toronto's Emily Gilbert Writes that the North American Security Perimeter Should be an Election Issue:** On Feb. 4, 2011 a joint declaration on border security perimeter was announced by Prime Minister Harper and President Obama. No debate took place in the House of Commons. There has been no public debate. So far, border security is not an election issue. Yet the declaration on border security demands broader engagement. Not only will it reshape Canada-U.S. relations, but it will formalize Canada's deepening securitization. It is time for the security perimeter and the increasing securitization of our country to be on the election agenda. Emily Gilbert is director of the Canadian Studies program and associate professor of Geography at the University of Toronto. [Rabble.ca](#)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Thembela Kepe, University of Toronto**

Dr. [Thembela Kepe](#) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning, University of Toronto Scarborough. Thembela received his BAgic from the University of Fort Hare, his MSc at the University of Guelph, and his PhD from the University of the Western Cape. His research interests focus on people-environment interactions, land rights, politics of development projects, and Southern Africa.

Srutt, C. and Kepe, T. 2010. [Implementing education for all - whose agenda, whose change? the case study of the Ghana National Education Campaign Coalition](#). International Journal of Educational Development 30(4):369-376.

Silva, S. and Kepe, T. 2010. [An examination of 'Participation' and 'Sustainability' in a food security project among the rural poor in northwestern Tanzania](#). African and Asian Studies 9(1-2):31-54.

Walker, C., Bohlin, A., Hall, R and Kepe, T (Eds) (2010). [Land, Memory, Reconstruction and Justice: Perspectives on Land Claims in South Africa](#). Athens: Ohio University Press.

Kepe, T. 2009. [Shaped by race: Why 'race' still matters in the challenges facing biodiversity conservation in Africa](#). Local Environment 14:871-878.

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Trevor Barnes. 2011. [This is like deja vu all over again](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2011.566514

Lauren A. MacDonald, Kevin W. Turner, Ann M. Balasubramaniam, Brent B. Wolfe, Roland I. Hall and Jon N. Sweetman. 2011. [Tracking hydrological responses of a thermokarst lake in the Old Crow Flats \(Yukon Territory, Canada\) to recent climate variability using aerial photographs and paleolimnological methods](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8116

Jeremy Snyder, Valorie A. Crooks, Krystyna Adams, Paul Kingsbury, and Rory Johnston. 2011. [The 'patient's physician one-step removed': the evolving roles of medical tourism facilitators](#). Journal of Medical Ethics. doi:10.1136/jme.2011.042374

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Dan Shugar. 2011. Rock avalanches on glaciers. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Centre for Natural Hazard Research, Department of Earth Sciences, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Supervisor: John Clague.

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### Other "Geographical" News

**The Internet Mapping Project:** The internet is vast. Bigger than a city, bigger than a country, maybe as big as the universe. It's expanding by the second. No one has seen its borders. And the internet is intangible, like spirits and angels. The web is an immense ghost land of disembodied places. Who knows if you are even there, there. Yet everyday we navigate through this ethereal realm for hours on end and return alive. We must have some map in our head. I've become very curious about the maps people have in their minds when they enter the internet. So I've been asking people to draw me a map of the internet as they see it. That's all. More than 50 people of all ages and levels of expertise have mapped their geography of online. [Conceptual Trends](#) | [Internet Mapping Project on Flickr](#)

**200 years after John Jacob Astor's Crew Arrives, Astorians Celebrate as Oregonians Instead of Canadians:** When the Pacific Fur Company employees reached Astoria's shores 200 years ago today, they were just another party of fur traders in the race to win some pelts. Little could they have known they were laying claim to a region that would celebrate their arrival centuries into the future -- and not only for the birth of the town. "It's not just the birthday of a small city on the coast, it's the very shape of our country," said McAndrew "Mac" Burns, executive director of the Clatsop County Historical Society. "Without John Jacob Astor sending the party to establish a trade outpost in 1811, Oregon, Washington and Idaho would very likely be part of Canada today. The group he sent beat a group of Canadians by about a month." That group was led by Canadian explorer David Thompson, considered the greatest North American land geographer of his time, Burns said. [The Oregonian](#)

**Earth's Dust and Plankton from Space. New Views from Envisat Satellite:** Europe's Envisat satellite has captured dust and sand from the Algerian Sahara Desert, located in northern Africa, blowing west across the Atlantic Ocean. Stretching across the eastern Atlantic, strong winds carry the plume over the northwestern tip of the Iberian Peninsula, the western tip of France, the southwestern tip of England and the southwestern coast of Ireland. Dust from the Sahara Desert – the world's largest desert, encompassing around 8.6 million sq km – can be transported over thousands of kilometres by atmospheric convection currents. [ScienceDaily](#)

**GPS Data Used to Model Effects of Tidal Loads on Earth's Surface:** Mark Simons and Takeo Ito are using data from GPS satellite systems to measure the solid earth's response to the movements of ocean tides -- which place a large stress on Earth's surface -- and to estimate separately the effects of Earth's density and the properties controlling response when a force is applied to it (known as elastic moduli). The researchers were able to observe tide-induced displacements -- or movements of Earth's surface -- of as little as one millimeter. [ScienceDaily](#)

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