UBC’s Karen Bakker Sounds the Alarm on Dwindling Water: Canadians have taken water for granted for too long, warns Karen Bakker, geography professor at the University of British Columbia and one of the country’s foremost experts on water governance. “Canadians are just waking up to the fact that we do not have unlimited access to water,” Dr. Bakker says. In some parts of the country, including the prairies and B.C.’s Okanagan Valley, “the squeeze is already being felt,” she adds. Water quantity and quality are serious issues on many First Nations reserves and, as a resource, water remains greatly under-regulated in Canada, she argues. The Globe and Mail

SFU’s Nicholas Blomley on the Driving Logics of Gentrification: Vancouver city council recently voted to move ahead with a Historic Area Heights Review. One of the driving logics of gentrification in the Downtown Eastside is “social mix.” Yet every single time “social mix” is proposed in a middle-class or rich neighbourhood, it is rejected. No one wants a social housing project, a detox centre, a methadone clinic, a food bank in their backyard. So why should a low-income neighbourhood accept this logic? SFU’s Nicholas Blomley explained that “the language of social mix serves to justify giving the right to space and property to those with wealth, and taking it away from those who are poor. Social mix is a strategy used to expand hierarchical structures and mask asymmetrical power ... It is the wolf in sheep's clothing.” The Vancouver Sun

McMaster U’s Nicole Forbes to Join Global Youth Network: Nicole Forbes, a second-year student studying geography and environmental sciences, will travel to Kosovo and Macedonia as part of the Global Youth Network. "There has been a lot of conflict in these countries, so I'm really looking forward to having a positive impact on troubled youth in their communities," said Forbes, who will be working with schools and youth groups during her trip. Forbes is no stranger to international volunteer work—last year she travelled to Nicaragua to tutor children and organize cultural and agricultural activities after discovering the opportunity at McMaster in her first year. "There are countless volunteer opportunities at McMaster and that is how I got involved. I looked into it at first simply out of curiosity, but the experience transformed and grounded me as a person and really helped to open my eyes in regards to global issues," she said. McMaster Daily News

U Waterloo’s Rob de Loë Discusses Water Governance Challenges: Conference speaker Dr. Rob de Loë, University Research Chair in Water Policy and Governance at the University of Waterloo, discusses water governance challenges at Connecting Water Resources 2011: Responding to the Opportunities, the Canadian Water Network’s national conference. Listen at Canadian Water Network.

UNBC’s Theo Mlynowski Receives Geological Society of America Graduate Student Grant: Theo Mlynowski NRES M.Sc. Candidate (Geography) received a $2,500 graduate student grant from the Geological Society of America, in April 2011, for his proposed MSc thesis project, “The relation of glacier activity to sediment yield in a proglacial lake, Peyto Basin, Alberta”. Theo is supervised by Dr. Brian Menounos.
U Saskatchewan's Patricia Gober Awarded AAG Presidential Achievement Award: Professor Patricia Gober has been awarded the American Association of Geographers’ (AAG) Presidential Achievement Award. Gober was the first woman to receive the award, which was initiated in 2004. Gober’s current research includes climate change and water management in the Colorado River Basin, urban climate adaptation, vulnerability assessments, urban heat island development in Phoenix, strategies for decision-making under uncertainty, and best practices in science-policy engagement. Her many contributions to the profession of geography include serving as the AAG vice-president and president (1996-1998), as a member of the Geographical Sciences Committee of the National Academies of Science, as a member and vice-chair of the Population Reference Bureau’s Board of Trustees, and as a member of the Science Advisory Board of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. U of S News Release

UBC’s Karen Bakker Named in Top 40 Under 40 Awards: Karen Bakker, an associate professor of geography and director of the Program on Water Governance at UBC, was today named a winner of the 2010 Top 40 Under 40 Awards. Four UBC alumni were also among the recipients of the award. The Top 40 Under 40 Awards recognize the achievements and leadership of young Canadians. Established in 1995 by Doug Caldwell, the awards are given to Canadians who demonstrate vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, impact, growth and development and community work. UBC News

New Book


Meteorology Today 1st Canadian edition is the first textbook of its type written specifically with the needs of the Canadian market and its unique meteorological environment in mind. This first Canadian edition builds upon the tried and tested strengths of the Ahrens Meteorology series and provides a more relevant resource for Canadian students and instructors by ensuring that Canadian content, practices, conventions and examples are used throughout. An Earth Systems feature – the first of its kind in Ahrens – has been developed for this edition, presenting the interconnectedness of elements, and providing a peek at the chapter content. The relationships between the chapter’s content and Earth systems are further expanded upon in the introduction of each chapter. Chris Jackson is a UNBC Geography Senior Lab Instructor and Dr. Peter Jackson is an affiliated geographer.


Other “Geographical” News

2011 Discovery Grants Competition Summary: NSERC recently released the results of the 2011 Discovery Grants competition to individual applicants and their universities. A preliminary package of competition statistics and a series of questions and answers are now available on NSERC’s Web site.

A Brief History of Intrusions into the Canadian Arctic: This discussion surveys documented intrusions into the Canadian Arctic, demonstrating that the North remains vulnerable to infiltration by foreign entities. Many intrusions have involved illegal and potentially dangerous activities relating to international terrorism, trans-national criminal activity, challenges to Canadian sovereignty and foreign military operations. This list comprises a catalogue of intrusions that have occurred from the Second World War until very recently. Some of the details are scant due to the limited availability and authority of sources on certain incidents of intrusion. The objective in producing this catalogue of significant foreign intrusions into Canada’s Arctic is to highlight the reality of the threat that Canada faces in order to encourage the adaptation of national security and defence policies and the development of capabilities to meet the challenges of an otherwise remote and isolated Arctic. Canadian Army Journal 12.3 (Winter 2010) 45-68.

The Subway Page: Links to world subway and other transportation information resources. Including: city subway maps; map collections of others -- subway (principally) and other transit; whimsical uses of the subway map theme; subway route navigation aids; scanned subway-related items; city and area transit guides; metro area tram, bus, light rail, and rail system maps only; individual, institutional, and corporate transit pages; general transit resources; books, bibliographies, special items of interest Images relating to subways and urban transit; Museums, historical displays, and clubs. Subway Page

Some not so “Geographical” News

Shuttle Launch Prompts Newfoundland Mariner Warning: Mariners who work off southern Newfoundland are accustomed to numerous advisories, but one issued Thursday was somewhat unusual. The scheduled launch Friday afternoon of the space shuttle Endeavour prompted a Canadian Coast Guard warning to mariners who will be south of Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula at the time. The warning said that shuttle’s trajectory will take it over the Grand Banks, coming within about 50 kilometres of Cape Race, near the most southerly part of Newfoundland. "Mariners are advised to exercise caution in the area during this period," the coast guard’s warning said. CBC News

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