



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 134. June 12, 2011
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CAG Awards Presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting Canadian Association of Geographers

CAG Award for Service to the Profession of Geography

[Iain Wallace](#), Carleton University

CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography

[Geoffrey Wall](#), University of Waterloo

CAG Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business

[Donald Forbes](#), Memorial University of Newfoundland

CAG Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography

[Kathi Wilson](#), University of Toronto Mississauga

The Starkey-Robinson Award

[Rosalind Franklin](#) – Concordia University

The Julian M. Szeicz Award

[Jeffrey Masuda](#) – University of Manitoba

The Robin P. Armstrong Memorial Prize

[Zoe Dalton](#) – University of Toronto

President's Award for Outstanding Service

Mary-Louise Byrne, Wilfrid Laurier University

Ian MacLachlan, University of Lethbridge

Dan Smith, University of Victoria

McGill U's Lea Berrang Ford and James Ford Examine Health Effects of Climate Change: Rapid economic and social change due to the decimation of mineral, forest and oil resources is having a significant effect on both the climate and the health of the indigenous groups. "We're very interested in how people in these remote areas interact with their environments and how they perceive that their health might be affected as their environments change," says epidemiologist Dr. Lea Berrang Ford, assistant professor of health geography at McGill University in Montreal. With her husband, Dr. James Ford, she is co-leader of a multi-disciplinary team of scholars from Uganda, Peru and Canada studying the health effects of climate change on indigenous groups, along with factors that may help them adapt to some of these changes. [Anglican Journal.Com](#)

McGill U's Nancy Ross Shows Canada's Poor Can't Overcome Health Disadvantages: "We can't buy our way out of ageing," says Nancy Ross, a McGill geography professor. "As we get older we start to have vision problems, maybe some hearing loss, maybe lose some mobility – ageing is a kind of a social equalizer." Ross is the lead author of a [new study](#) about how socio-economic and educational status affects Canadians' health-related quality of life over the course of a lifetime. "My research looks at how poverty and social disadvantage affect your health status. Our work was about using social circumstances as a lens to look at how people's quality of life changes as they age." The good news, according to Ross, is that there is no sign of an accelerated ageing process for those who are lower on the social ladder. [McGill Newsroom](#) | [HealthCanal.com](#) | [Toronto Sun](#)

Brandon U's Ken Beesley Presented with 2011 President's Faculty Excellence Award: At this year's convocation at Brandon University Ken Beesley received the 2011 President's Faculty Excellence Award. This award was established to recognize outstanding individuals whose achievements cross the areas of teaching, research/creative performance, scholarship and outreach. Ken has spent the last nine years of his three decades of teaching at Brandon University, where his courses focus on sustainability and rural development. He advises undergraduate and master's thesis students, serves as the Department's coordinator of the undergraduate program in Rural and Community Studies, and has been the Department's Chair. He has edited or co-edited several books including *The Rural-Urban Fringe in Canada: Conflict and Controversy* (2010). He received his Ph.D. (Geography) from the University of Waterloo. [Brandon University News](#)

U Western Ontario's Don Lafreniere and Doug Rivet Win *Journal of Maps* 2010 Award for the "Best Map": UWO Geography PhD Candidate, Don Lafreniere and incoming PhD Student, Doug Rivet, presented with *Journal of Maps* 2010 Award for the "Best Map": for their historical mapping of Sandwich, Ontario titled "Rescaling the Past through Mosaic Historical Cartography". This annual award is presented to the single best contribution to the journal in 2010. [Lafreniere and Rivet \(2010\)](#)

U Western Ontario's Brian Luckman on Western Water Woes: The snowpack across the northern Rocky Mountains has shrunk far more quickly in the past 50 years than in the previous 800, a new study shows. Runoff from those layers of snow feed rivers that supply water to more than 70 million people, raising concerns that the declining snowpack will lead to water shortages in western North America. Snowpack depends on precipitation; it also depends on temperature," said Brian Luckman, a geography professor at the University of Western Ontario in London, Ont., who co-authored the study. "What we think is going on is spring temperatures are warming up. Spring is coming sooner, so those big April-May dumps of snow which top up the snowpack at the end of the season are now rain." [CBC News](#)

U Regina's Emily Eaton Has Lecture Cancelled by University: University of Regina professors are going to have to keep their lectures indoors this summer as the lecture series "Profs in the Park" has been cancelled. After a dispute over a lecture topic between the university and the Regina Downtown Business Improvement District (RDBID), the university decided to withdraw the program from RDBID's care. The lecture in question was to be given by Emily Eaton, a professor of human geography. The lecture was entitled "'Solidarity with Palestine: The case for Boycotts, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel". Eaton described it as taking up the tactics of the movement. Eaton said she doesn't understand why people would be offended by the lecture. "I don't think there's anything to be concerned about. It's an international movement, it's not in the closet, it's out there in the open, people are participating all over the world. It's a completely legitimate topic," said Eaton. [News Talk 980](#) | [Global Edmonton](#)

Canadian Geographers Share \$12.5 Million for Climate Change Research: The International Development Research Centre, together with Canada's 3 major research granting councils, announced a \$12.5-million investment in the International Research Initiative on Adaption to Climate Change. Five team will receive \$2.5 million over 5 years to study how best to protect people, communities, and vital economic sectors that are most at risk from the effects of climate change. The Canadian universities with geographers on their research teams include the University of Western Ontario, the University of Waterloo, McGill University and the University of Regina. [IDRC News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

L. Chasmer, W. Quinton, C. Hopkinson, R. Petrone and P. Whittington. 2011. [Vegetation canopy and radiation controls on permafrost plateau evolution within the discontinuous permafrost zone, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.724

Deborah Cowen and Amy Siciliano. 2011. [Surplus masculinities and security](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2011.00905.x

Gemma Dunn and Karen Bakker. 2011. [Fresh water-related indicators in Canada: an inventory and analysis](#). Canadian Water Resources Journal 36(2):135–148.

Vinay Gidwani and Rajyashree N. Reddy. 2011. [The afterlives of “Waste”: Notes from India for a minor history of capitalist surplus](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2011.00902.x

Randal Greene, Rodolphe Devillers, Joan E. Luther and Brian G. Eddy. 2011. [GIS-based multiple-criteria decision analysis](#). Geography Compass. DOI: 10.1111/j.1749-8198.2011.00431.x

Misty Lawrie, Matthew Tonts and Paul Plummer. 2011. [Boomtowns, resource dependence and socio-economic well-being](#). Australian Geographer 42(2):139-164.

Anne-Marie Lemieux, Najat Bhiry and Pierre M. Desrosiers. 2011. [The geoarchaeology and traditional knowledge of winter sod houses in eastern Hudson Bay, Canadian Low Arctic](#). Geoarchaeology. DOI: 10.1002/gea.20365

Antoni G. Lewkowicz, Bernd Etzelmüller and Sharon L. Smith. 2011. [Characteristics of discontinuous permafrost based on ground temperature measurements and electrical resistivity tomography, southern Yukon, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI: 10.1002/ppp.703

Sean B. O'Hagan. 2011. [An examination of migration patterns to Ontario cities: Demarcating Ontario's periphery](#). Canadian Studies in Population 38(1–2):135–150.

J.C. Lin, M.R. Pejam, E. Chan, S.C. Wofsy, E.W. Gottlieb, H.A. Margolis and J.H. McCaughey. 2011. [Attributing uncertainties in simulated biospheric carbon fluxes to different error sources](#). Global Biogeochemical Cycles. doi:10.1029/2010GB003884

Jamie E. L. Spinney, Pavlos S. Kanaroglou and Hugh A. Millward. 2011. [Improving access to land price data: a spatial decision support system for cleansing land registry data](#). Canadian Journal of Regional Science 33(2):57-72.

Other “Geographical” News

Bluesky Takes Action on Air Quality Front: The BlueSky Western Canada Forecasting System has been expanded this year to include smoke forecasts from all the Western Provinces, as well as areas of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Ontario and the U.S. border states. The BlueSky system combines forest fire information and weather forecasts to provide the location and concentration of smoke over Western Canada up to 48 hours into the future. Operated by the University of British Columbia’s department of earth and ocean sciences, smoke forecasts are produced daily and displayed in visual animations of locations corresponding with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations due to smoke. To see hour-by-hour forecasts of smoke and wildfires in Western Canada, visit [Bluesky](#).

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What Can I Do with a Geography Degree? Geography graduates tend to be fairly open-minded and interested in the world around them. Like many social science courses, geography tends to attract balanced, sociable individuals. Geography isn’t an obviously vocational subject like law or medicine, which means it can be a little scary for geography students to decide what to do when they graduate. This guide helps you think about the skills you have, the jobs they can be applied to, and the options available. [Targetjobs](#)

NASA Provides a Two-Satellite View and Video of the Chilean Volcano Eruption: NASA's Aqua satellite and the GOES-13 satellite both captured their own unique views of the eruption of the Puyehue-Cordón Caulle volcano in Chile this week. One satellite provided a high-resolution image of the ash plume while the other provided a video showing the plumes movement over several days. [NASA News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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