



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U British Columbia Geography 2011 Trail Six Edition Released:** Trail Six is an annual journal written and edited by undergraduate students in Geography at UBC. Vol 5 contains the following contributions: George Rahi: *Energy, Equity, and Social Struggle in the Transition to a Post-Petrol World*; Samuel Robinson: *Plant-Pollinator Interactions at Alexandra Fiord, Nunavut*; Ryan Vandecasteyen: *The Pipedreams Project: A Photo Essay*; Jonathan Walker: *Representing Social Space: Cognitive Mapping and the Potential for Progressive Urban Planning & Design*; Owni Toma: *Visuality in Rome and the Architecture of Compliance*; Aaron Lao: *Unintended Consequences: How Pursuing Aboriginal Treaty Rights Inadvertently Strengthens Canadian Sovereignty*; and Esteban Izquierdo: *Bogota, Colombia: A Hard Core Geography*. [Trail Six: A Journal of Geography](#)

**U Waterloo's Alex Brenning Discovers Chile's Hidden Water Treasures:** The world's fresh water is stored and transported by a range of natural reservoirs and formations – streams, rivers, lakes, bogs, aquifers, glaciers, icebergs, clouds and highland mists, and of course, plants and animals. Another important yet poorly understood source of fresh water is rock glaciers. Geographers and hydrologists distinguish these frozen, debris-covered formations from ice-only glaciers. A joint research project of the University of Waterloo in Canada and the Universidad Mayor in Chile has been investigating ways to accurately identify rock glaciers. University of Waterloo geographer Alex Brenning Dr. Brenning describes the elusive aspect of rock glaciers: "You see absolutely nothing of all the ice that is on the ground. This means the research methods for investigating rock glaciers are very different from what's used in glaciological research... so rock glaciers are not usually included in glacier inventories. Even now there's very little knowledge about their distribution in many mountain areas of the world, except maybe the Alps and the Rocky Mountains." [R&D](#)

**Université Laval's Ellen Avard Awarded Canadian Polar Commission Scholarship:** Ellen Avard a PhD Candidate in Geographical Sciences at Université Laval has been awarded a \$10,000 Canadian Polar Commission Scholarship for her project entitled "Greenhouses in the North: Developing a new type of Local Food System in Nunavik". The general objective of this work is to develop a community-based northern agricultural model—inspired and informed by the rich traditional relationship that Inuit have with food—that addresses the food security needs, social challenges and environmental issues of Arctic communities in a sustainable, culturally appropriate manner. The objective is to facilitate and document the development of a greenhouse pilot project in Kuujuaq (the administrative capital of Nunavik and the largest of the regions' 14 villages). It is thought that a project that is based upon principles of ecological design and informed by Inuit praxis can not only produce high quality fresh food, but can also help build-up the community capacity of this dynamic, rapidly growing, northern village. [ACUNS Award Recipients 2011-2012](#)

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**Memorial University of Newfoundland's Robert Way Awarded W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research:** Robert Way a masters candidate in the Department of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland has been awarded Robert Way Awarded W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research valued at \$15,000 for his research on focused on reconstructing late Holocene alpine glacier dynamics in the Torngat Mountains, Northern Labrador. Robert will investigate the historical climatic sensitivity of glaciers located in the Torngat Mountains of northern Labrador, where there are 59 small glaciers (<2 km<sup>2</sup>) covering an area of 16.7 km<sup>2</sup>. Although the occurrence of glaciers in northern Labrador is largely unknown to Canadians and their contribution to Canadian terrestrial ice volume is negligible, their geographic importance as the only glaciers on mainland North America east of the Rocky Mountains, and as the southernmost glaciers along the highland rim of the Eastern Canadian Arctic, make them of particular interest for scientific study. To address the climatic sensitivity of Torngat Mountain glaciers, this research will conduct short- (historical photographs) and long-term (late Holocene) analysis of past glacier activity. [ACUNS Award Recipients 2011-2012](#)

**U Western Ontario Department of Geography in Top 200:** The Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario is among the best in the world according to QS World University Rankings for Arts and Humanities. The Top 200 list of universities offering arts and humanities degrees recently placed The University of Western Ontario's Department of Geography in the Top 200. [Western News](#)

**York U's Robert Murdie on How to Improve Toronto Community Housing Corporation:** In what's being called a crisis, the biggest challenge facing the TCHC is the dire state of its buildings and houses. The housing corporation's \$650 million repair backlog prompted departing interim manager Case Ootes to recently recommend that TCHC sell more than 900 of its single-family homes and plow more than \$400 million into the backlog. City council approved the sale of an additional 18 homes this week. It may not be a bad idea, if it means a considerable amount of money can be poured into overall repairs, said Robert Murdie, a professor emeritus of geography at York University — as long as displaced residents are relocated. "That's the big caveat here. That's the concern I have. What happens to those tenants?" [thestar.com](#)

**University of Ottawa's Adrienne White Awarded W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research:** Adrienne White a masters candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Ottawa has been awarded Robert Way Awarded W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research valued at \$15,000 for her research on the dynamics of the Petersen Ice Shelf, Nunavut, Canada. The objective is to complete the first comprehensive survey of the Petersen Ice Shelf, one of the last remaining ice shelves in Nunavut, Canada. The survey will include ice thickness and mass balance measurements, while quantifying recent changes in surface area (1950s to 2011). This is motivated by the fact that since 2000 there has been a loss totalling >23% of the remaining ice shelves in Canada, including the complete calving of the Ayles and Markham Ice Shelves in 2005 and 2008, respectively. Adrienne's study will also examine changes in adjacent features including the composition of the epishelf lake and the extent of multiyear landfast sea ice, which may provide further insight into the past and current stability of the ice shelf. [ACUNS Award Recipients 2011-2012](#)

**UNBC 2011 Convocation Photos, Geography Program:** Enjoy the photos taken at the Geography pre-Convocation Celebration in the early morning of May 27, 2011 and a few from the convocation ceremony. Aimee Smith (BA Geography '11) was awarded the Top Geography Student Award for the 2011 graduating class. [UNBC 2011](#)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Gang Chena, Geoffrey J. Hay and Benoît St-Onge. 2011. [A GEOBIA framework to estimate forest parameters from lidar transects, Quickbird imagery and machine learning: A case study in Quebec, Canada](#). International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation. doi:10.1016/j.jag.2011.05.010

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

Jonathan A. Czubaa, James L. Best, Kevin A. Oberg, Daniel R. Parsons, P. Ryan Jackson, Marcelo H. Garcia and Peter Ashmore. [Bed morphology, flow structure, and sediment transport at the outlet of Lake Huron and in the upper St. Clair](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research doi:10.1016/j.jglr.2011.05.011

Peter Johnson and Renee E. Sieber. 2011. [An agent-based approach to providing tourism planning support](#). Environment and Planning B - Planning and Design 38(3):486-504.

E. Carina H. Keskitalo, Nicole Klenk, Ryan Bullock, Andrea L. Smith and Dawn R. Bazely. 2011. [Preparing for and responding to disturbance: examples from the forest sector in Sweden and Canada](#). Forests 2(2):505-524.

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

Sanjay K. Nepal and Tazim B. Jamal. 2011. [Resort-induced changes in small mountain communities in British Columbia, Canada](#). Mountain Research and Development 31(2):89-101.

F. Meier, D. Scherer, J. Richters and A. Christen. 2011. [Atmospheric correction of thermal-infrared imagery of the 3-D urban environment acquired in oblique viewing geometry](#). Atmospheric Measurement Techniques 4:909–922.

Shaojun Ji and Geoffrey Wall. 2011. [Visitor and resident images of Qingdao, China, as a tourism destination](#). Journal of China Tourism Research 7(2):207-228.

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### Other “Geographical” News

**UBC Library Digitizes Rare Japanese Maps:** In 2010, the UBC Library completed the third and final phase of a multi-year project that involved the digitization of hundreds of rare maps dating to Japan’s Tokugawa, or Edo, period (1600-1868). Work on the project began in 2005. Much of the material, which dates from about 1650 to 1850, was acquired from collector George H. Beans decades ago. The set of works, one of the largest of its kind outside of Japan, specializes in private and travel-related maps and guides. The latter part of the project focused on the digitization of nearly 100 atlases, along with 16 huge maps. The entire effort is online in English and Japanese at [Japanese Tokugawa](#).

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