



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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John Warkentin Receives Honorary Degree from York University: John Warkentin is the 6th geographer (after Donald Putnam, George Tatham, Kenneth Hare, Peter Haggett, and Cole Harris) conferred an honorary degree by York University, and the first in this century. Warkentin was recognized for his leading international reputation as a historical geographer and his efforts to raise the profile of Canadian history, as well as for his contributions to the University as an outstanding teacher and colleague. John was joined on stage by both current and retired colleagues of the Department of Geography at York. He gave a [wonderful and moving address](#) to the graduands that made geography front and centre in the current crisis of the environment. [York Headline News](#)

Trent U's Cheryl McKenna Neuman Provides Major Support for Acclaimed Science-Fair Project: Trent University geography professor Dr. Cheryl McKenna Neuman provided major support and world-class facilities to Lauren Reid, a distinguished young scientist whose science-fair project won international acclaim and whose research will, no doubt, make a positive impact on the planet. A grade-nine student from Uxbridge, Ontario, Ms. Reid won the Silver Medal in Environmental Innovation for her science-fair project "Stagnation Point Para Foil" at the Canada-Wide Science Fair held at Trent University in 2010. After connecting with Professor McKenna Neuman to further her research, Ms. Reid went on to win two first-place prizes at the 2011 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair competition in Los Angeles. [Morning Post Exchange](#)

New Name for Environmental School at Selkirk College: The environmental curriculum renewal process at BC-based Selkirk College includes a new name for the School of Renewable Resources, now called the [School of Environment and Geomatics](#). A Selkirk official says the name change reflects the increasing workforce demands in the environmental and geomatics sectors. The School of Environment and Geomatics operates the [Selkirk Geospatial Research](#) Centre (SGRC). The SGRC works collaboratively with partners such as regional districts, Columbia Basin Trust and industry to provide digital mapping tools. This summer SGRC is also employing three GIS co-op students to help with the research further adding linkages between applied research and learning. [Selkirk College News](#)

UWO's Brian Luckman's Research Blows BC Hydro's Energy Predictions Out of the Water: Since 1998, Brian Luckman has spent his summers hiking the Athabasca and Peyto glaciers in the Canadian Rockies, teasing skinny core samples from ancient trees. Part of a team of Canadian and U.S. researchers, the University of Western Ontario geography professor recently published research in Science Express that shows BC Hydro's worst-case scenarios for its hydroelectric power generation may be optimistic. At a time when the province is rethinking its commitment to move B.C. back to energy self-sufficiency, the research points to an extreme drought in the making – the harbinger of a potential energy crisis for water-power-dependent British Columbia. [The Globe and Mail](#)

U Toronto Geographers Ring Alarm Bell for Toronto's Inner Suburbs: A new report from the U of T Cities Centre says that without significant investment in infrastructure and community-building in Toronto's most precarious neighborhoods, the city's social geography is in danger of becoming permanently divided economically, as well as along the lines of race, ethnicity and immigration status. "Social polarization and spatial segregation are clearly visible in the landscape, and our inner suburbs are home to more and more concentrated and racialized poverty," said Deborah Cowen, a professor of geography and co-author of *Inner Suburbs at Stake: Investing in Social Infrastructure in Scarborough* and the companion summary, *Toronto's Inner Suburbs*. The report notes that the past 30 years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of low-income neighbourhoods in Toronto and there is an urgent need to invest in social infrastructure – including transit, community services and public spaces – in order to improve the quality of life in those neighbourhoods and to reverse the decades-long trend. [News @ the University of Toronto](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Zhenhao Bao, Richard Kelly and Renguang Wu. 2011. [Variability of regional snow cover in spring over western Canada and its relationship to temperature and circulation anomalies](#). *International Journal of Climatology*. DOI: 10.1002/joc.2155

Y. Cheng, M.W. Rosenberg, W. Wang, L. Yang and H. Li. 2011. [Population ageing and residential care resources in Beijing: spatial distribution of the elderly population and residential care facilities](#). *Asian Journal of Gerontology & Geriatrics* 6(1).

Jonathan Cinnamon, Nadine Schuurman and S. Morad Hameed. 2011. [Pedestrian injury and human behaviour: observing road-rule violations at high-incident intersections](#). *PLoS ONE* 6(6): e21063. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0021063

David R. Clements, Seth Luginbill, David A. Jordan, Randall Van Dragt and Robert K. Pelant. 2011. [Techniques to promote Garry Oak seedling growth and survival in areas with high levels of herbivory and competition](#). *Northwest Science* 85(2):172-181.

T.S. Gala, M. Pzner M and S. Beyene. 2011. [Evaluating biophysical attributes of environmentally degraded landscapes in northern Ethiopia using LANDSAT ETM data and GIS](#). *Ethiopian Journal of Environmental Studies and Management* 4(1). doi: 10.4314/ejesm.v4i1.1.

Andrew Kasurak, Richard Kelly and Alexander Brenning. 2011. [Linear mixed modelling of snow distribution in the central Yukon](#). *Hydrological Processes*. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8168

Joyce Lundberg and Donald A. McFarlane. 2011. [Post-speleogenetic biogenic modification of Gomantong Caves, Sabah, Borneo](#). *Geomorphology*. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.04.

Colin Robertson, Trisalyn Nelson and C. Stephen. 2011. [Spatial epidemiology of suspected clinical leptospirosis in Sri Lanka](#). *Epidemiol Infect.* 7:1-13.

Claus Rinner and Mushtaq Hussain. 2011. [Toronto's urban heat island—exploring the relationship between land use and surface temperature](#). *Remote Sensing* 3:1251-1265.

Nicholas O. Soverel, Nicholas C. Coops, Daniel D. B. Perrakis, Lori D. Daniels and Sarah E. Gergel. 2011. [The transferability of a dNBR-derived model to predict burn severity across 10 wildland fires in western Canada](#). International Journal of Wildland Fire 20(4):518-531.

Other “Geographical” News

Canada's First Geopark is Stonehammer in St. John , N.B.: A Geopark is an area recognized by the UNESCO supported Global Geopark Network to have exceptional geological heritage. This simply means that the area has a natural landscape that is good for education, has a significant scientific value, is particularly rare or it is simply beautiful to look at. The Stonehammer Geopark was one of the first places in Canada to be explored by geologists. In 1857 a group of young men in Saint John formed the ‘Steinhammer Club’ to explore the geology near their home. Even earlier, in 1838, another city resident Dr. Abraham Gesner began work as the first Provincial Geologist in the British Empire. Gesner opened one of the first public museums in Canada. Geologists have been visiting the park we call Stonehammer ever since and continue to make new discoveries. [Stonehammer Geopark](#)

National Science Foundation Funds Experts to Develop Road Map to Implement 21st-Century Geographic Education: The National Geographic Society has received a two-year, \$2.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation entitled "Establishing a Road Map for Large-Scale Improvement of K-12 Education in the Geographical Sciences." National Geographic and three national organizations — the Association of American Geographers, the American Geographical Society and the National Council for Geographic Education — will work together in an unprecedented effort to develop a 10-year strategic plan for geographic education in the United States. The organizations are responding to the growing recognition among educators, business leaders and policy makers that Americans lack critical geographic understanding and reasoning skills that will be required for civic life and careers in the 21st century. The findings are intended to guide K-12 educational reforms that will significantly improve the geographic literacy of U.S. youth over the next decade. The reports will make recommendations about critical priorities for educators, policymakers and funders. [Media Newswire](#)

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

Note that the distribution of the weekly GeogNews digest is suspended until mid-August. It is my summer field season and the mountains are beckoning.

Dan