



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 138. August 8, 2011**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**UBC Geographers Gerry Pratt and Trevor Barnes elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada:** Gerry Pratt and Trevor Barnes have both been elected Fellows of the Royal Society of Canada. Academy II, the Social Sciences, makes about 12 elections each year; to have two in the same department in a single year is very unusual, and is a tribute to the strength of Gerry's and Trevor's records. They will be inducted to the RSC at a ceremony in Ottawa in the Fall. [UBC Geography News](#)

**U Ottawa's Michael Sawada Part of Canadian Project to Receive Prestigious IBM Centennial Grant:** The Ottawa Neighbourhood Study has been selected as one of only 11 projects worldwide to receive an IBM Centennial Grant. The Ottawa Neighbourhood Study, one of the world's most comprehensive databases of its kind, provides a wide-ranging and detailed map of the health and well-being of Ottawa residents and the neighbourhoods in which they live. With the IBM Centennial Grant funding and support, the research team will expand and update data sources, further analyze information, and share results more widely through an enhanced and interactive website. Elizabeth Kristjansson, associate professor, Psychology, and Michael Sawada, associate professor, Geography, at the University of Ottawa are the study's research leaders. [uOttawa Media Room](#)

**U Trent's Mark Skinner to Investigate Palliative Care in Rural Communities:** Dr. Mark Skinner, associate professor at Trent University, will be a co-investigator on a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) project titled "Refining a Decision-Support Model for Siting Palliative Care Services in Rural Canadian Communities", led by principal investigators at Simon Fraser University, to take place over the next three years. The project will compare case studies in British Columbia, Ontario and Nova Scotia to help test a new decision-making framework for where to locate palliative care centres in rural areas. Professor Skinner's role will be to supervise case-study work in rural Ontario in collaboration with Hospice Peterborough, and to train a Trent graduate student to conduct research using CIHR funding for two-years of a Master's program. [Trent News](#)

**WLU's Alison Blay-Palmer Speaks About Genetically Modified Food:** People have a right to know if their food is genetically modified, even if nobody can prove such modification causes health risks. Alison Blay-Palmer, an assistant professor at Wilfrid Laurier University said the government has a vested interest in protecting genomics. "The government has invested in biotechnology research, either directly through their own labs, or by supporting research in private corporations, and also in universities," she said, asserting there's a critical dearth of research on the long-term impacts of genetically modified food on human health. [Guelph Mercury](#)

---

**Queen's PhD Candidate Leah Huff Honoured by Mount Allison University:** Queen's PhD candidate Leah Huff has finished a three-year contract at Mount Allison University by being honoured with the [Student's Administrative Council's Excellence in Teaching Award](#). Leah's next move will be a faculty position at Quest University in Squamish, British Columbia, beginning on August 1. There are no departments at Quest, as the school is based on an interdisciplinary approach to a liberal arts education, so Leah will teach a range of courses which draw on her interests.

**UBC-Okanagan Welcomes Geographer Miriam Grant as Vice Provost and Dean of College of Graduate Studies:** Miriam Grant will join the UBC's Okanagan campus in the position of Vice Provost, Research and Dean of the College of Graduate Studies. Grant has been a member of faculty at the University of Calgary since 1991 and is a specialist in the human geography of Africa. Grant obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Geography from Queen's University in 1975 and a Bachelor of Education in Geography and History in 1977. She subsequently earned a Master of Arts in Geography in 1983 from the University of Windsor, and completed her Ph.D. in Geography at Queen's University in 1992. [UBC Media Release](#)

**U Regina's Dave Sauchyn Examines Extreme Prairie Weather:** The last decade has dished out some weird weather in southern Alberta. Armed with \$2.5 million a group of researchers will descend on southern Alberta's rural agriculture communities to find out if the weird prairie weather is connected to global warming, and how it affects those who live off the land. "If you look just at the weather records, the worst flooding and the worst drought we've had since weather stations were established has been in the last 10 years," said University of Regina geography professor David Sauchyn, who is heading the study. "Which kind of suggests it's related to a warming climate, but we need much more data if we are to confirm that." [Lethbridge Herald](#)

---

### New in *The Canadian Geographer*



Patricia Burke Wood and David A. Rossiter. 2011. [Unstable properties: British Columbia, aboriginal title, and the "new relationship"](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00366.x

David A. Butz and Nancy E. Cook. 2011. [Accessibility interrupted: the Shimshal road, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00365.x

Arthur J. Ray. 2011. [Ethnohistorical geography and aboriginal rights litigation in Canada: memoir of an expert witness](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00363.x

Sylvio Demers and Thomas Buffin-Bélanger. 2011. [Une méthode illustrée pour la sectorisation morphodynamique de la rivière Neigette \(Québec\)](#). Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00362.x

Brian J. Hracs, Jill I. Grant, Jeffrey Haggett and Jesse Morton. 2011. [A tale of two scenes: civic capital and retaining musical talent in Toronto and Halifax](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00364.x

---

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dilumie S. Abeyirigunawardena, Dan J. Smith and Bill Taylor. 2011. [Extreme sea surge responses to climate variability in coastal British Columbia, Canada](#). *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 101(5):992-1010.

Jean T. Ellis, Douglas J. Sherman, Eugene J. Farrell and Bailiang Li. 2011. [Temporal and spatial variability of aeolian sand transport: Implications for field measurements](#). *Aeolian Research*.  
Doi:10.1016/j.aeolia.2011.06.

K.Gajewski, S. Munoz, M. Peros, A. Viau, R. Morlan, and M Bretts. [The Canadian Archaeological Radiocarbon Database \(CARD\): Archaeological 14c dates in North America and their paleoenvironmental context](#). *Radiocarbon* 53(2):371–394.

Matthias Jakob, T. Owen and T. Simpson. 2011. [A regional real-time debris-flow warning system for the District of North Vancouver, Canada](#). *Landslides*. DOI: 10.1007/s10346-011-0282-8

Eugene A. Mohareb, Christopher A. Kennedy, L.D. Danny Harvey and Kim D. Pressnail. 2011. [Decoupling of building energy use and climate](#). *Energy and Buildings*.  
DOI:10.1016/j.enbuild.2011.06.032

---

## Other “Geographical” News

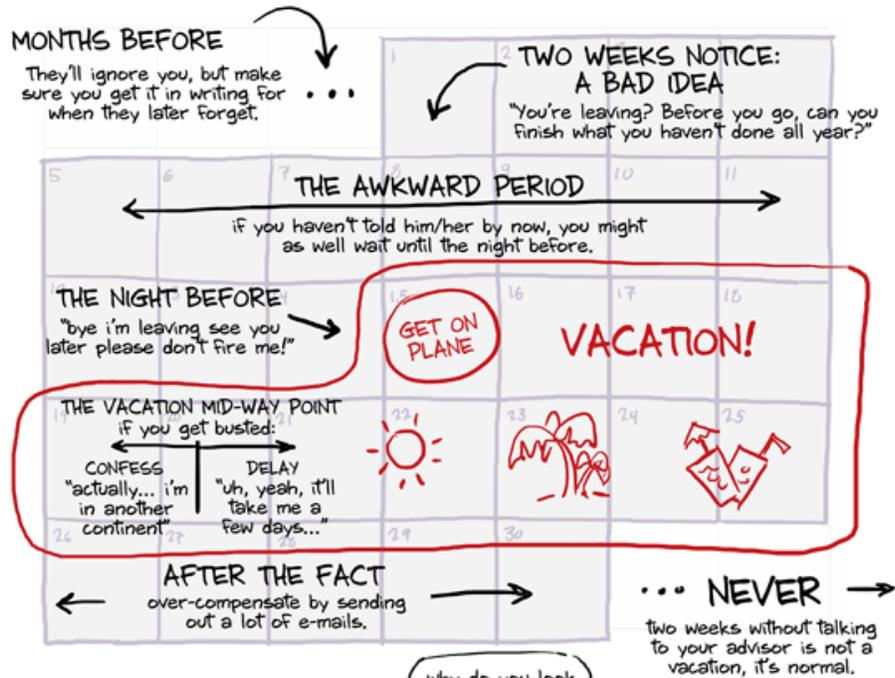
**Labrador Institute Publishes *Very Rough Country*:** Before there was industry, land claims, or mass settlement in Labrador, there was Very Rough Country. Martha MacDonald, the associate director of the Labrador Institute, has brought together a collection of maps, photos, stories and essays in a publication that merges the academic with the traditional, the explorer with the native, and the past with the present. This collection is an introduction to Labrador history, culture and exploration; it is a complement to the academic literature that currently exists about Labrador, and it is an informative, exciting and emotional adventure that takes the reader through the Labrador wilderness. [MUN Today](#)

**Cutting-Edge Science on the Edge of Kluane:** In 1961 the Kluane Lake Research Station (KLRS) was established on the south shore of Kluane Lake, 220 km northwest of Whitehorse. KLRS grew out of the need for a base of operations for the Arctic Institute of North America, a nonprofit research organization created by an Act of Parliament in 1945. This year KLRS is celebrating a remarkable 50 years of research over a wide range of disciplines, from glaciology to geology, botany, climatology, and many others. It is also carrying on the innovative work of the man who might be described as its founding elder, bringing together the latest scientific discoveries with traditional aboriginal knowledge of the region and its history. [Your Yukon](#)

**Ancient Tides Quite Different From Today -- Some Dramatically Higher:** The ebb and flow of the ocean tides, generally thought to be one of the most predictable forces on Earth, are actually quite variable over long time periods, in ways that have not been adequately accounted for in most evaluations of prehistoric sea level changes. Tides in the Bay of Fundy, which today are among the most extreme in the world didn't amount to much at all about 5,000 years ago. But around that same time, tides on the southern U.S. Atlantic coast were about 75 percent higher. One of the most interesting findings was that around 9,000 years ago there was a huge amplification in tides of the western Atlantic Ocean. The tidal ranges were up to three times more extreme than those that exist today, and water would have surged up and down on the East Coast. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

WHEN TO TELL YOUR ADVISOR YOU'RE GOING ON VACATION



JORGE CHAM © 2011

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM

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