



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Mount Allison U's Michael Fox to Research Effects of Climate Change on Coastal Property Owners: The provincial legislation determining the distance from the ocean and other waterways where people in New Brunswick can build is outdated and doesn't go far enough to protect property owners and the environment from the effects of climate change, says a Mount Allison University researcher. Mike Fox, who heads the university's geography and environment department, has received government funding through the provincial Environmental Trust Fund to review these rules to help identify how the province can best deal with the effects of global warming on people who live near water. "There will be a real threat to people and property along the coast as climate changes continue to play out," Fox said. "Sea levels will continue to rise and there will be increased and more intense storm surges, flooding and coastal erosion." This is a growing problem in New Brunswick, where more than 60 per cent of the population lives within 50 kilometres of the coastline. [CanadaEast](#) | [CBC News](#)

UWO Geography PhD Candidate, Donald Lafreniere Receives Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship: Lafreniere, seeking his PhD in geography, contributes to the historical understanding of how the urban environment influences how we use the city and interact with fellow citizens. His proposed thesis, *Reconstructing the Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Daily Life in a 19th Century Canadian City*, reconstructs many of the daily activities of the men, women and children who lived in the city during the peak of industrialization. He is focused on the most casual social interactions that would occur during ordinary daily activities such as the commute to work, a trip to the market or an evening stroll in the park. "As Canada continues to grow into a diverse, multicultural society, it is instructive to look to our past to understand how the interactions of different social groups and the intensity of segregation changed over time," Lafreniere says. "Understanding the role segregation plays in shaping the way we built and use our cities will help Canada in the 21st century as we strive to create a progressive, multicultural nation." [Western News](#)

WLU Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Releases GeoHorizons, Summer 2011: The summer issue of the departmental newsletter reviews the 50th Anniversary Celebration April 2, 2011; Assesses the complexities of South Asian Migration Conference, WLU May 2011; describes the destruction by wildfire of the Laurier Research Camp in northern Alberta; reviews the CAG Certificate in Teaching and Learning; celebrates the CAG President's Award for Outstanding Service received by Dr. Mary-Louise; and much more. [GeoHorizons, Summer 2011](#)

UNBC's Gail Fondahl Elected New IASSA President: Professor Gail Fondahl, University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), Prince George, has been elected new International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) president for the term 2011-2014. ICASS VIII will be held in 2014 in Prince George, Canada. The IASSA secretariat will be located at UNBC. [University of Arctic](#)

McMaster U's Altaf Arain Answers Questions on Extreme Heat Waves in Southern Ontario:

Extreme heat waves such as the one that has temperatures soaring across southern Ontario this summer could become more frequent, says the director of McMaster's Centre for Climate Change. According to Altaf Arain, global climate models predict that we'll experience more extreme weather patterns in the future as a result of the Earth's climate gradually becoming warmer. The associate professor and associate director of the School of Geography and Earth Studies indicates that we may experience more severe and frequent warm/cold temperatures as well as drought and flooding events in the future. These trends have been observed in various regions across the world in recent years. An increase in extreme weather patterns has also been predicted by climate models analyzing future climate change. [McMaster Daily News](#)

UBC Okanagan's Carlos Teixeira Involved in Study to See Where Graduates are Going: While it is no secret that the Okanagan is a magnet for retirees, an unexplored issue is where the future lies for the younger generation, particularly university graduates. Do they stay after finishing their post-secondary schooling? Can they find work related to their studies? How many graduate and move on to seek employment? Graduate student Emma Talbott is working with Carlos Teixeira, an associate professor of human geography in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences. "We will know for the first time what their feelings are," says Teixeira. "Why did they leave the Valley, why did they stay? We have to do research in order to understand the challenges. We need to look forward. We need to start discussing (challenges) now." Talbott suspects the so-called brain drain is a known problem, adding her thesis will also delve into options to keep young adults in the area. [UBC Okanagan Media Release](#)

U Ottawa's Barry Wellar Comments on Low Esteem of Ottawa Developers: People in the development industry are viewed in a negative way. "The scum of the earth," building consultant Graham Bird says. Former University of Ottawa geography professor Barry Wellar is not surprised that developers are held in such low esteem. He says what Ottawa residents see day after day is a group of people constantly fighting to protect their pockets, not the public interest. It is that lack of consideration for any interest but their own that fuels resentment, Wellar says. "If you define the city as a jigsaw puzzle, developers have one piece of the jigsaw and they don't care about anything else. It is all about them and their profit margin. It is not about city-building," Wellar says. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

U Toronto's Pierre Desrochers Quoted in Earth at Seven Billion: In an era of high anxiety, few issues rattled people in the 1960s and 1970s more than the Earth's seemingly runaway population growth. Many demographers predict the population size will not keep spiralling out into "oblivion". "In the end, it's always the same story," said Pierre Desrochers, a geography professor at the University of Toronto. "People forget that human beings are not just mouths that eat, but brains to work out new solutions." Still, experts warn there is no reason to be complacent — the number of humans keeps expanding and those average improvements in well-being obscure pockets of calamity. [National Post](#)

UNBC Geography Graduate Student Receives Funds and an Award for Glacier Research: Theo Mlynowski, a Geography graduate student in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies Program at the University of Northern British Columbia has been recognized by the Geological Society of America (GSA) for his research examining the quantity and timing of sediment delivery to Peyto Lake which is fed by Peyto Glacier in Banff National Park. Theo , received a \$2500 grant from GSA for his proposed MSc research. His proposal was distinguished by GSA as being one of the top 20 proposals submitted to the Society by 633 graduate students. Mlynowski also received an award of \$1,000 from the GSA's Sedimentary Geology Division as their outstanding student of 2011. [UNBC News Media Resource](#)

Brock U's Alun Hughes on Battle of Beaverdams Park: Hiding in plain sight in eastern Thorold lie the last surviving footprints of a decisive battle in the War of 1812. Buried beneath the tracks of two Welland Canals and a landscape changed dramatically over two centuries lies the field where the Battle of Beaverdams took place June 24, 1813. Don't go looking for the genuine article at Battle of Beaverdams Park in Thorold, though. The actual battlefield is further east, on the other side of the modern canal, says Brock University professor Alun Hughes, and the park in town is closer to a museum. "The battlefield has been totally messed up," said Hughes, a geography professor who studies local history. "There's very little of the pristine battlefield left anyway." Hughes, has spent two years researching what happened at Beaverdams and believes he's pinpointed a few key locations. [The Standard](#)

U Victoria Students Receive RCGS Receive RCGS Undergraduate Research Grants: Selena Cordeau received a research grant from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to obtain equipment to measure snowfall and melt on the Columbia Icefield. The objective of her research is to link these precipitation occurrences with the weather system that drive. David Atkinson is her supervisor for this project and the Glaciology Section of the Geological Survey of Canada is providing field logistics. Kira Hoffman also received an RCGS grant to support her investigations at Bromley Glacier in the Cambria Icefield area in the northern BC Coast Mountains. Kira intends to describe the Holocene behaviour of Bromley Glacier using dendroglaciological research techniques. The findings of the research will be interpreted and presented in her Honours thesis being supervised by Dan Smith. [RCGS Research Grants](#)

UNBC's Neil Hanlon Receives CIHR Award: Dr. Neil Hanlon and his co-investigators who were awarded \$672,000 over four years (2011-2015) by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for their research project: "Partnering for Change: Understanding the Contribution of Social Entrepreneurship to Primary Health Care Transformation."

UNBC's Brian Menounos Featured in State of Mountains Report: The Canadian Alpine Club has published a state of the mountains report that features Dr. Brian Menounos. The report can be read at: [The State of the Mountains 2011](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Booth, A., and G. Halseth. 2011. [Why the public thinks natural resources public participation processes fail: A case study of British Columbia communities.](#) Land Use Policy 28(4):898-906.

Steve Déry, Romain Vanhooren. 2011. [Protected areas in mainland Southeast Asia, 1973–2005: Continuing trends.](#) Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9493.2011.00428.x

Nadine Heck, Philip Dearden and Adrian McDonald. 2011. [Stakeholders' expectations towards a proposed marine protected area: A multi-criteria analysis of MPA performance criteria.](#) Ocean & Coastal Management. doi:10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2011.07.003

Raktim Mitra and Ron N. Buliung. 2011. [Built environment correlates of active school transportation: neighborhood and the modifiable areal unit problem.](#) Journal of Transport Geography. doi:10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2011.07.

L. Ryser and Greg Halseth. 2011. [Informal support networks of low-income senior women living alone: Evidence from Fort St. John, BC.](#) Journal of Women & Aging 23 (3):185-202.

Meghan Shannon and Clare J.A. Mitchell. 2011. [Deconstructing place identity? Impacts of a “Racino” on Elora, Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Rural Studies. doi:10.1016/j.jrurstud.2011.07.003

Wenlei Wang, Jie Zhao and Qiuming Cheng. 2011. [Analysis and integration of geo-information to identify granitic intrusions as exploration targets in southeastern Yunnan District, China](#). Computers & Geosciences. doi:10.1016/j.cageo.2011.06.023

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Marie-Pierre Parenteau. 2011. [Air Pollution and Health: Toward Improving the Spatial Definition of Exposure, Susceptibility and Risk](#). Unpublished PhD Dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Ottawa. Supervisor: M. Sawada.

Chris Turner. 2011. Overlap: Causes and Implications of Contested Indigenous Claims to Territory in the Context of the BC Treaty Process. Unpublished MA Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), Supervisor: Dr. Gail Fondahl.

Other “Geographical” News

Big Changes to Nunavut Coastlines Highly Possible: Rising sea levels will increase coastal hazards for communities in the North and South, warn researchers. And, in the North, these rising sea levels are expected to put Arctic infrastructure and travel at risk, they say. Changes to Nunavut’s coastlines are “an eventuality,” says Waterloo, Ontario-based coastal ecologist Colleen Mercer Clarke, who works with C-Change, a research alliance which twins Canadian and Caribbean coastal communities and works to assist them adapt to environmental changes. [Nunatsiaq Online](#)

P.E.I. Bridge Built to Withstand Rising Sea Levels: P.E.I. opened a new bridge this week designed in part to withstand the effects of global warming. The \$4.5 million Darnley Bridge was built about a metre higher than the wooden one it’s replacing. Erin Taylor, the province’s climate change co-ordinator, said sea level rise should be taken into consideration for all future construction, especially when building along the coast. “A lot of the bridges are along the coast, a lot of the people are along the coast, a lot of our major infrastructure is along the coast. So we’ve got potentially a lot of areas that are at risk,” Taylor said. [CBC News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

[The Longitude / Latitude Rap](#)

I’ve got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
They make you feel like a geography dude.
‘Cause by degrees you can find any place
That might be hiding on the earth’s surface.

I’ve got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I’ve got an attitude for latitude and longitude.

The Equator is the center of the world you know

With a latitude number that says zero.
It divides the globe into North and South
In two hemispheres...

...I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.

The longitude lines travel up and down...

...I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.

So that's the story about the map's strange grid...

...I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.
I've got an attitude for latitude and longitude.

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