



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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Memorial U's Arn Keeling on the Rankin Inlet Nickel Mine: The Rankin Inlet nickel mine also has an "incredible importance" in Canadian history, said Arn Keeling, a Memorial University geographer who leads the Abandoned Mines project. Along with his colleagues, Keeling spent his last week in Rankin Inlet digging up archived information on the mine — mostly government documents and some company records. "The more we explore, the more people pop up to talk to," he said. Keeling said that about 20 of the original Inuit miners are still alive and living in the Kivalliq region today. Some of them have helped to provide invaluable perspectives on the social, environmental and political impacts of working at the mine, he said. Keeling's research touches on the impacts of the mine on a region and its people after the operation closed. "We're looking at how the government dealt with the settlement with the sudden closure of the mine," he said. "It was a devastating event for the Inuit community there — there was no economy any more. [Nunastsiag Online](#)

U Guelph's Barry Smith to Study Adaptation to Climate Change in Vulnerable Communities: Understanding the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and how they adapt is the aim of a project led by University of Guelph geography professor Barry Smit, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change. Smit has been awarded a grant of by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to extend his research on environmental changes in isolated, resource-dependent communities. He will work with a group of colleagues, including U of G post-doctoral fellow Tristan Pearce. Their studies will focus on six coastal resource-dependent communities: three in Canada and three in the Pacific Islands. [UGuelph News Release](#)

UNBC's Chris and Peter Jackson Published First Canadian Weather Textbook: When it comes to weather, Canadians know what happens on this side of the 49th parallel may seem odd to our American neighbours, however, our classrooms rely on American written text books on the subject. That's changing, as two professors at the University of Northern B.C. have published the first Canadian weather textbook. It is the first-ever weather textbook specifically aimed at Canadian students. UNBC Environmental Science Professor Peter Jackson and spouse Chris, a Geography Senior Lab Instructor, have adapted a popular US textbook to address concerns that Canadian weather systems and methods are underrepresented and misunderstood. [Opinion 250](#)

U Toronto Teaching Excellence Award Winners: The Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto has announced the winners of this year's Teaching Excellence Awards. [Sally Turner](#) from the Department of Geography was selected as the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award for outstanding teaching by a teaching assistant. Professor [Kathi Wilson](#) from the Department of Geography was selected as the recipient of the Teaching Excellence Award for outstanding teaching by a faculty member.

Mount Allison U's Ian Mauro's Film on Climate Change in North Wins at Film Festival: Mount Allison University geography and environment professor Ian Mauro's acclaimed film on climate change in Canada's North has received the Communities Award at the 21st annual Montreal First Peoples Film Festival, held this August. Qapirangajuq: Inuit Knowledge and Climate Change, which Mauro co-directed with Inuk filmmaker Zacharias Kunuk (Atanarjuat The Fast Runner), was released last fall and was an official selection of the Festival, a week-long event that welcomes Indigenous artists from around the globe to Montreal to share and learn from their creative works. Hailed as "groundbreaking" by the Globe and Mail, the documentary has also been recently screened at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, New York City, and London UK. [Sackville Tribune](#)

U Toronto's Chuck Hostovsky on E-Waste Not, Want Not: Canadians throw out more than 140,000 tonnes of electronics every year, even though much of it works just fine. When computer printers run out of ink it's cheaper to replace the printer than the cartridges, so the printers get tossed. When someone's cellphone plan runs out, the company calls with a new deal -- and throws in a new phone, free of charge, offering enticing new features. Chuck Hostovsky at the University of Toronto, thinks greenwashing may be too strong a term for what the electronics stewards are doing. "I think it's a good system," he said. "It's imperative we don't let e-waste go to the third world." He agrees, however, that consumerism and marketing, combined with the planned obsolescence of many electronic products, have put us on an unsustainable treadmill. Consumers, he says, have also fallen prey to "perceived obsolescence" which makes us believe we must have the latest cell phone or computer model. With four sons, Hostovsky says he never has to buy a cell phone -- he just uses the ones they discard. [Kingston WhigStandard](#)

UWO's Gordon McBean Nominated for President-Elect of ICSU: Canada's Dr. Gordon McBean, a Professor of Geography with the University of Western Ontario, has been nominated for President -- elect of the International Council for Science (ICSU). ICSU is a non-governmental organization with a global membership representing 141 countries through its national scientific members and scientific unions. The election is to take place at the General Assembly to be held in Rome, September 2011. [Science.gc.ca](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Martin Bouchard, Eric Beauregard and Margaret Kalacska. 2011. [Journey to grow: linking process to outcome in target site selection for cannabis cultivation](#). Journal of Research in Crime Delinquency. DOI: 10.1177/0022427811418001

Sébastien Caquard, Laurene Vaughan and William Cartwright. 2011. [Mapping from above/mapping from the ground: mapping environmental issues in the city](#). In: Mapping Environmental Issues in the City: Arts and Cartography Cross Perspectives. Ed. S. Caquard et al. Springer-Verlag Berlin. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-22441-6_1

Christopher J. Lemieux and Daniel J. Scott. 2011. [Changing climate, challenging choices: identifying and evaluating climate change adaptation options for protected areas management in Ontario, Canada](#). Environmental Management. DOI: 10.1007/s00267-011-9700-x

Richard J. McCleary, Marwan A. Hassan, Dan Miller and R. Dan Moore. 2011. [Spatial organization of process domains in headwater drainage basins of a glaciated foothills region with complex longitudinal profiles](#). Water Resources Research 47, W05505. doi:10.1029/2010WR009800

L. Pelletier, M. Garneau and T.R. Moore. 2011. [Variation in CO2 exchange over three summers at microform scale in a boreal bog, Eastmain region, Québec, Canada](#). Journal of Geophysical Research 116(G03019).doi:10.1029/2011JG001657

Alan Phipps. 2011. [Comparisons of residents' perceptions of patterns and trends on computer-animated maps and graphs and on Google Maps of events in their neighbourhoods](#). Cartographica 46(3):185-199.

John Robinson, Tom Berkhout and Ann Campbell. 2011. [The University as an Agent of Change for Sustainability](#). Policy at a Glance. Policy Horizons Canada. Ottawa.

Jeremy Snyder, Valorie A. Crooks, Rory Johnston and Paul Kingsbury. 2011. [What do we know about Canadian involvement in medical tourism? A scoping review](#). Open Medicine 5(3).

Undiné Thompson and Sébastien Caquard. 2011. [Compiling a geographic database to study environmental injustice in Montréal: Process, results, and lessons](#). In: Mapping Environmental Issues in the City: Arts and Cartography Cross Perspectives. Ed. S. Caquard et al. Springer-Verlag Berlin. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-642-22441-6_1

Call for Papers: Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting – New York City, February 24th-28th, 2012

Session Title: Geographies of Francophone Minorities

Organizers: Ronald J. Roy (Ph.D. Candidate), Queen's University (Geography) and Dr. Magatte Fall, Université de Montréal, CÉRIUM (Geography). Discussant: Dr. Anne Gilbert, University of Ottawa (Geography)

We invite submissions for an AAG paper session on the geographies of Francophone minorities in North America. This session welcomes discussion on recent research within cultural, political and economic geography focused on French-speaking cultural and linguistic groups. Topics of research may include linguistic groups such as the Acadians and cajuns of Louisiana, residents of Floribec, or any other French-speaking group. Research on cultural interactions with other minority and majority communities- and their outcomes is encouraged such as those created by migrant flows within the context of globalization. Presentations of research on the experiences of these minority groups in relation to the state, economy, other communities and cultures within minority contexts will be privileged. Possible ideas for presentations include but are not limited to: community vitality and identity; citizenship rights and policy; multiculturalism and pluralism; political activism and group rights employment opportunities; health and francophone minorities; territories and de-territorialization migratory patterns, trends and community mobility; modernity and minority communities; race and racialization; and, transnationalism.

If you would like to participate in the Geographies of Francophone Minorities session, please send a 250-word abstract or to confirm your interest in participating to both Ronald J. Roy (ronald.roy@queensu.ca) and Magatte Fall (fallmag@yahoo.fr) by August 29, 2011. In addition to registering to attend the 2012 AAG Annual Meeting in New York, if accepted for this session, you will be required to submit the same abstract online through the AAG website, by Monday, Sept. 26th, 2011.

Other “Geographical” News

Michael Palin: Geography Students Hold Key to World's Problems: Geography may have slipped out of the top 10 A-level subjects, but that doesn't change the fact that work done by geographers has global importance, says Michael Palin. Geography is a living, breathing subject, constantly adapting itself to change. It is dynamic and relevant. For me geography is a great adventure with a purpose. So many of the world's current issues – at a global scale and locally - boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming as it affects countries and regions, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils from over-use and misuse, the spread of disease, the causes and consequences of migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities. These are just some of the challenges facing the next generation, which geographers must help solve. [The Guardian](#)

Mapping the Human Terrain: Mapping technology that plots socio-cultural information is equipping Australia's military force to make informed decisions while deployed on operations overseas. Simon Hill said the technology supports military decisions in peacekeeping, conflict, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Analysing human geography gave the Department of Defence an understanding of the area it was operating in. “Human terrain analysis is all about determining the relationship between the characteristics of a human population and that population's location,” Mr Hill said. “It provides a geographic context and a timeline to human behaviour on the ground.” [Government News](#) | [Spatial Source](#)

Model Shows Polar Ice Caps Can Recover from Warmer Climate-Induced Melting: A growing body of recent research indicates that, in Earth's warming climate, there is no “tipping point,” or threshold warm temperature, beyond which polar sea ice cannot recover if temperatures come back down. New research indicates that even if Earth warmed enough to melt all polar sea ice, the ice could recover if the planet cooled again. In recent years scientists have closely monitored the shrinking area of the Arctic covered by sea ice in warmer summer months, a development that has created new shipping lanes but also raised concerns about humans living in the region and the survival of species such as polar bears. [EurekAlert!](#)

Researchers Chart Long-Shrouded Glacial Reaches of Antarctica: A vast network of previously unmapped glaciers on the move from thousands of miles inland to the Antarctic coast has been charted for the first time. Like viewing a completed jigsaw puzzle, the researchers were stunned when they stood back and took in the full picture. They discovered a new ridge splitting the 5.4 million-square-mile landmass from east to west. They found unnamed formations moving up to 800 feet each year across immense plains sloping toward the Southern Ocean -- and in a different manner than past models of ice migration. [ScienceDaily](#)

Introduction to Changing Permafrost in the Arctic Landscape: NSF Arctic Systems Science Thermokarst Project and the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists are please to present this free webinar series. For a full list of topics and speakers: visit <http://apecs.is/permafrost-course-2011>. To learn more about the ARCSS Thermokarst Project, the presenters and their latest research results, visit <http://thermokarst.psu.edu.html>. *Reserve your place *in this free webinar series by Monday, September 5th; space is limited.

Some not so "Geographical" News

How people in science see each other

undergraduate

PhD student

postdoc

PI / Professor

technician

seen by
undergraduate



seen by
PhD student



seen by
postdoc



seen by
PI / Professor



seen by
technician



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