



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC's Dick Gregory on History of USA Drone Program: Last week UBC political geographer Derek Gregory offered an illuminating history of the drone program. He also raised intriguing legal and ethical questions. Gregory noted that the U.S. has asserted that it has the right to deploy drones anywhere in the world. "Human Rights Watch has written to President Obama on how the administration defines the global battlefield," he said. "What is the legal basis for that definition? Do the goals of targeted killing vary from one place to another? Are different criteria used in Yemen and Pakistan?" He quickly added that while this is obviously of concern to people living in those two countries, everyone should be paying attention. "It matters for all of us when other states around the world have their own fleets of predators and reapers and demand the same privilege," Gregory stated. [Georgia Straight](#)

Carleton U's Geography 3000 Field Course in Lanark, Ontario: Each year, undergraduate students in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies have the opportunity to participate in a range of field courses. This year twenty students spent the last week of August living in Lanark, Ontario, doing hands-on field research. Students were trained in human and physical geography field methods, from surveys and interviews to tree coring, stream gauging, and soil testing. They applied these skills to four projects: a study of drinking water contamination and its effects on residents in the village of Lanark; an evaluation of a proposed micro-hydro project along the Clyde River; the design of a hiking trail in the region, including an interpretive and tourism strategy; and a community improvement plan addressing economic, social, and environmental well-being in the region. [Geog3000@Carleton](#)

York U Geographers Nominated for Toronto Heritage Book Awards: John Warkentin and Amy Lavender Harris from York Geography were both [nominated](#) for Toronto Heritage Book Awards. An *Award of Merit* was presented to Amy Lavender Harris for her book [Imagining Toronto](#). Professor Emeritus John Warkentin's book, [Creating Memory](#), won an Honourable Mention in the same category. Amy's book traces more than three centuries of Toronto writing from Aboriginal oral narratives to contemporary graphic novels, tracing how Toronto's writers have represented ravines, islands, the lake, what it means to live in the "city of neighbourhoods" and how the people's faith in multiculturalism amounts to a kind of creation myth. "I also explored how class and work are represented, as well as sexuality and the changing suburbs," says Harris. It was while creating a new geography course in 2005 that Harris realized "there was a huge body of Toronto literature that had not received any comprehensive study, and in fact was widely believed not to exist." Out of this developed the [Imagining Toronto project](#), a database of Toronto novels, poems and other literary works, which Harris still maintains and adds to regularly. The website's library is the largest curated list of Toronto literature currently in existence, says Harris. [YFile](#) | [Heritage Toronto](#)

Queen's U Climatologist Comments on Report that Climate Change Will Cost Canada Billions:

Climatologist Harry McCaughey commented on the Sept 29 report released by a federal advisory panel about the cost of climate change in Canada. The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy found that Canada can expect to pay between \$21 and \$43 billion a year by 2050 if it doesn't come up with a plan to tackle climate change. Dr. McCaughey, a climate change expert, hopes the federal government will pay attention to the findings in the report. "I think this report is significant. It's one of many wakeup calls the government needs to listen to. Major decisions that aren't made now will come back and bite us really hard in the future," says Dr. McCaughey. [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

UVic's India Field School a Rich Cultural Experience: Travel in India is not for the faint of heart; the diverse culture, dense population and multiple language dialects are challenging for most travellers. In August, 20 UVic geography field school students took up the challenge and went to India, where they spent the next four weeks exploring issues of community governance, women's empowerment, resource use and management, and conservation. The India Field School was a first for UVic in partnership with the [Society for Participatory Research in Asia](#). UVic geographer Phil Dearden and PhD candidate Crystal Tremblay led the group through Northern India, beginning in New Delhi and continuing to Haryana and the Himalayan region, followed by a number of days at the Sariska Tiger Reserve. [The Ring](#)

WLU Geographers Bill Quinton and Michael English Partner with NWT on Water Strategy: In a university nearly as far from the Northwest Territories as possible in Canada, a group of scientists, administrators and students have embarked on one of the largest coordinated academic projects ever undertaken in the NWT. They may also realign Canada's university research landscape, positioning Wilfred Laurier University as the expert academic institution in Canada's North. WLU became involved largely as result of two geographers: Bill Quinton and Michael English, both hydrology experts. WLU and the GNWT signed a ten-year, \$6.5 million agreement to work together on the NWT's water strategy. In return the territory would access some of the best water researchers in the world, get a collection of top-end research equipment located permanently in the NWT and have a university behind its efforts to protect water resources stretching from the 60th parallel to the Arctic Ocean. [Fort Chipewyan/Fort Smith Slave River Journal](#)

Dalhousie U Geographer Heather Castleden on the Forefront of Aboriginal Health Research:

Dalhousie professors Debbie Martin and Heather Castleden are working towards better understanding the health issues of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples. Since coming to Dalhousie two years ago, Heather's been working first hand with Mi'kmaq communities in Nova Scotia to engage in research concerning the environmental health issues in their communities. "Research that applies both indigenous and western methods has not fully launched in Canada, though the potential is there," she says. This is especially so with respect to environmental health issues involving Aboriginal Peoples, she explains, in light of the fact that environmental health injustices in aboriginal territories are abundant. Part of Dr. Castleden's role is working collaboratively with Mi'kmaq and other First Nations across Canada to address these issues from an environmental (health) and social justice framework through human health risk assessments. [Dal News](#)

Queen's U's Brian Osborne Attends Workshop in Flanders: Brian Osborne recently participated in a workshop in Flanders that examined the [Flemish government's proposal to inscribe the landscapes and sites of memory of the Great War](#) in France and Belgium on the UNESCO World Heritage list. He chaired a session on "Landscapes of Memories, Outstanding Universal Value of War Heritage," and presented a paper, "'Lest We Forget,' what should we remember? Commemorating the 'Great War,' sustaining a memory, seeking universal values." [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Tarek Ben Hassen, Juan-Luis Klein, and Diane-Gabrielle Tremblay. 2011. [Building local nodes in a global sector: Clustering within the aeronautics industry in Montreal](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00384.x

John E. Martin. 2011. [Hydrologic response of a small forested swamp complex, Seymour Valley, British Columbia](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00385.x

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Thomas E. Barchyn and Chris H. Hugenholtz. 2011. [A new tool for modeling dune field evolution based on an accessible, GUI version of the Werner dune model](#). Geomorphology. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.09.021

C.P. Borstad and D.M. McClung. 2011. [Numerical modeling of tensile fracture initiation and propagation in snow slabs using nonlocal damage mechanics](#). Cold Regions Science and Technology. doi:10.1016/j.coldregions.2011.09.010

Valorie A. Crooks, Jeremy Snyder, Rory Johnston, and Paul Kingsbury. 2011. [Perspectives on Canadians' Involvement in Medical Tourism. Final Research Report](#). Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, 2011.

J. Richards and R.D. Moore. 2011. [Discharge-dependence of stream albedo in a steep proglacial channel](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8343

Mowafa Said Househ, Andre W. Kushniruk, Malcolm Maclure, Bruce Carleton, and Denise Cloutier-Fisher. 2011. [Virtual knowledge production within a physician educational outreach program](#). Knowledge Management & E-Learning: An International Journal. 3(1).

A. Séjourné, F. Costard, J. Gargani, R.J. Soare and C. Marmo. 2011. [Evidence of an eolian ice-rich and stratified permafrost in Utopia Planitia, Mars](#). Planetary and Space Science. doi:10.1016/j.pss.2011.09.004

R. Smith, M. Morison, D. Capelle, C. Christie, and D. Blair. 2011. [GPS-based optimization of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles' power demands in a cold weather city](#). Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment 16(8):614-618.

Haowen Yan and Jonathan Li. 2011. [Blind watermarking technique for topographic map data](#). Applied Geomatics. doi: 10.1007/s12518-011-0064-y

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jennifer Alisha Parrott. 2011. [Multiple methods for assessing the sustainability of shallow subarctic ponds in Churchill region: Hudson Bay Lowland, Canada](#). Unpublished MS thesis. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisors: Merrin Macrae and Claude Duguay.

Other “Geographical” News

Long-Lost Lake Agassiz Offers Clues to Climate Change: Not long ago, a now-vanished lake covered a huge expanse of today's Canadian prairie. As big as Hudson Bay, the lake was fed by melting glaciers as they receded at the end of the last ice age. At its largest, Glacial Lake Agassiz, as it is known, covered most of the Canadian province of Manitoba, plus a good part of western Ontario. Although Lake Agassiz is gone, questions about its origin and disappearance remain. Recent research suggests that the lower water levels were caused by increased evaporation, not outflow. [ScienceDaily](#)

Weather Study Shows Risk to Elderly: Areas likely to be home to large proportions of old people in the coming decades could be among those most at risk from extreme weather such as heatwaves and floods, research has suggested. Researchers have mapped which parts of England are likely to see an increase in severe weather as a result of climate change, alongside projections for where England's ageing population will be living in the 2030s. The study led by Durham University and Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, published in the journal Applied Geography, warns that many areas projected to see an increase in extreme weather events may also need to care for a high proportion of over-65s as England's population lives longer. [Press Association](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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