



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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York U's John Warkentin Tours 'Man's Imprint on the Environment' of Toronto: Retired York University geography professor John Warkentin, 83, provides, what may be the definitive guidebook to Toronto public sculpture in his book *Creating Memory* (Becker Associates, 2010). Always "interested in man's imprint on the landscape," it was during an assignment in rural Manitoba in the 1950s that Mr. Warkentin was first struck by the awesome power of sculpture to create memory. While cataloging houses and barns, he stumbled upon white-painted, horse-drawn harrows with a sign reading "LANDMARK." In smaller type was the story of a pioneering Ukraine farming couple who, it read, "helped build our beautiful Canada" in the early 1900s: "And to me that was a sort of a sculpture," he remembers. "It was not a gravestone – they were buried in the cemetery close by – these were just proud people and the family had put up this marker." [The Globe and Mail](#)

Saint Mary's U's Cathy Conrad Commercializes Water-Quality Monitoring Kit: Saint Mary's has plenty of experience commercializing university research and development. One of the best examples of the commercialization process is a collaboration already underway between NSCAD and Saint Mary's. NSCAD students and staff assisted in designing a water-quality monitoring kit, which was an idea of Cathy Conrad, a Saint Mary's geography professor. Conrad only had the separate pieces needed to allow community groups to scrutinize the quality of their drinking water without having to send samples away to large labs. Glen Hougan, an associate professor, led the NSCAD team involved in developing the toolkit needed to build the monitor. [Herald Business](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Sean Doherty Maps Link Between Diabetic's Blood Sugar Level and Location: Diabetic patients could better manage the disease with an innovative tool developed by a Laurier researcher that maps a person's location along with blood sugar level throughout the day. The detailed daily log offers new insight into how a person's activities affect blood glucose level from minute to minute. "There's not much known about how it varies throughout the day," said Sean Doherty, an associate professor of geography and environmental studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. Doherty's pilot study, in partnership with the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, monitored patients using a continuous blood glucose monitor, which did a check every five minutes, and global positioning system. [The Record.com](#)

U Western Ontario's Joy Parr Nabs Edelstein Prize: Joy Parr's timely and prescient perspective on how humans make sense of the world in the face of rapid change has garnered her the Edelstein Prize, awarded to the top scholarly book on the history of technology published over the last three years. Parr's book, *Sensing Changes: Technologies, Environments and the Everyday, 1953-2003*, explores situations where megaprojects, as well as regulatory and environmental changes, force people to cope with transformations in their work and home environments. The award is handed out by the Society for the History of Technology. Parr's book is complemented by [The Megaprojects Sites](#), a website about people living amidst Canadian megaprojects. [Western News](#)

McMaster U's Patrick DeLuca Assists with Code Red: In a ground breaking series entitled 'Code Red', the Hamilton Spectator has reported on a relationship between poverty and teenage pregnancy. Code Red highlighted the strong connections that exist between poor health and poverty across Hamilton neighbourhoods. The series exposed glaring disparities in health between city neighbourhoods, including a 21-year difference in life expectancies. [Patrick DeLuca](#) was a Code Red collaborator, who provided statistical analysis and mapping expertise for the new project. DeLuca is a member of McMaster's Centre for Spatial Analysis in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University. thespec.com

York U's Nina Hewitt Takes Stock of the Assisted Migration Debate: In the face of climate change, does it make sense to use assisted migration techniques to save various species of plants, trees and animals? The answer seemed relatively simple a few years ago, but it is an increasingly controversial issue, says postdoctoral fellow and lecturer Nina Hewitt of York's Department of Geography. Hewitt is the lead author on "Taking Stock of the Assisted Migration Debate", an article that synthesizes the debate by looking at about 50 articles written on the subject. The level of controversy that has erupted over this issue, and that it remains unresolved, surprises Hewitt. She puts it down to the fact that the impact of climate change has become clearer and more urgent, and "so the need to actually do some of these drastic, interfering, proactive measures, such as take a species and transplant it en masse somewhere else, are being pushed more openly" by some scientists. [York's Daily Bulletin](#)

Concordia U's John Zacharias Awarded Senior Scholar Award: The distinguished scholarship of John Zacharias, of the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University, was recognized at the annual Faculty of Arts and Science Dean's Awards for Outstanding Achievement. The Dean's Awards were inaugurated in 2006 to recognize and honour faculty and staff who have excelled in the university and the wider community. John was presented a Senior Scholar Award on November 15th. [Concordia News](#)

U Saskatchewan Students Receive Award for Saskatoon City Centre Project: Members of an urban planning project team focusing on Saskatoon's city centre received the Saskatchewan Premier's Award of Excellence in Design at a Saskatchewan Design Week reception Nov. 18. The award was given to a team that includes partners from the City of Saskatoon, a Toronto urban planning firm, and University of Saskatchewan researchers and students. The project, entitled Public Spaces, Activity and Urban Form Strategic Framework, constitutes phase one of the new plan for Saskatoon's city centre. Jill Gunn and Ryan Walker, professors from the U of S Regional and Urban Planning Program, worked with students and city officials to design methodology and conduct research for the final report. [U of S News Release](#)

McMaster U PhD Candidate Kate Whalen on Two-Wheel Transport on McMaster Campus: McMaster is located in blue-collar, largely car-centric Hamilton, Ont.—an unlikely champion of the bicycle. But in the past two years, the city has been in the vanguard of sustainable travel, expanding cycling infrastructure, improving regional transit and adding carpooling programs. Municipal support has, in turn, emboldened the university, and encouraged both students and faculty to take up, in great numbers, alternative modes of transportation. According to Kate Whalen, manager of McMaster's office of sustainability, a 2010 campus survey revealed that 37 per cent of students walked or cycled to school. "We have a very engaged population," she says. And the university is very responsive to the needs of that population. Just one example: after a civil engineering student did a systematic geographic information survey of the use of university bike racks, underutilized racks were relocated to more optimal spots on campus. Ten additional racks are installed each year, Whalen says. [Maclean's On campus report](#)

Memorial U's MSc Candidate Sheridan Thompson Wins ACAG Prize: Sheridan Thompson, MSc. candidate in Geography at Memorial University won 1st prize for her graduate presentation at the recent Atlantic Canadian Association of Geographers meeting, held at Mount Allison University.

UVic Graduate Student Crystal Tremblay Offers YouTube Perspective on India Field School: Crystal Tremblay, of the University of Victoria Department of Geography, talks about the benefits of experiential learning at the field school in India, focusing on development and conservation. This was the first International field school and partnership between UVic and the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). [YouTube](#)

Mount Allison U's Cecilia Jennings Presented with Founder's Award at 23rd Annual ACAG Meeting: Mount Allison English and geography student Cecilia Jennings was awarded the Founder's Award for best undergraduate presentation at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Canadian Association of Geographers. Jennings presentation stemmed from a summer of research on a romantic quest — finding out whether an old violin was actually a Stradivarius, made by the most well-known instrument-maker of the 18th century. The owner of the violin delivered it to the Mount Allison Dendrochronology Laboratory (MAD Lab), with a Stradivarius-like label on the inside of the instrument that said the violin was made in 1734. If it was a Stradivarius, the violin was not only a beautiful instrument, but also incredibly valuable. [Mount Allison News](#)

Saint Mary's University's Danika van Proosdij Funded to Study Impacts of Tidal Turbines: Saint Mary's University Professor Dr. Danika van Proosdij is diving into a new wave of critical research. The Geography Professor has been awarded funding from the Offshore Energy Environmental Research Association to continue her study of the impacts of tidal turbines on Coastal areas such as the Bay of Fundy. Dr. van Proosdij and her research team will gather information to better understand the behaviour of sediments in the upper Bay of Fundy under varying environmental and energy conditions. The data is vital in determining the effects on birds and fish populations. Her latest work will add value to industry and government partners involved in the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy's initiative and benefit Nova Scotians by serving as a baseline for determining whether future changes caused by tidal turbines are outside the range of natural variability. [Saint Mary's News Release](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ryan Bullock, Derek Armitage and Bruce Mitchell. 2012. [Shadow Networks, Social Learning, and Collaborating through Crisis: Building Resilient Forest-based Communities in Northern Ontario, Canada](#). Chapter 13, In: Collaborative Resilience: Moving through Crisis to Opportunity. Edited by: B. Goldstein. The MIT Press. 309-337

Jeffrey A. Cardille, Joanne C. White, Mike A. Wulder and Tara Holland. 2011. [Representative landscapes in the forested area of Canada](#). Environmental Management. DOI: 10.1007/s00267-011-9785-2

Patrick A. Hesp and Ian J. Walker. 2011. [Three-dimensional aeolian dynamics within a bowl blowout during offshore winds: Greenwich Dunes, Prince Edward Island, Canada](#). Aeolian Research. doi:10.1016/j.aeolia.2011.09.002

Benjamin W. Heumann. 2011. [An object-based classification of mangroves using a hybrid decision tree—support vector machine approach](#). Remote Sensing 3:2440-2460.

V. Hongoh, L. Berrang-Ford, M.E. Scott and L.R. Lindsay. 2011. [Expanding geographical distribution of the mosquito, Culex pipiens, in Canada under climate change](#). Applied Geography 33:53-62.

Philip F. Kelly. 2011. [Migration, agrarian transition, and rural change in Southeast Asia](#). Critical Asian Studies 43(4). DOI:10.1080/14672715.2011.623516

Maximiliano E. Korstanje and Daniel H. Olsen. 2011. [The discourse of risk in horror movies post 9/11: hospitality and hostility in perspective](#). International Journal of Tourism Anthropology 1(3/4):304-317.

Imran Khan and Ray Kostaschuk. 2011. [Erodibility of cohesive glacial till bed sediments in urban stream channel systems](#). Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering. DOI 10.1139/I11-099

M.A. Maar, N.E. Lightfoot, M.E. Sutherland, R.P. Strassera, K.J. Wilson, C.M. Lidstone-Jones, D.G. Graham, R. Beaudin, G.A. Daybutch, B.R. Dokis, M.T. Lesage, M. Raymond, and P. Williamson. 2011. [Thinking outside the box: Aboriginal people's suggestions for conducting health studies with Aboriginal communities](#). Public Health 125(11):747-753.

Gina Martin, C. Peter Keller and Leslie T. Foster. 2011. [Constructing a composite adolescent health and wellness index for British Columbia, Canada using a spatial multi-criteria analysis approach](#). Child Indicators Research. DOI: 10.1007/s12187-011-9129-z

Christina Tennant, Brian Menounos, Bruce Ainslie, Joseph Shea and Peter Jackson. 2011. [Comparison of modeled and geodetically-derived glacier mass balance for Tiedemann and Klinaklini glaciers, southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada](#). Global and Planetary Change. doi:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2011.11.004

Other "Geographical" News

Interactive Map of Sea Level Changes Launched: A new interactive map that allows users to explore changes in sea level worldwide over five decades has been launched by the UK's Permanent Service for Mean Sea Level (PSMSL). The PSMSL is the global databank for sea-level change information. The Anomalies Map, generated from a worldwide network of tide gauges, demonstrates how sea level varies from year to year when compared with the long-term average at a particular site, calculated over the period from 1960 to 1990. Moving a slider along the time line at the bottom of the map shows how, at some locations, sea level can vary by over 20 centimetres from year to year. [PSMSL](#)

Design with the Other 90% - Cities: For the first time in history, the majority of the earth's population lives in cities. How can we think about creating meaningful change in the developing world's cities? Organized by Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum, this project brings together 60 projects, proposals, and solutions that address these complex issues. The "Design with the Other 90%: Cities" website brings together some of these projects with an interactive "Solutions" map on the homepage. Visitors can click on the various locations to learn about the projects in each major urban area, some of which include water reclamation projects and low-cost housing units. Also, the homepage includes some featured themes such as "Access", "Adapt", and "Exchange". Here visitors can learn about solutions that improve access to water, sanitation, electricity, health, transportation, and education. [Designother90](#)

American Migration: 40 million Americans move from one home to another every year. In November 2011, Jon Bruner of Forbes created this remarkable set of maps documenting where people are moving to and from using recent statistical data sets from the Internal Revenue Service. Visitors can

get started by clicking on any county in the United States to see where people are moving based on this data. Visitors can also compare movements and look at information from the past five years.

[Forbes](#)

Is Sustainability Science Really a Science? The idea that one can create a field of science out of thin air, just because of societal and policy need, is a bold concept. "We don't know if sustainability science will solve the essential problems it seeks to address, but there is a legitimate scientific practice in place now," said Luís Bettencourt. The researchers used an exhaustive literature search to determine if the field can truly be categorized as a legitimate science, using population modeling and documenting technical papers' evolution over time, worldwide author distribution, range of sciences involved, and the collaboration structure of the participants. Many of these techniques form the basis of a new science of science, which allows researchers to analyze and predict the development of scientific and technological fields. See: [World map of cities and collaborations in Sustainability Science](#). [EurekAlert!](#)

Episode 2 of Escape the Ivory Tower: Tips for Grad Students: In this episode Susan Molnar, a graduate career counsellor at McGill University, talks about the challenges that grad students face when looking for a non-academic job, how the process is different between academic and non-academic job searches, as well as what skills grad students have that they may not even know about.

[University Affairs](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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