



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

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**Compiled by Dan Smith <[cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)>**

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**Mount Allison U's Brad Walters Hopes for Shale Gas Development Moratorium:** Geography and environment professor Dr. Brad Walters believes there should be a moratorium on shale gas development until further study can be done on the industry's long-term environmental impacts. Walters said the industry does not have a track record that should inspire the public's confidence. "Both here in Canada and abroad, it has not demonstrated a willingness to protect public interest at the expense of its bottom line," he wrote. Read more about Dr. Walters views on the shale gas industry at [CBC.ca](http://CBC.ca) and in his Op-Ed at [Shale gas moratorium is needed](#). For the CBC's special profile on shale gas in New Brunswick, visit [Fractured Future](#). [Mount Allison News](#)

**U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki Speaks on CBC's The National:** [Matti Siemiatycki](#), an assistant professor in the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto, comments on the sinking feeling that Toronto commuters get when the drive to work and back. [The National](#)

**U Manitoba's Jeff Masuda Recognized for Community Outreach:** Jeff Masuda, Clayton H. Riddell Faculty of Environment, Earth, and Resources, was recognized for his role in researching persistent inequities in environmental conditions in Canadian cities as an issue of social and environmental justice. Masuda has forged connections between academic, policy and community leaders in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto to create national momentum to address systemic injustices in Canada. His strong relationship with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has led to the Manitoba First Nations Regional Health Survey, as well as the development of culturally appropriate research methodologies and intervention tools. His research has had a tangible impact on Manitoba First Nations youth and their families by mobilizing them to advocate for improved health services and supports. [U Manitoba News Room](#)

**Carleton U Geography Students Honoured for Excellence in Remote Sensing:** PCI Geomatics recently presented academic excellence awards to three student in Carleton's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. The awards were presented to Blair Kennedy, Will Parkinson and Amanda Viveen in recognition of their excellent work and academic achievement. Blair Kennedy is a two-time recipient of the award and is currently working towards obtaining his PhD. Will Parkinson is working on a master's degree and Amanda Viveen is finalizing her undergraduate degree with a specialization in remote sensing and GIS. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**"Toward Integration". 2012 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers:** Wilfrid Laurier University and University of Waterloo are jointly hosting the Canadian Association of Geographers' 2012 annual conference and meeting, May 28-June 2, 2012. This event is part of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences—and also welcomes two partner organizations, the Canadian Cartographic Association and the Association of Canadian University Planning Programs. [CAG 2012](#)

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**UBC's Brian Klinkenberg's Botany Photo of the Day:** Understanding the spatial aspects of plant dynamics is a critical part of landscape ecology today. Recently, in Brian Klinkenberg's lab, the focus has been on spatial analyses designed to explore the decline of yellow-cedar in BC. Exploring the spatial occurrences on these species has led to key insights into distributions and biogeographic changes. Dr. Brian Klinkenberg is a professor in the UBC Department of Geography where his research focuses on advanced spatial analysis with respect to physical, health and social sciences (and the intersection of these disciplines). [Chamaecyparis nootkatensis](#)

**York U's David Hugill Takes Close Look at Winnipeg and Minneapolis:** Sault native David Hugill has won a 2011-12 Fulbright Award that is allowing him to spend the school year in Minneapolis, Minn., conducting research that compares Canadian and U.S. cities. "I'm a human geographer. I'm interested in questions about cities and space. The premise of the work is that cities aren't these sort of containers in which things happen, but they are these dynamic environments that reflect long political histories," said the 30-year-old. Hugill has an undergraduate degree from University of King's College and a master's degree from Trent University. He is pursuing a geography PhD at York University. Hugill will spend about a year in Minnesota doing field work. His project is called The Neoliberal City: Winnipeg and Minneapolis in Comparative Context. "My work is this comparative thing on Canadian and American cities. The sort of premise of the whole thing is that in spite of the fact that we tend to understand Canada and the U.S. as these radically different places, there is much that unites them." [The Sault Star](#)

**Concordia U Instructor David Oswald Writes on Achieving Biodiversity Preservation and CSR Through Design:** David N. Oswald, President, DE Design and Environment Inc., shows how effective design and an attractive message can help to inspire change. David writes (p. 18-19) "Design, in my opinion, is an integrative and creative process essential to moving business and society as a whole further towards sustainability. Creative solutions for biodiversity preservation can be found by looking at synergistic relationships. Groups that hold different prime objectives but share values and interests may find strategic common ground. ... I look to our experience with design challenges such as museums, science centres, world expos, events, and corporate environmental communications and I can honestly say that there is no silver bullet." [Business.2020](#)

**U Western Ontario's Godwin Arku on Growth of Ghana Middle Class Leading to Gated Communities:** Gated communities are catching on in Ghana, and the Western-style setup may include a shift for some residents away from traditional extended-family living arrangements. Godwin Arku, assistant professor of geography at the University of Western Ontario, has plotted the rise of Ghana's gated communities since the early 2000s and links much of the growth to the emergence of a well-paid professional class, particularly in banking. "Most of them are educated university graduates and some of them have been to school abroad," Arku said. "Their overall lifestyle is different and they have access to technology, cars, and houses." [Reuters](#)

**Vancouver Island U's Alan Gilchrist Completes Work on Vancouver Island Water Resources Vulnerability Mapping Project:** Alan Gilchrist, chair of the VIU Geography Department, completed work on the Vancouver Island Water Resources Vulnerability Mapping Project. The project's aim was to produce maps of the intrinsic vulnerability of groundwater on Vancouver Island to contamination by chemical hazards, and to help Regional District planners take groundwater vulnerability into account when planning land use and development. This project has provided employment for several graduates of the Geography and Advanced Diploma in GIS programs at VIU, who provided technical expertise to complete the GIS mapping part of the project. Workshops directed at planners and decision makers on the use of DRASTIC groundwater maps for land use planning and source water protection have taken place in Victoria, Parksville, Duncan and Courtney. [VIWV Mapping Project](#)

**Mount Allison U's Zoe Finkel Named CRC in Marine Environmental Ecology:** Mount Allison geography and environment professor and award-winning researcher Dr. Zoe Finkel has been named the newest Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Marine Environmental Ecology. Finkel's research examines the effects of climate change on phytoplankton, microscopic organisms that live in the ocean, which produce half of all the oxygen on earth, and regulate carbon dioxide and oxygen concentrations in the atmosphere. As the CRC in Marine Environmental Ecology, Finkel will continue her extensive research program at Mount Allison, which includes partnering with researchers on campus, across the country, and internationally. She will be looking at how phytoplankton respond to changes in their environment caused by climate change such as temperature, pH, carbon dioxide, and nutrient concentration. Her research will improve understanding of how phytoplankton, and the marine food web, will change and be changed by climate. [MTA News](#)

**Memorial U Offers New Course in 'Geography of the Arctic':** Trevor Bell and Arn Keeling of Memorial University's Department of Geography. are offering a new undergraduate course focused on the Geography of the Arctic in the Winter 2012 session. The course explores the geography of the Arctic from an integrative geographical perspective. Students will be encouraged to learn about and examine critical questions relating to the region, including: Arctic natural systems and conditions; aboriginal settlement and culture, historical geographies of contact and colonialism; resource management; political and social geographies; the Canadian Arctic in the circumpolar context; and environmental change. [Geography 3905](#)

**Queen's U's Jamie Linton Departing for Centre National de la Echerche Scientifique:** Starting in January 2012, [Jamie Linton](#) of the Department of Geography at Queen's University will take up a position as Research Associate with the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in France. Jamie will be based at the University of Montpellier and working on a project to develop a framework for shared water governance in the Middle East, focusing specifically on Palestinian-Israeli water resources.

**Wiley-Blackwell Offers Special Holiday Discount of 40% to CAGers:** As a special way of saying Happy Holidays, publisher of *The Canadian Geographer*, Wiley-Blackwell, is extending a 40% discount on virtually all John Wiley & Sons print books (excludes all German language books and some major reference works). The discount is good through December 31, 2011, and can be accessed at: [www.wiley.com/promo/HH1](http://www.wiley.com/promo/HH1)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Lynn Moorman, Mount Royal University**

[Dr. Lynn Moorman](#) was recently appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Earth Sciences Department, Geography Program at Mount Royal University. Lynn explores spatial literacy and how people think in a geographic sense. This combines her interest in both education and geography, and includes perspectives into the fields pedagogy, cognitive science, educational technology, digital geography and spatial thinking.

Lynn's focus in her undergraduate and Masters degree was physical geography (geomorphology, Quaternary Geology), and spatial analysis (GIS, cartography, remote sensing). She completed these degrees in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, supported by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC). Her interest in how people learn and interpret geographic information and use geographic technologies led her to pursue a PhD in Educational Technologies, in the Graduate Division of Educational Research at the University of Calgary

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## New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Anne Gilbert and Marc Brosseau. 2011. [La frontière asymétrique : Franco-Ontariens et Anglo-Québécois dans la région de la capitale nationale / The asymmetrical frontier: Franco-Ontarians and Anglo-Quebeckers in the Nation's Capital Region](#). *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* 55(4):470-489.

Brenda L. Murphy. 2011. [From interdisciplinary to inter-epistemological approaches: Confronting the challenges of integrated climate change research / Au croisement des approches interdisciplinaires et inter-épistémologiques : Répondre aux défis de la recherche intégrée sur les changements climatiques](#). *Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* 55(4):490-509.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Trevor J. Barnes. 2011. [A rejoinder: Remembrance of things past](#). *Economic Geography*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1944-8287.2011.01142.x

Gail L Chmura, Lisa Kellman and Glenn R Guntenspergen. 2011. [The greenhouse gas flux and potential global warming feedbacks of a northern macrotidal and microtidal salt marsh](#). *Environmental Research Letters* 6(4). doi:10.1088/1748-9326/6/4/044016

Alison Copeland, Evan Edinger, Rodolphe Devillers, Trevor Bell, Philippe LeBlanc and Joe Wroblewski. 2011. [Marine habitat mapping in support of Marine Protected Area management in a subarctic fjord: Gilbert Bay, Labrador, Canada](#). *Journal of Coastal Conservation*. DOI: 10.1007/s11852-011-0172-1

J.S. Kargel, A.P. Ahlstrøm, R.B. Alley, J.L. Bamber, T.J. Benham, J.E. Box, C. Chen, P. Christoffersen, M. Citterio, J. G. Cogley, H. Jiskoot, G.J. Leonard, P. Morin, T. Scambos, T. Sheldon, and I. Willis. 2011. [Greenland's shrinking ice cover: "fast times" but not that fast](#). *The Cryosphere Discussion* 5:3207–3219.

J. A. Leach, R. D. Moore, S. G. Hinch and T. Gomi. 2011. [Estimation of forest harvesting-induced stream temperature changes and bioenergetic consequences for cutthroat trout in a coastal stream in British Columbia, Canada](#). *Aquatic Sciences - Research Across Boundaries*. DOI: 10.1007/s00027-011-0238-z

Merrin L. Macrae, Zheng Zhang, Micheal Stone, Jonathan S. Price, Richard A. Bourbonniere and Meagan Leach. 2011. [Subsurface mobilization of phosphorus in an agricultural riparian zone in response to flooding from an upstream reservoir](#). *Canadian Water Resources Journal*. DOI: 10.4296/cwrj3604810

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Neil Marchand and Louise Filion. 2011. [False rings in the white pine \(\*Pinus strobus\*\) of the Outaouais Hills, Québec \(Canada\), as indicators of water stress](#). Canadian Journal of Forest Research. DOI: 10.1139/x11-151

Matthew Tonts, Paul Plummer and Misty Lawrie. [Socio-economic wellbeing in Australian mining towns: A comparative analysis](#). Journal of Rural Studies. doi:10.1016/j.jrurstud.2011.10.006

John Zacharias. 2011. [The dynamics of people movement systems in central areas](#). Challenges 2:94-108.

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### **Other “Geographical” News**

**Atlas Examines Plains Region:** The University of Nebraska Press has published a new book entitled the "*Atlas of the Great Plains*." The new atlas, which includes Canada's Prairie provinces, was put together by J. Clark Archer, a geography professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; the late Stephen Lavin, a fellow UNL geographer; and Fred Shelley, a geographer at the University of Oklahoma. [World-Herald](#)

**Virtual Museum of the Burgess Shale:** An online exhibition that looks at all aspects of one of the most famous paleontological sites in the world, the [Burgess Shale](#) in BC's Yoho National Park. Created by the Royal Ontario Museum and Parks Canada, it's a must-see for anyone interested in discovering what life on earth may have been like more than half a billion years ago, and it is an excellent way to "bring" the Burgess Shale into the classroom. [The Burgess Shale](#)

**Book by U.S. Historian Concludes Canada Won the War of 1812:** Safe to say Eliot Cohen may not be getting many invitations from Americans marking the upcoming bicentennial of the War of 1812, though he could find himself an honoured guest at Canadian festivities. The Johns Hopkins University history professor has just published a book that concludes Canada won the war. Most historians have seen the war, launched by the Americans over Britain's policy of stopping and searching U.S. ships bound for Napoleon's France, as a draw. Canadians believe they won because colonial militia and British troops repulsed several invasions aimed at annexing Upper and Lower Canada. [Daily Brew](#)

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### **Some not so “Geographical” News**



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