



GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Toronto's Minelle Mahtani Wins 2011 Glenda Laws Award from the AAG: The [Glenda Laws Award](#) is administered by the Association of American Geographers and endorsed by members of the Institute of Australian Geographers, the Canadian Association of Geographers, and the Institute of British Geographers. The annual award and honorarium recognize outstanding contributions to geographic research on social issues. This award is named in memory of Glenda Laws—a geographer who brought energy and enthusiasm to her work on issues of social justice and social policy. All early to mid-career scholars involved in geographic research on one or more social issues are eligible for this award. Minelle was recognized for her exceptional scholarship on equity, diversity, immigration, and critical cultural geography, as well as her experience with the media and policy sectors in raising awareness of such social issues and the contribution of a geographic perspective towards understanding them. [Minelle Mahtani Website](#)

UNBC's Greg Halseth Helps Kitimat, BC Prepare for Smelter Expansion: With the northwest town of Kitimat prepared for one of the largest industrial expansions in the history of northern B.C., Greg Halseth, a UNBC Geography professor and Canada Research Chair, is poised to help the community make its transition. Rio Tinto Alcan just announced a massive expansion and investment in the town of Kitimat, B.C. The \$3.3 billion US modernization will secure approximately 1000 long term jobs, and 2500 jobs during the construction period. "Although the immediate reaction of many to this investment is excitement," says Dr. Halseth, "I recommend that communities approach such announcements with a critical eye. Kitimat has been a major manufacturing center in the Province for more than 50 years now. This investment by Rio Tinto Alcan secures that role for decades yet to come. However, with massive investment comes both opportunities and challenges." [UNBC News Media](#)

U Toronto's Paul Hess on Pedestrian Issues in Toronto's High-Rise Neighbourhoods: In a city where transit and vehicle congestion dominate transportation debates, pedestrian issues often fall to the background. A recently-released report, [Walkability in Toronto's High-Rise Neighbourhoods](#) by Paul Hess, Associate Professor with the University of Toronto's Department of Geography and Program in Planning, shows that city pedestrians face a lot of difficulties and Toronto has for more pedestrians than it was ever planned for. The report focuses on a number of high-rise neighbourhoods in Toronto's inner suburbs, which share a common layout—high-rise apartment buildings built along fast-moving arterial roads, enclosing residential blocks with single-family dwellings and a school near their centre. [Speak Your Mind](#)

November 2011 Issue of UBC Geographer: The UBC Geography Department November 2011 features several items including: Elvin Wyly speaks at Occupy Vancouver, Mapping occupy Vancouver, Geography Major creates library at Occupy Vancouver; In honour of Occupy Vancouver: a eulogy; Jo Sharp visits UBC Geography; Green Team watching your waste; and Geography Cares. [UBC Geographer 7\(3\)](#)

Update from the UNBC Landscape Ecology Research Group: The final SSHRC Stakeholder Workshop Series: Science to Policy was held at UNBC's [Quesnel River Research Centre](#) (QRRC) last week. The focus of this third workshop was salmon; the other two being on water and climate change. The workshop was attended by 6 UNBC representatives including Drs. Ellen Petticrew & Phil Owens, PhD NRES Candidate Alex Koiter, Katrina Caley, MSc NRES candidate Jocelyn Joe-Strack and Sam Albers (MSc NRES, UNBC '10). The topic brought together stakeholders in the Quesnel watershed, government and business representatives as well as several NGO's. Two local First Nation bands were represented. Erin Robinson (SSHRC Research Associate) facilitated the workshop for the 22 participants over the two day event. [Landscape Ecology Research Group](#)

U Toronto Student Caroline Cormier Named Top Ontario Region Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation Fundraiser in Post Secondary Challenge: CIBC today announced University of Toronto Geography Graduate Student [Caroline Cormier](#) was the top Ontario Region fundraiser in the Post Secondary Challenge. The Challenge inspired Canada's college and university students to raise nearly \$470,000 for breast cancer research, education, awareness and advocacy through the 2011 Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run for the Cure. [Canada Newswire](#)

Laurentian U Geography Department Offers Certificate in Geographic Techniques: The courses that constitute the Certificate in Geographic Techniques provide students with both relevant training and general education. The certificate is designed to equip students with marketable skills by providing a solid background in: cartography, quantitative methods, air photo interpretation, remote sensing and geographical information systems (GIS). The courses leading to the certificate demonstrate how spatially-referenced information can be manipulated to tackle a wide range of location-allocation problems. [Laurentian Certificate in Geographic Techniques](#)

Queen's Geographers Receive Unprecedented Funding for Arctic Research: Queen's-led researchers are expanding their study of how climate change affects the interaction between land and water ecosystems in the High Arctic. A national team led by Geography professors Scott Lamoureux and Melissa Lafrenière focuses on how climate change affects the flow of water, energy, sediment, nutrients and contaminants – all critical components of both land and aquatic systems – to the downstream Arctic marine environment. The Queen's team received \$430,000 to continue work at the hydrological observatory they established eight years ago on Melville Island, near the boundary of Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. This research site, the Cape Bounty Arctic Watershed Observatory, is the longest-running comprehensive field program of its kind in the Arctic. The study is part of the ArcticNet National Centres of Excellence that began in 2003, and is the largest recipient of NCE funding to date. Geography professors Neal Scott and Paul Treitz, and researchers from other Canadian universities and government departments complete the team. [Queen's News](#)

U Toronto Mississauga's Dana Wilson Investigates Root Causes of Crime in Peel Study: There is a correlation between the social and physical characteristics of neighbourhoods, the health of communities and violence and crime. Those are the preliminary findings of a group of researchers at the University of Toronto Mississauga. To be healthy, communities need to be safe, said assistant professor Dana Wilson of UTM's geography department, the study's lead researcher. In some neighbourhoods, it will require an investment in services needed by the most vulnerable including women, children and new immigrants, she said. "Vulnerable people in vulnerable neighbourhoods are at greatest risk when it comes to crime and violence," said Wilson. And though statistics show Peel has the lowest crime rate per capita in the country, crime is a reality in poor neighbourhoods. [Toronto Star](#) | [The Mississauga News](#)

Geographers of the Week: Drs. Jaclyn Cockburn, Noella Gray, Roberta Hawkins, Kate Parizeau and Jennifer Silver; University of Guelph

The Department of Geography at the University of Guelph is undergoing a fast paced rebranding following the recent faculty appointments of Drs. Jaclyn Cockburn, Noella Gray, Roberta Hawkins, Kate Parizeau and Jennifer Silver.

Jaclyn Cockburn: Jaclyn's interests are in past and contemporary, landscape processes and specifically, how environmental variability has modified or changed these process dynamics. As well, She is interested in how our knowledge of past processes is informed through the use of paleoenvironmental proxies. She is also interested in the formation of clastic varve records and the isolation of the different process signals from these records. Jaclyn studies how these high-resolution sedimentary records can be used to evaluate landscape changes through time.

Noella Gray: Noella is interested in the politics of conservation and environmental governance – in how access to natural resources is defined and contested by resource users, experts, civil society and the state. More specifically, she considers how science is incorporated into environmental policy, the politics of scale in marine conservation, and how resource management policies are negotiated under co-management arrangements. She has studied both ecotourism and marine protected areas as examples of conservation interventions. Noella draws upon, and contributes to, three bodies of literature: political ecology, common property, and science and technology studies.

Roberta Hawkins: Roberta is interested in examining the ways in which people and places in the North and the South are connected (or not) through understandings and practices of development. She explores this interest through a few different areas. Consumption-as-development; where she looks at the ways in which everyday acts of 'ethical' consumption in the North are connected to environmental projects and development interventions in the South. Roberta is also interested in examining how development organizations encourage individuals in North America to care about distant people and places through the use of marketing techniques and stories. In addition, Roberta is interested in the proposed solutions to climate change that involve individual sustainable consumption choices, neoliberal conservation strategies and mechanisms that commodify nature.

Kate Parizeau: Kate's research uses waste management practices as a lens through which to interrogate complex systems of social organization and human exchanges with the natural world. This focus allows her to engage issues of social justice, environmental sustainability, and urban systems management. Her most recent research projects have investigated the lives and work of the cartoneros of Buenos Aires, Argentina – urban informal recyclers who sort through curbside trash to make their living. Kate's studies focus on these workers' health, socio-economic status, and access to social resources, drawing on their experiences in order to investigate the economic, political, and spatial rationalities that encourage and maintain high levels of social inequality in a modern city.

Jennifer Silver: Jennifer's academic curiosity and research tends to be occupied with questions of nature and society. How and why do we conceptualize and patrol these categories? What are the most appropriate approaches to living with(in) networks that produce uneven environmental and socioeconomic outcomes? How do culture, politics, and power affect all of the above? Human geography is a stimulating point of entry to these questions because it encourages me to consider a rich variety of evidence in relation to prominent social theory. To date, Jennifer has been most influenced by: political ecology and political economy, theory in environmental governance and property, thinking on economic diversity/more-than-capitalism, and post-humanism.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Shannon Allen. 2011. [Changes in extreme temperature trends in the Greater Toronto Area from 1971 to 2000](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. University of Toronto, Ontario. 72 p. Supervisor: Bill Gough

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Geneviève A. Ali, Caroline L'Heureux, André G. Roy, Marie-Claude Turmel and François Courchesne. 2011. [Linking spatial patterns of perched groundwater storage and stormflow generation processes in a headwater forested catchment](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.8238

Connie A. Chapman, Ian J. Walker, Patrick A. Hesp, Bernard O. Bauer and Robin G.D. Davidson-Arnott. 2011. [Turbulent Reynolds stress and quadrant event activity in wind flow over a coastal foredune](#). Geomorphology. doi:10.1016/j.geomorph.2011.11.015

Valorie A. Crooks, Janet Bristeir, Leigh Turner, Jeremy Snyder, Victoria Casey and Rory Johnston. 2011. [Understanding the Health and Safety Risks for British Columbia's Outbound Medical Tourists](#). Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University.

Jenna Dixon, Eric Y Tenkorang, and Isaac Luginaah. 2011. [Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme: helping the poor or leaving them behind?](#) Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy 29(6):1102-1115.

Hevin Hall. 2011. [Natural building stone composed of light-transmissive lithologies: Impacts on thermal gradients, weathering and microbial colonization](#). Environmental Earth Sciences 62(2):289-297.

Kevin Hall and K.I. Meiklejohn, K.I. 2011. Glaciation in southern Africa and in the sub-Antarctic, In J. Ehlers, P.C. Gibbard, P.D. Hughes (eds.): [Quaternary Glaciations – Extent and Chronology: A Closer Look](#). Elsevier, Amsterdam, Chapter 78, 1081-1085.

Kevin Hall and Colin Thorn. 2011. [The historical legacy of spatial scales in freeze–thaw weathering: Misrepresentation and resulting misdirection](#). Geomorphology 130(1-2):83-90.

Kevin Hall, K.I. Meiklejohn and Bumby, A. 2011. [Marion Island \(sub-Antarctic\) volcanism and glaciation new findings and reconstructions](#). Antarctic Science, 23, 155-163.

Marwan A. Hassan, Ellen L. Petticrew, D.R. Montgomery, A.S. Gottesfeld and John F. Rex. 2011. Salmon as biogeomorphic agents in gravel-bed rivers: The effect of fish on sediment mobility and spawning habitat. In: [Stream Restoration in Dynamic Systems: Scientific Approaches, Analyses, and Tools](#). (Eds.) A. Simon, S.J. Bennett and J. M. Castro. American Geophysical Monograph 194, Geopress, Washington D.C. 337-352.

Chris H. Hugenholtz, Noam Levin, Thomas E. Barchyn And Matthew C. Baddock, 2011. [Remote sensing and spatial analysis of aeolian sand dunes: A review and outlook](#). Earth-Science Reviews. doi:10.1016/j.earscirev.2011.11.006

A.-M. LeBlanc, M. Allard, A.-S. Carbonneau, G.A. Oldenborger, E. L'Hérault, W.E. Sladen, P. Gosselin, and D. Mate. 2011. [Assessing permafrost conditions and landscape hazards in support of climate change adaptation in Pangnirtung, Nunavut](#). Geological Survey of Canada. Open File 6868.

Ellen L. Petticrew, John F. Rex and S.J. Albers. 2011. [Bidirectional delivery of organic matter between freshwater and marine systems: An example from Pacific salmon streams](#). Journal of the North American Benthological Society 30:779–786.

John F. Rex and Ellen L. Petticrew. 2011. [Fine sediment deposition at forest road crossings: an overview and effective monitoring protocol](#). In: Sediment Transport in Aquatic Environments. (Ed) A. J. Manning. InTech Publ. 89-122.

Stephanie A. Prince, Mark S. Tremblay, Denis Prud'homme, Rachel Colley, Michael Sawada and Elizabeth Kristjansson. 2011. [Neighbourhood differences in objectively measured physical activity, sedentary time and body mass index](#). Open Journal of Preventive Medicine 1(3):182-189.

Other “Geographical” News

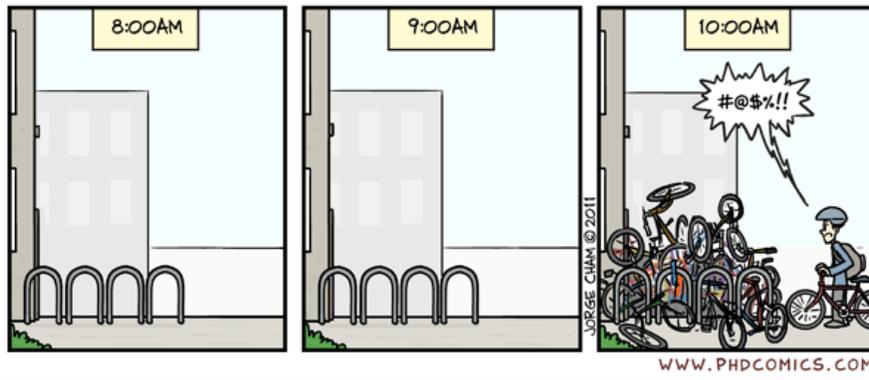
Half Century of Research at the Centre d'études Nordiques: To mark the 50th anniversary of the Centre d'études nordiques (CEN: Centre for Northern Studies), this commentary presents a history of CEN over the last five decades. The socio-political context at the time that CEN was founded is addressed, and the development of the centre over the first two decades of its existence, which was a period of emerging national and international interest in northern research. The subsequent evolution of CEN in terms of its research orientation is then described, and shows the relationship between research priorities in Canada and Québec over this period. This commentary also includes personal reflections based on the experience of Serge Payette, who is a long-time member and former Director of CEN. [Rising to the Challenges](#)

Nunavut Region to Boost Renewable Power to Offset Climate Change: Nunavut, Canada's northernmost territory, is studying ways to boost its use of hydroelectric, wind and solar power to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate climate change, Premier Eva Aariak said. The territory, about the same size as neighboring Greenland, has “abundant” renewable resources, including summer days with 24 hours of sunlight, said Aariak, in an interview yesterday. The government may consider feed-in tariffs and other mechanisms to promote the use of alternative energies, she said. Nunavut, with a population of 33,000, is one of the world's most thinly populated regions and relies primarily on diesel fuel to run generators and heat homes. Using renewable energy sources would reduce the need for fossil fuel shipments that must come from southern Canada by plane or boat because there are no roads or rail links to the region. [Bloomberg Business Week](#)

Climate Change Poses Health Threats in Arctic: As climate change and receding sea ice open new corridors into previously remote communities in the Arctic, residents can expect a wave of social ills and the introduction of diseases that may be as devastating as the Spanish flu was to those living in the north. "A second wave of tumultuous change" is threatening Inuit health, says Sheila Watt-Cloutier, Inuit activist. "The overall invasion of new species, of new tourists, of workers who are on these ships are concerns for everybody living up there in terms of safety, security and health," adds Watt-Cloutier, currently a visiting scholar at Mount Allison University. [CMAJ News](#)

Is Climate Change Altering Humans' Vacation Plans? Plants' and animals' seasonal cycles, such as flowering dates and migration patterns, have shifted in recent decades due to climate change. Now a new study seems to indicate that some human weather-related behavior also is being influenced by global warming. Researchers found peak attendance in seven U.S. national parks that experienced significant increases in mean spring temperatures since 1979 saw shifts in the timing of peak attendance. For example, peak attendance at Grand Canyon National Park shifted from July 4 in 1979 to June 24 in 2008. Over the same period of time at Mesa Verde National Park, peak attendance changed from July 10 to July 1. The average shift was four days, suggesting that park agencies may need to plan for shifts in when users and tourists visit. [EurekAlert!](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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