



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

Brandon U's Derrek Eberts Focuses on Tourism Research: A three-year project to develop tourism in Manitoba has just received \$90,000 in federal funding. The money, which comes from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, will go towards tourism research at Brandon University, in partnership with the province and Travel Manitoba. Research will especially help areas that Travel Manitoba has identified for marketing and expansion, said Derrek Eberts, an associate professor with the university's geography department. Experts will also be brought to Brandon for lectures and workshops. As well, researchers from Brandon University will be able to engage in projects evaluating tourism's impacts in Travel Manitoba's target regions. [Brandon Sun](#)

Concordia U's Patricia Thornton and McGill's Sherry Olson Report on Breastfeeding Saving Babies in 19th-century Montreal: Breastfeeding increased infant survival rates in 19th-century Montreal in two major ways, according to research from Concordia University and McGill University. Mother's milk protected vulnerable infants from food and water contaminated by fecal bacteria, while breastfeeding postponed the arrival of more siblings and that improved the health of mothers as well as their subsequent children. "Infant feeding practices, such as how long to breastfeed, at what age to introduce food supplements and in what season to wean, all influenced infant survival and all were subject to cultural tradition," says first author Patricia Thornton, a professor in the Concordia University Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. "Poverty, high population density, room crowding and contagious diseases all affected death rates among children, yet these effects were nuanced by cultural identity," says co-author Sherry Olson, a professor in the McGill University Department of Geography. Studying 19th-century health in Montreal was compelling for Thornton and Olson, since the city featured three well-defined cultural groups: French Canadians, Irish Catholics and Protestants from Great Britain and Ireland. Each group had their own residential and occupational profile. [HealthCanal.com](#)

Carleton U's Derek Mueller on Sustainable Strategies in Canada's North: The search for sustainable energy and protection for the environment is an important theme in Canada's North these days. In a recent interview on Canada A.M., Derek Mueller, Assistant Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University advised that the Canadian ice shelves are melting in what he suggests is now an irreversible process, due to climate change. This new and shocking environmental reality is causing a variety of responses from different regions. For example, the Minister responsible for the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency recently announced funding for new research into long-term, clean energy initiatives in Yukon. Alternative energy projects such as geothermal, wind, hydro and solar are some of the ideas that will be explored. This type of energy is seen as being key to Yukon's future, given the need for energy in growing sectors while balancing the need to protect the environment. [BLG](#)



Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Pascal Bernatchez and Christian Fraser. 2011. [Evolution of coastal defence structures and consequences for beach width trends, Québec, Canada](#). Journal of Coastal Research. doi.org/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-10-00189.1

Andi Camden, Ron Buliung, Linda Rothman, Colin Macarthur, Andrew Howard. 2011. [The impact of pedestrian countdown signals on pedestrian-motor vehicle collisions: a quasi-experimental study](#). Injury Prevention. doi:10.1136/injuryprev-2011-040173

Alemu Gonsamo and Jing M. Chen. 2011. [Evaluation of the GLC2000 and NALC2005 land cover products for LAI retrieval over Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI 10.5589/m11-039

Mathew J. Novak and Jason A. Gilliland. 2011. [Trading places: A historical geography of retailing in London, Canada](#). Social Science History 35(4):543-570.

Some not so “Geographical” News



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