



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 156, January 5, 2012
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

U Toronto's Emily Gilbert Appointed Interim Vice-Principal at University College: [Emily Gilbert](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Geography & Planning at the University of Toronto, will serve as Interim Vice-Principal at [University College](#) for a six-month term from January 1 through June 30, 2012. She will continue her current appointment as Director of the [Canadian Studies Program](#) during this time as well.

UBC Geography Newsletter: In the December 2011-January 2012 issue of the departmental newsletter the Department of Geography at UBC contains items that feature: UBC Geography MA student, Corin de Freitas's firsthand account of recent research work in Brazil; a department 'technology update'; photos from the GIC tree trimming party; an item on awards presented to staff member Albert Tang, and to outstanding teaching assistants presented to Michael More for his high quality teaching in Geographic Information Science, and Jonathan Peyton for his equally valuable teaching in Human Geography; on a recent doctoral student workshop on the San Juan Islands; and several additional activities by departmental members. [UBC Geographer 7\(4\)](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki Comments that P3s Aren't Always the Ticket for Transit: Public-private partnerships are quickly gaining interest as the model of choice to deliver Toronto's next generation of public transit infrastructure. P3 options are currently being explored for the TTC's Sheppard subway extension and the province-led Eglinton crosstown light rail line. Needless to say, it is imperative that these transit projects are done right. But there is vigorous debate about whether P3s can deliver satisfactory benefits for transit users, workers and taxpayers. Some costly P3 failures, including the government buyout of the underperforming Croydon Tramlink light rail line in London and the bankruptcy of the Las Vegas Monorail P3, have raised questions about the merits of P3s in the transit sector, and the ways that taxpayers are protected when things go wrong. [The Toronto Star](#)

Queen's U's Anne Godlewska's Test Produces Stunning Results: When Queen's University professor Anne Godlewska encountered a large class size last year, her first thought wasn't about how she was going to handle the workload, it was about how she was going to teach her students. "I thought to myself, 'I don't want to teach huge classes of people I never get to know' ... there's just no joy in teaching that way," she said. Instead, she decided to conduct a study and the early results were remarkable. "There has been a significant improvement in student engagement," said Godlewska, noting the drastic difference in data between the first and second semesters with the new model. The most "stunning" results can be seen in student contribution to class discussion, with an increase to 88% from 5%. Also, the number of students showing up unprepared for class decreased about 74%, she added. [Kingston Whig-Standard](#)

U Victoria's Phil Dearden Warns Time is Running Out on Canada's Green Reputation: The tragedy of the reef decline in Thailand extends to the reefs of the world and directly to Ottawa. Canada's dismal failure to meet our Kyoto commitments by such a huge margin is an international disgrace and embarrassment. Adhering to Kyoto commitments would not solve the challenge of global warming, but it is a stepping-stone toward the solution. It is true that Canada's total contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is small, and that the Canadian economy would suffer short-term setbacks in an effort to comply with global standards. But there is also a time when moral and ethical standards, upon which the Canadian people have built a global trust over decades, have to take priority. [Victoria TimesColonist](#)

Concordia U Geographers Present Departmental Video: The Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University has prepared a short video describing the department and the activities of department members. See: [Department Video](#)

Queen's U's Warren Mabee Quoted in Canada Condemned at Home and Abroad: Warren Mabee of the School of Policy Studies/Geography at Queen's University Canada notes that "'Our economy is becoming ever more dependent upon the riches of the oil sands and other energy products. Ultimately, either we'll run out [of these fossil fuels] or the world will decide that it doesn't want them any more. The latter option is much more likely.'" [The Guardian](#). Warren also provided comments in a blog focused on "So, we're out of Kyoto. What next?". [The Globe and Mail](#)

2012 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Wilfrid Laurier University (WLU) and University of Waterloo (UW) are jointly hosting the Canadian Association of Geographers' (CAG) 2012 annual conference and meeting, May 28-June 2, 2012. This event is part of the largest academic gathering in Canada—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.

This is also a time of celebration for the two universities. The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at WLU marked its 50th anniversary in 2011-2012, and the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at UW is doing the same in 2012-2013.

They have chosen "toward integration" as the theme for this year's annual meeting and conference—integration across disciplines, between physical and human geographers, and amid different perspectives. The collaboration of two host universities is the starting point, but they are challenging all geographers to think about the confines of our own work, and work across boundaries that divide in order to learn from one another.

[Call for Abstracts and Special Sessions:](#)

Academics and professionals with a geography-related focus are invited to submit an abstract for CAG 2012: "Toward Integration". The conference begins with an icebreaker event on Monday evening; has oral presentations, posters and special events from Tuesday to Friday; and field trips throughout the conference as well as on Saturday.

Deadline for submission: Feb. 10th, 2012

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Kathi Wilson and Nicolette Cardwell, 2011. [Urban Aboriginal health: Examining inequalities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations in Canada](#). *The Canadian Geographer*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00397.x

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Peter A. Johnson, N. Belblidia and S. 2011. [Neogeographic tools to create open-access data: mapping vacant land parcels in Detroit](#). *URISA Journal* 23(2):33-37.

Krista Jones, Rodolphe Devillers, Yvan Bédard and Olaf Schroth. [Visualizing perceived spatial data quality of 3D objects within virtual globes](#). *Journal of Spatial Information Science*

Sean Robertson. 2011. [Exception to excess: Tactical use of the law by outgroups in bias crime legislation](#). *Law & Social Inquiry*. DOI: 10.1111/j.1747-4469.2011.01275.x

Natasha Roy, Najat Bhiry and James Woollett. 2012. [Environmental change and terrestrial resource use by the Thule and Inuit of Labrador, Canada](#). *Geoarchaeology* 27(1):18–33.

Melissa A. Whaling, Isaac Luginaah, Gregor Reid, Sharereh Hekmat, Amardeep Thind, Joseph Mwangi and John Changalucha. 2011. [Perceptions about probiotic yogurt for health and nutrition in the context of HIV/AIDS in Mwanza, Tanzania](#). *Journal of Health Population and Nutrition*.

Recent Theses and Dissertations.

Shakeel Ahmad. 2011. Sea-Level and Barrier Evolution of Saint Joseph Peninsula, North Gulf of Mexico, Florida from Textural Analysis, Ground Penetrating Radar and Organic Matter Isotope Geochemistry. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Jeff Axisa. 2011. Migration and the Journey to Work in Toronto's Commuter Shed. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Andrew Brennan. 2011. Characterizing the Quaternary Hydrostratigraphy of Buried Valleys using Multi-Parameter Borehole Geophysics, Georgetown, Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Francesca Cardwell. 2011. Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices of Global Environmental Change and Health: Towards Sustainable Behaviour Change? Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Ben Chin. 2011. Simulating Landscapes and National Scale Carbon Fluxes in Canadian Terrestrial Ecosystems Using CN-CLASS. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Bonnie Chow. 2011, Everybody Else Got to Have this Cookie: The Effects of Food Allergen Labels on the Well-Being of Canadians. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Tufayel Chowhury. 2011 Travel Behaviour – Built Environment Nexus: An Investigation in the Content of Halifax Regional Municipality. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Peter Dao. 2011. Reconstruction of Bronze-Age (Mycenaean) Coastal Environments and Anchorage Sites at Kalamianos (Korphos, Greece) Using Geoarchaeological and Geophysical Techniques. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Jenifer Asanin Dean. 2011. Neighbourhood-Level Environmental Determinants of Adolescent Body Weight in Low-Socioeconomic Status Neighbourhoods in Ontario, Canada. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Sarah Dykeman. 2011. Compassionate Care Benefit Pre-Implementation Knowledge Tool Development for Canadian Social Workers: A Qualitative Study. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Daniel Harington. 2011. Newly Emerging Environmental Health Risks in a Risk Society: A Case Study of the Public Perception of Food Allergies. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Naoya Kaneda. 2011. Modelling the Traffic Related Pollution Reduction Through Increased Use Of Hybrid-Electric Vehicles (HEVs) in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Ewe Kielasinka. 2011. The Geography of Urban Arson in Toronto. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Xudong Liu. 2011. Towards a Microsimulation Residential Housing Market Model: Real Estate Appraisal and New Housing Development. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

John MacLachlan. 2011. Analysis of Subglacial Deposits and Landforms in Southern Ontario Using Sedimentology And Geomatics. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Md. Moniruzzaman. 2011. Accessibility and Built Environment Effects on Transit Use. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Emily Nicholas. 2011 Assessing Seasonal Dynamics of Soil CO₂ Efflux Using Continuous Measurements In A Temperate Pine Forest. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Kelsey Norlund. 2011. The Ecology of Geochemistry: Bacterial Sulfur Geochemistry in Mine Waters. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Jessica Pilarczyk. 2011. Foraminiferal Taphonomy as a Paleo-Tsunami and Overwash Indicator in Coastal Environments - Evidence from Oman and the British Virgin Islands. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Unpublished PhD dissertation, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Stacey Puckering. 2011. Analysis of Variable Scale Bedrock Erosional Features in Ontario and Ohio: Improving Understanding of Subglacial Erosional Processes. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Samira Salimi. 2011. Water depth and Salinity Control of Thecamoebian (Testate Amoebae) Assemblages In Cootes Paradise, Southern Ontario, Canada. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

James Sherwood. 2011. Ecohydrological Response to Peatland Drainage and Wildfire. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Jessica Slomka. 2011. Sedimentary Architecture of Shallow and Deep Subsurface Quaternary Sediments, Southern Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Natalie Spina. 2011. Beach Hydrology Implications for Beach Quality, Georgian Bay, Ontario. Unpublished MSc thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Kate Whalen. 2011. Travel Preferences and Choices of University Students and the Role of Active Travel. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Jia Yang. Microsimulating Firmography of Small and Medium Size Business Establishments in the City of Hamilton on the Basis of GIS. Unpublished MA thesis. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Other "Geographical" News

WEHUB Flowchart app: The [Water and Environmental Hub](#) (WEHUB) project is an open cloud-based web platform that aggregates, federates, and connects water data and information with users looking to search, discover, download, analyze, model and interpret water and environmental-based information. By combining water expertise with an open web development approach and an entrepreneurial foundation, the project hopes to spur economic diversification and benefit both public users and the private sector by improving the access to water data and tools for academia, government, industry, NGOs and the general public.

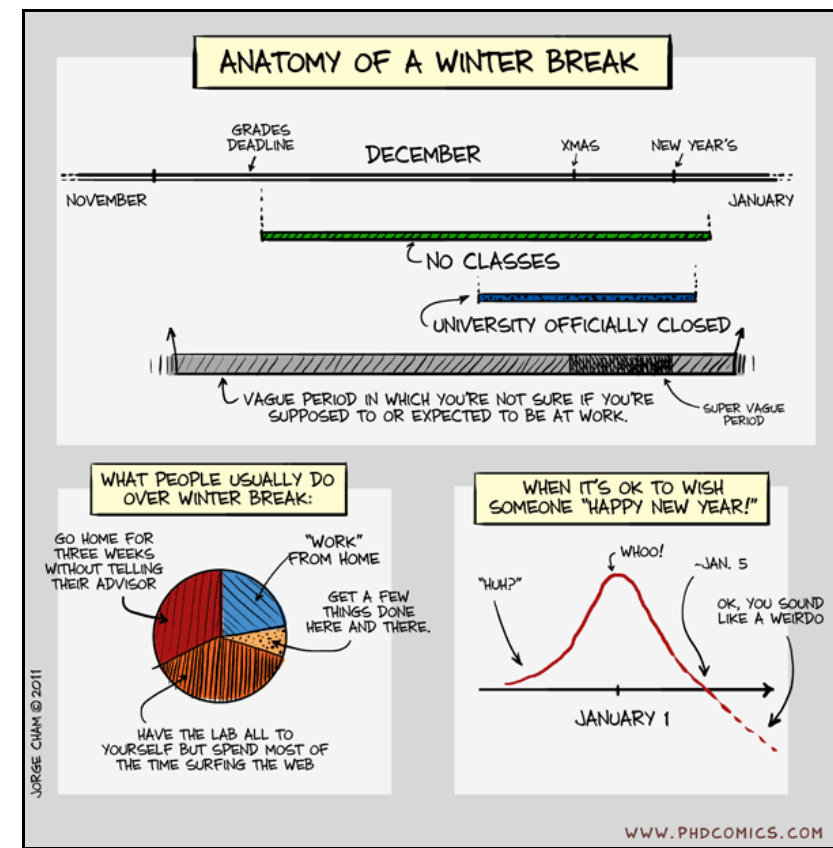
This app takes near real time water data from the Alberta Environment website and makes it available in a graphic format on the smartphone or similar device. Data is available in near real-time from observation stations across Alberta and includes: river flows and levels, lake and reservoir levels, snow data, climate and meteorological data, and water quality data.

The WEHUB Flowchart app is now available "free" for Apple and Android devices:

Apple <http://itunes.apple.com/app/wehub-flowchart/id490165934?mt=8>
Android <https://market.android.com/details?id=com.explor.us.flowchart>

Russian Runoff Freshening Canadian Arctic: A new study allays concerns that melting Arctic sea ice could be increasing the amount of freshwater in the Arctic enough to have an impact on the global "ocean conveyor belt" that redistributes heat around our planet. Oceanographer Jamie Morison detected a previously unknown redistribution of freshwater during the past decade from the Eurasian half of the Arctic Ocean to the Canadian half. Arctic Ocean salinity is similar to what it was in the past, but the Eurasian Basin has become more saline, and the Canada Basin has freshened. In the Beaufort Sea, the water is the freshest it's been in 50 years of record keeping, with only a tiny fraction of that freshwater originating from melting ice and the vast majority coming from Russian river water. [Science Daily](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



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