



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 157, January 11, 2012**  
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**U Toronto's Andre Sorensen on Proactive Planning in Toronto:** A new planning research report that recommends, among other things, pedestrian-only streets in Toronto, is painting a vision for the city that could help its future growth. Commissioned by Peter Milczyn, the Balanced and Bolder report will influence this year's review of Toronto's Official Plan. A key issue in the report, which takes stock of what other countries are doing, is finding a better balance of mixed-use development, which combines residential and commercial space. The "million dollar question," according to Andre Sorensen, an associate professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in geography and urban planning, is: "Do we have the capacity to actually be proactive about planning?" He said the city's planning department has been gutted by retirements and lack of new hiring over the last few years, resulting in a serious shortage of planning resources. [Toronto Star](#)

**UVic Geographers Map Wellness in British Columbia:** Residents of Richmond claim to have the best food security in the province while those in the Okanagan or Central Vancouver Island are more likely to suffer from chronic illness, and only 68% of youth in school indicate that they eat an evening meal with a parent four or more times a week. These are just some of the results determined by University of Victoria geographers in the second edition of the [British Columbia Atlas of Wellness](#). A broader reflection on wellness in the second edition includes food security and nutrition, and being free of chronic conditions. "Food security is a growing issue," says Dr. Peter Keller, one of the authors and faculty member in the Department of Geography at UVic. "Our research revealed that residents in Richmond claim to have the best food security in BC, and that four out of five BC respondents avoid foods because of content reasons." [UVic Media Release](#)

**Buried Trees Discovered in Bay of Fundy Saltmarsh:** Standing trees covered by inter-tidal muds were discovered during drainage excavations beside Bay of Fundy. Samples recovered and examined by Colin Laroque at Mount Allison University may be the remains of a 3,000 to 4,000 year old forest. [CBC Podcast](#)

**U Calgary's Brian Moorman to Speak on Remote Sensing of Permafrost, Ground Ice and Glaciers:** Brian Moorman, professor and Head of the Geography Department at the University of Calgary, is scheduled to present a talk on the *Remote Sensing of Permafrost, Ground Ice and Glaciers: New Ways to Monitor a Changing Arctic* on January 18, 2012, as part of the Arctic Institute of North America's Arctic Speaker Series. The large extent and rate of recent landscape alteration provides challenges to documenting and measuring it and understanding the implications. Examples of new remote sensing and geophysical techniques will be used to demonstrate how fast changes are occurring. [AINA Speaker Series](#)

**U Toronto's Andre Sorensen Warns About Transit Secrecy:** Government secrecy around regional rail transit opens the door to critics, warns a University of Toronto scholar. Transit planners propose seeking a private partner to build and operate the \$818-million system that opens in 2017. They refuse to release a report detailing trade-offs involved. "I think value-for-money reports should be released at this point so that they can be fulsomely debated and discussed in public," said Matti Siemiatycki, an assistant geography professor who studies public-private partnerships (called P3s). "That hasn't typically been done. This has challenged public-private partnerships. I think it's incumbent on those who plan these to be as transparent as possible. "What is the trade-off being made here? And what are the numbers? How much is it costing for that risk transfer?" [The Record.com](#)

**Mount Allison U's Brad Walters Presents at Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen:** Geography and environment professor Dr. Brad Walters has been invited to Denmark to be a keynote speaker at an international seminar on climate change. The conference, called Waterworlds, takes place at the University of Copenhagen and will explore the connections between climate and society. Walters' invitation to the conference was in part sparked by his latest book (see below). The Copenhagen conference focuses on methodologies for research on climate society issues, which fits neatly with Walters' own research interests. In addition to the process of research, Walters also studies tropical human ecology. His doctoral studies explored coastal communities in the Philippines and their use of and impact on tropical mangrove forests. His latest project examines upland forests and land use change in St. Lucia, a small island nation in the Caribbean. [Mount Allison News](#)

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Alexander C.E Aylett. 2011. [The urban governance of climate change: a comparative socio-institutional analysis of transformative urban responses to climate change in Durban \(South Africa\) and Portland \(OR, USA\)](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Jessica Anne Dempsey. 2011. [Making markets, making biodiversity: understanding global biodiversity politics](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Pablo Mendez. 2011. [Ambiguity at home: unauthorized geographies of housing in Vancouver](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Patrick Vince Oabel. 2011. [Workers of the mill: local labour market change and restructuring of the sugar industry in northern Negros Occidental, Philippines 1946-2008](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Jonathan Wynne Peyton. 2011. [Unbuilt environments: unrealized geographies of energy and enterprise in the Stikine](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

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



Harald Bathelt and Ben Spigel. 2012. [The spatial economy of North American trade fairs](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00396.x

Jesse Nielsen, Bram Noble, and Michael Hill. 2012. [Wetland assessment and impact mitigation decision support framework for linear development projects: The Louis Riel Trail, Highway 11 North project, Saskatchewan, Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2011.00398.x

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Trevor J. Barnes. 2012. [Reopke Lecture in economic geography: notes from the underground: Why the history of economic geography matters: the case of central place theory](#). Economic Geography 88(1):1-26.

Emilie S. Cameron. 2011. [Securing Indigenous politics: A critique of the vulnerability and adaptation approach to the human dimensions of climate change in the Canadian Arctic](#). Global Environmental Change.

Patrick Forest. 2012. [Transferring bulk water between Canada and the United States: more than a century of transboundary inter-local water supplies](#). Geoforum 43(1):14-24.

Oceana P. Francis, Gleb G. Panteleev and David E. Atkinson. 2011. [Ocean wave conditions in the Chukchi Sea from satellite and in situ observations](#). Geophysical Research Letters 38(L24610). doi:10.1029/2011GL0498

Allan Frei, Marco Tedesco, Shihyan Lee, James Foster, Dorothy K. Hall, Richard Kelly, David A. Robinson. 2011. [A review of global satellite-derived snow products](#). Advances in Space Research

Simone Rodrigues Freitas, Leonardo de Bem Lignani and Diogo Carvalho Cabral. 2011. [Influence of landscape features on forest maturity: the case of a fragmented landscape in the Serra do Mar coastal forest in Brazil](#). Natureza & Conservação 9(2):194-199.

Michael Fritz, Sebastian Wetterich, Lutz Schirrmeister, Hanno Meyer, Hugues Lantuit, Frank Preusser and Wayne H. Pollard. 2011. [Eastern Beringia and beyond: Late Wisconsinan and Holocene landscape dynamics along the Yukon Coastal Plain, Canada](#). Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology.

Nicholas J. Gralewicz, Trisalyn A. Nelson and Michael A. Wulder. 2011. [Spatial and temporal patterns of wildfire ignitions in Canada from 1980 to 2006](#). International Association of Wildland Fire.

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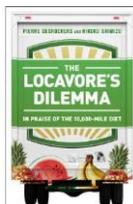
Victor Konrad and John Everitt. 2011. [Borders and 'Belongers': Transnational identities, border security, and cross-border socio-economic integration in the United States borderlands with Canada and the British Virgin Islands](#). *Comparative American Studies* 9(4):288-308.

Lindsay Miller, Xiaohong Xu, Amanda Wheeler, Dominic Odwa Atari, Alice Grgicak-Mannion and Isaac Luginaah. 2011. [Spatial variability and application of ratios between BTEX in two Canadian cities](#). *TheScientificWorldJOURNAL* 11:2536-2549.

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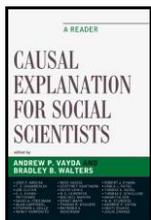
## New Books

Pierre Desrochers and Hiroko Shimizu. 2012. **The Locavore's Dilemma: In Praise of the 10,000-mile Diet**. Public Affairs/Perseus Books Group.



University of Toronto geography professor Pierre Desrochers and economist Hiroko Shimizu argue in their forthcoming book, [The Locavore's Dilemma: In Praise of the 10,000-mile Diet](#) that the locavore ethos is little more than a well-meaning marketing strategy that distracts from global food problems. In "The Locavore's Dilemma", they explain the history, science and economics of food supply to reveal what locavores miss or misunderstand: the real environmental impacts of agricultural production; the drudgery of subsistence farming; and the essential role large-scale, industrial producers play in making food more available, varied, affordable and nutritionally rich than ever before in history. They show how eliminating agriculture subsidies and opening up international trade, not reducing food miles, is the real route to sustainability; and why eating globally, not only locally, is the way to save the planet. [The Bukowski Agency](#)

Brad Walters. 2011. **Causal Explanation for Social Scientists: A Reader**. AltaMira Press.



Brad Walters, of the Department of Geography and Environment at Mount Allison University, has co-edited with Andrew Vayda of Rutgers a book entitled [Causal Explanation for Social Scientists: A Reader](#). The selected readings, all illuminating causal explanation for social scientists will appeal to those doing applied research on practical problems as well as those seeking mainly to satisfy their curiosity about the causes of whatever events or types of events interest them. It argues that scientists may benefit by taking into account key insights from philosophy and history when doing their research. The premise of the book has caused a stir in academic circles because it challenges some of the accepted tenets of how to best do research.

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## 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.

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

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**

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## Other “Geographical” News

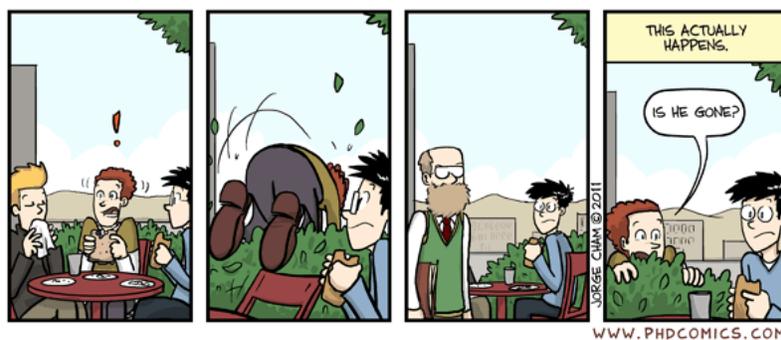
**Canadian Pamphlets and Broadsides Collection:** Circus posters, exhibition notices, farm land auction broadsides are just a few of the items in this collection from the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library at the University of Toronto. This site provides access to over 590 broadsides and 2,600 pamphlet titles. The collection contains items printed in Canada, by Canadian authors, or about Canadian subjects. Users can search the collection by language, author, and keyword. Of course, browsing around by subject is encouraged as well. [Canadian Pamphlets and Broadsides](#)

**Transportation Library Menu Collection:** To fly the friendly skies in the 1950s and 1960s across the continent was quite an experience. To say nothing of the possible turbulence, the culinary offerings in flight could be quite outstanding. The late George M. Foster was there at the beginning of such pioneering commercial air travel. This digital collection from the Northwestern University Library allows users to look at these items in all of their glorious detail. After clicking on "View the Contents" visitors can make their way through menus from Air Canada, Cathay Pacific, United Airlines, and so on.

[Transportation Library Menu](#)

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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>