



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Brock U's Alun Hughes Leads Readers to Thorold, Where Businesses and Haircuts Converge with History: Time to expand horizons and go to Thorold. The impetus for the arduous, seven-kilometre journey from downtown to downtown came courtesy of the always helpful Alun Hughes, a Brock University geography professor with an abiding interest in local history. In a note to The Standard, Hughes, a Thorold resident, suggested checking out the latest display at Ken's Barber Shop. Ken Fearnley is an avid collector of, well, just about anything, and his found treasures are frequently placed in the window sill of his shop for all to see. [The Standard](#)

Université Montréal - TANDEM: projet d'échange par Skype entre étudiants: Le projet Tandem est un partenariat entre le Département de géographie de l'UdeM et l'Université du Minnesota sous la forme d'un projet d'échange par SKYPE. À l'heure actuelle, 7 étudiants du Département de géographie de l'UdeM sont jumelés à 9 étudiants du Minnesota étudiant la langue française. À l'aide de Skype, ils échangent avec eux sur la thématique de la gestion de l'eau (l'eau virtuelle, l'économie associée à l'eau, l'empreinte écologique de l'eau etc.). Les objectifs sont de permettre à un étudiant anglophone de parler français, à un étudiant francophone de parler anglais et d'encourager l'échange d'idées entre universités. [TANDEM](#)

Memorial U Hosts Post-Doctoral Fellow Rachel Hirsch: Dr. Rachel is a partner in an innovative project, the first of its kind in Canada, focused on working together with community members, the Nain Inuit Community Government and the Nunatsiavut Government to expand Nain's community freezer program to include a youth outreach component focused on intergenerational skills, knowledge, and values exchange and to evaluate the success of this environmental health intervention by drawing on techniques in participatory program evaluation. [Memorial Geography News](#)

UNBC's PhD Candidate Matt Beedle Presents YouTube Tour of Castle Creek Glacier: NRES Geography PhD candidate Matt Beedle takes you on a tour of Castle Creek Glacier where he and supervisor Dr. Brian Menounos are conducting a comprehensive study of the current state and future fate of glaciers in BC and Alberta. For UNBC students and researchers, the world is the classroom. [Ice Breaking Research](#)

U Toronto's Matthew Farish on 'Need-to-Know, On Area 51,': For two days in 1996, the most compelling spectacle staged in Nevada was not the exploding, pina colada-fragranced volcano in front of the Mirage Casino, but an extended highway dedication ceremony. In February, Nevada's Transportation Board had approved a new name for State Route 375 after hearing supportive "testimony from a local gadfly who calls himself Merlin and says he was born on a flying saucer." [The Toronto Review of Books](#)

UVic's PDF Dan Shugar Investigates How Earthquake-Triggered Avalanche Altered Glacier

Flow: Landslides are common in areas with mountain glaciers and could affect the movement of glaciers. Dan Shugar, a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Geography Department at the University of Victoria, and his colleagues used satellite radar imagery and numerical modeling to investigate the effects of earthquake-triggered avalanches on the Black Rapids Glacier in central Alaska. Three avalanches were triggered there by the 2002 magnitude 7.9 Denali earthquake. They found that after the avalanches, ice velocity initially increased by up to 14% in the area above the debris-covered area and by 44% in the debris-covered area. The lower margin of the debris sheet sped up by more than 100%. [JGR Editor's Highlight](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ellen Desjardins, John Lubczynski and Marc Xuereb. 2011. [Incorporating policies for a healthy food system into land use planning: The case of Waterloo Region, Canada](#). Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development 2(1):127-139.

Christine Embleton-Hamann and Olav Slaymaker. 2012. [The Austrian Alps and paraglaciation](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography. DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-0459.2011.00447.x

Roberta Hawkins. 2012. [Shopping to save lives: Gender and environment theories meet ethical consumption](#). Geoforum. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoforum.2011.12.009

Catrina A. MacKenzie. 2012. [Trenches like fences make good neighbours: Revenue sharing around Kibale National Park, Uganda](#). Journal of Nature Conservation. doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2011.08.006

Catrina A. Mackenzie and Peter Ahabyona. 2012. [Elephants in the garden: Financial and social costs of crop raiding](#). Ecological Economics. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolecon.2011.12.018

Eric Gallaway, Alan S. Trenhaile, Maria T. Cioppa and Robert G. Hatfield. 2012. [Magnetic mineral transport and sorting in the swash-zone: Northern Lake Erie, Canada](#). Sedimentology. DOI: 10.1111/j.1365-3091.2012.01323.x

Gregory K. McCullough, Stephen J. Page, Raymond H. Hesslein, Michael P. Stainton, Hedy J. Kling, Alex G. Salki and David G. Barber. 2012. [Hydrological forcing of a recent trophic surge in Lake Winnipeg](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2011.12.012

Florin Pendea and G. L. Chmura. 2012. [High resolution record of carbon accumulation rates during boreal peatland initiation](#). Biogeosciences Discussions. 9:1115-1128.

André Robert and Thang Tran. 2012. [Mean and turbulent flow fields in a simulated ice-covered channel with a gravel bed: some laboratory observations](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3211

Dan H. Shugar, Bernhard T. Rabus, John J. Clague and Denny M. Capps. 2012. [The response of Black Rapids Glacier, Alaska, to the Denali earthquake rock avalanches](#). Journal of Geophysical Research 117, F01006. doi:10.1029/2011JF002011

Other “Geographical” News

Canadian Permafrost Holds Clues to Climate Change Adaptation: Thirty-thousand-year-old bison bones discovered in permafrost at a Canadian goldmine are helping scientists unravel the mystery about how animals adapt to rapid environmental change. The bones play a key role in a world-first study which analyses special genetic modifications that turn genes on and off, without altering the DNA sequence itself. These 'epigenetic' changes can occur rapidly between generations – without requiring the time for standard evolutionary processes. Such epigenetic modifications could explain how animal species are able to respond to rapid climate change. The team of researchers measured epigenetic modifications in 30,000-year-old permafrost bones from the Yukon region in Canada, and compared them to those in modern-day cattle, and a 30-year-old mummified cow from New Zealand. [EuerkAlert!](#)

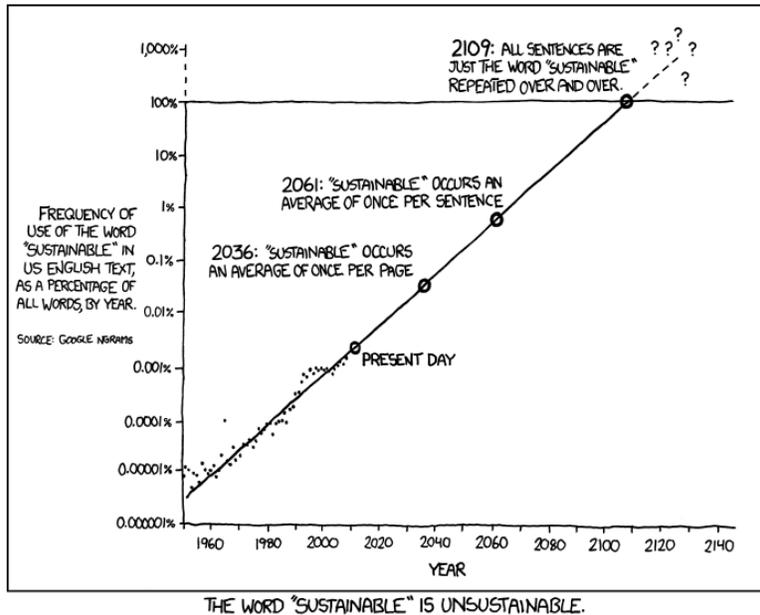
Parks Canada Walks Away from National Park Plan: Parks Canada has abandoned its feasibility assessment, and is stepping away from plans to create a national park in the South Okanagan-Similkameen. On its website, Parks Canada says it "respects the position of the Government of British Columbia regarding the creation of a national park reserve in the South Okanagan-Lower Similkameen Valley and recognizes that it cannot proceed without the support of the Government of British Columbia." The controversial project was first pitched in 2003 and has been hotly debated ever since but in December, B.C. Minister of Environment Terry Lake announced the province would not support the proposed park. "While the feasibility study determined a national park reserve was feasible, it also recognized there was a large contingent of people opposed to the initiative," said Lake in a letter to park proponents. [CBC News](#)

How do You Measure the World’s Largest Cities? Determining the world’s largest city shouldn’t be too complicated, right? Do a census, count up the people and be done with it. The city with the largest number gets the title: “world’s largest city.” But coming to that conclusion can be messy because what defines a “city” isn’t as clear-cut as you might imagine. With no international standard for measuring a city, determining its size is a challenge. Three scholars who in 2009 compared eight different lists of top cities by population, found there were 30 “top 20 cities” in total. [SmartPlanet](#)

Mountain Weather Resource: Mountain-Forecast.com provides computer-generated, peak and elevation-specific forecasts and current conditions for mountains all over the world. The developers note that the weather algorithms used are thoroughly tested and proven to at thousands of mountain ski resorts; however, the database of mountain locations may contain errors at this early stage. [Mountain-Forecast](#)

Global Warming Caused by Greenhouse Gases Delays Natural Patterns of Glaciation: Unprecedented levels of greenhouse gases in Earth's atmosphere are disrupting normal patterns of glaciation. Earth's current warm period that began about 11,000 years ago should give way to another ice age within about 1,500 years, according to accepted astronomical models. However, current levels of carbon dioxide are trapping too much heat in the atmosphere to allow Earth to cool as it has in its prehistoric past in response to changes in Earth's orbital pattern. "We haven't seen this high concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere for several million years," Channell said. "All bets are off." [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News



[xkcd](#)

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