



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Geography Degree Program Approved at Algoma University:** Algoma University has been approved to offer a four-year honours bachelor of arts in geography degree, starting in September 2012. The new program will be organized into four major thematic areas: physical geography, human geography, human-environmental studies, and geomatics. Students going into the geomatics stream will have opportunities to gain real-world experience through practicum and co-op placements at the geomatics-focused branch of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, the Community Geomatics Centre, and the Health Informatics Research Institute, which are all located on Algoma's campus. The new program will grow student numbers to between 60 and 80 geography majors by 2017. [Northern Ontario Business](#) | [The Sault Star](#) | [SooToday.com](#)

**York U's Robin Roth Offers Higher Education to Refugees:** Every day, hundreds of young people from ethnic minority groups in Burma (Myanmar) flee persecution and violence to live in refugee camps dotting the border with Thailand. A pilot project funded by York's Academic Innovation Fund is working to bring University-level liberal arts courses directly to the students in the camps. "The project, 'Borderless Education: Intercultural Learning for Refugees', gives students at York University an opportunity to take a course, while migrant and refugee Burmese students who are half a world away in camps on the Thai-Burma border take the same course," says York geography Professor Robin Roth, the course instructor. Roth, who is a professor of geography in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, is a political ecologist with experience in Thailand. [yFile](#)

**UBC's Dan Moore on Glaciers, BC Hydro's Melting 'Batteries':** It's only been two years since Dan Moore last visited Bridge Glacier, but things have changed. The UBC geography professor specializes in hydrology -- the movement, distribution and quality of water -- but one of his major research interests is how melting glaciers will impact streamflows in the regions they inhabit. Since 2005, he and members of his research team have been monitoring Bridge Glacier as part of their work with the Canada Cryospheric Network. It's not clear exactly how Bridge Glacier's retreat will impact the amount of electricity that can be generated downstream. But according to some scientists, it's becoming more apparent that we should start planning for less. [The Tyee](#)

**UBC Geographer Newsletter:** The February 2011 issue of the UBC Department of *Geographer* newsletter features: UBC Geography PhD student, [Rosemary Collard](#), who describes her experience researching wildlife capture for the international exotic pet trade out of, and in, southern Mexico and Mexico City, northern Guatemala, and northwestern Belize; a review of the AGU 2011 conference by MSc student Holly Buehler; an item on [Jamie Peck](#) focusing on his receipt of the 2011 British International Studies Association International Political Economy Group Book Prize; and, an interview with long-serving staff member Jeanne Yang. [UBC Geographer 7\(5\)](#)

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**Brock U's Hugh Gayler on Enticing Food Stores to Locate Downtown:** With nearly every Niagara municipality scrambling to bring more people to their downtowns, the idea of a grocery store being needed as a draw has been discussed repeatedly. Retired Brock University urban geography professor Hugh Gayler said there's a reason grocery stores abandoned downtowns decades ago. "In St. Catharines, there were three or four grocery stores downtown until the 1960s," he said. "Back then, downtown was the local shopping centre. The population was within walking distance." That all changed however, in the second half of the last century. The suburbs became the place to live and downtown shopping areas were replaced with malls. "People suburbanized, families got smaller and places like downtown St. Catharines lost about two-thirds of its population," Gayler said. "Of course, grocery stores suburbanized with them." "Stores are not stupid. They rely on a certain number of people to make the store profitable." Using downtown Toronto as an example, Gayler said large grocery stores can be successful, but it takes massive populations. In Niagara, he feels small grocery stores could be the answer. [Niagara Falls Review](#)

**Queen's U's Mark Rosenberg on Problems Associated with Canada's Population Boom:** Cities are trying to cope with all that accompanies population increase, including upgrades to aging water and sewer pipes, as well as providing water and electricity to potential commercial, industrial and residential land. "It's not necessarily a problem that's unique to the largest cities. The difference is the scale," said Mark Rosenberg, a geography professor from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. "The old inner-city infrastructure is relatively older and more difficult to replace." The growth in cities has occurred mainly around the edges, suggesting that urban sprawl has become the norm in the growth of Canadian cities. There is finite space in the core to increase population, while there is more space, and usually transit and rail routes, reaching outside the urban core to suburban communities. "What happens with growing cities is as they grow . . . in essence where the city can produce housing for them. Whether you believe if it's supply driven or demand driven, it doesn't matter," said Rosenberg. [National Post](#) | [Calgary Herald](#) | [Windsor Star](#) | [Canada.com](#)

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### **Geographer of the Week: Dr. Adam Yates, University of Western Ontario**

Dr. [Adam Yates](#), recently joined the Department of Geography at the University of Western Ontario as an Assistant Professor. His research interest focus on three complementary and interactive avenues grounded within the field of water science: description of natural and anthropogenic characteristics of aquatic landscapes; development of techniques for assessment of aquatic ecosystems; and, assessment of the effects of human modification of the environment on aquatic ecosystems.

Adam is actively recruiting graduate students in pursuing: a PhD, related to the [Grand River Watershed Project](#); an MSc, working on the [Lower Lakes Tributaries Project](#); or, an MSc, focused on the [Tobacco Creek Model Watershed](#).

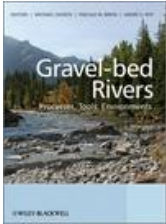
Yates AG, Culp JC, and Chambers PA. 2011. [Estimating nutrient production from human activities in subcatchments of the Red River, Manitoba](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research, doi:10.1016/j.jglr.2011.04.009.

Yates AG, and Bailey RC. 2011. [Effects of taxonomic group, spatial scale and descriptor on the relationship between human activity and stream biota](#). Ecological Indicators 11:759-771.

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## New Book

Michael Church, Pascale Biron and Andre Roy (Editors). 2012. [Gravel Bed Rivers: Processes, Tools, Environments](#). Wiley. ISBN: 978-0-470-68890-8



**Gravel-Bed Rivers: Processes, Tools, Environments** presents a definitive review of current knowledge of gravel-bed rivers. Each chapter in the book was specifically commissioned to represent areas in which recent progress has been made in the field. The topics covered also represent a coherent progression through the principal areas of the subject (hydraulics; sediment transport; river morphology; tools and methods; applications of science).

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Rebecca Barker and Douglas J. King. 2012. [Blanding's turtle \(\*Emydoidea blandingii\*\) potential habitat mapping using aerial orthophotographic imagery and object based classification](#). Remote Sensing 4:194-219.

Susan A. Csiszar, Miriam L. Diamond and Louis J. Thibodeaux. 2012. [Modeling urban films using a dynamic multimedia fugacity model](#). Chemosphere. doi.org/10.1016/j.chemosphere.2011.12.044

Jamey Essex. 2012. [Idle hands are the devil's tools: The geopolitics and geoeconomics of hunger](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 102(1):191-207.

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## Other "Geographical" News

**Council on Undergraduate Research:** The mission of the Council of Undergraduate Research (CUR) is to "support and promote high-quality undergraduate student-faculty collaborative research and scholarship." CUR disseminates some of its work and findings through the Council of Undergraduate Research Quarterly (CURQ). Visitors to this site can browse through articles like "Putting Undergraduate Research on the Map for Women," and "Undergraduate Research on Writing: Benefits to Faculty and Curriculum Development." [CUR Website](#)

**Supercourse - Epidemiology, the Internet, and Global Health:** Supercourse is "a repository of lectures on global health and prevention designed to improve the teaching of prevention." The group's network of experts have produced well over 5,000 lectures in 31 languages. First-time visitors may wish to click on the Lecture of the Week on the homepage. Visitors can also search the lectures, where they will find a range of topics from "Urbanisation and spatial inequalities in health in Brazil and India" to "A Simple Model for Improving Global Health Education." [Supercourse](#)

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**The Decreasing Number of Studies with Negative Results:** Daniele Fanelli analysed over 4,600 papers published in all disciplines between 1990 and 2007, measuring the frequency of papers that, having declared to have “tested” a hypothesis, reported a positive support for it. In his paper describing the results of his analyses entitled “[Negative results are disappearing from most disciplines and countries](#)” he provides evidence appearing to show that research is becoming less pioneering and/or that the objectivity with which results are produced and published is decreasing. [Eloquentscience.com](#)

**Google Earth Ocean Terrain Receives Major Update:** The newest version of Google Earth includes more accurate imagery in several key areas of ocean using data collected by research cruises over the past three years. The Google map now matches the map used in the research community, which makes the Google Earth program much more useful as a tool for planning cruises to uncharted areas. For example, the updated, more precise data corrects a grid-like artifact on the seafloor that was misinterpreted as evidence of the lost city of Atlantis off the coast of North Africa. Through several rounds of upgrades, Google Earth now has 15 percent of the seafloor image derived from shipboard soundings at 1-km resolution. [ScienceDaily](#)

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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>