



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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UBC Okanagan Geographers Develop Narrative Concept for Food Mapping: A stroll through just about any grocery store shows just how much our food supply has gone international. Human geography student Shayne Wright and Jon Corbett, assistant professor of Community, Culture and Global Studies at UBC's Okanagan campus believe people not only want to think about where their food comes from, but will want to share foodie thoughts and actively discuss their interests through a specially designed website they have created. "We can all agree food has become globalized. Even here in the Okanagan where we produce so much," says Wright who wanted to develop his thesis on mapping out food sources to be interactive with the public. So together with Corbett, a unique mapping idea was born. "We came up with the idea of a narrative map," says Corbett. "It's like an instant-messaging map." To get in on the conversation, go to <http://www.communityfood.ca/>. The mapping is being done in partnership with the Central Okanagan Food Policy Council and the Interior Health Authority and is funded by UBC's Institute for Healthy Living and Chronic Disease Prevention and the Geomatics for Informed Decisions network. [UBC Media Releases](#)

UVic's Dennis Jelinski Leads Project Studying Interactions Between Mountain Caribou and Predators: Help is on the way for the mountain caribou, as 19 animals from northern B.C. have been transferred to join a threatened herd in the East Kootenays. The new caribou are from a healthy donor herd near Dease Lake, and have been fitted with GPS radio collars to track their movements. Wolves and cougars in the recipient area have also been GPS radio collared. Scientists led by Dr. Dennis Jelinski at the University of Victoria's Laboratory for Landscape and Ecosystem Ecology will be working with provincial biologists to study the interactions between the caribou and local predators, better informing future decisions on their management. The project was aided in Dease Lake by members of the Tahltan First Nation and in the East Kootenay by members of the Ktunaxa First Nation, in whose traditional territory the donor and recipient herds respectively dwell. [BC Newsroom](#)

Carleton U's Jill Wigle Collaborating on Comparative "Greenbelt" Governance Research: Assistant Professor Jill Wigle is currently collaborating on a SSHRC-funded research project on comparative "greenbelt" governance and related processes of socio-spatial appropriation and management in Mexico City and Ottawa with Priscilla Connolly, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Sociology and the Master's Programme in Planning and Metropolitan Policy at the Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana (UAM) in Mexico City. In April 2012, Professor Connolly will visit Carleton University and begin the Ottawa part of the research, along with one of the Mexican Research Assistants working on the project, Hector Hidalgo Paez. DGES graduate students, Andrea Carrion, Gary Martin and Chris Bisson are also participating in the project as Research Assistants. In Ottawa, the project will focus on the city's greenbelt, while in Mexico City the project will look at the governance of informality in the city's largest remaining conservation zone which now also represents its southern urbanizing periphery. [gLoeb Xpress](#)

Carleton U's Distinguished Research Professor Fraser Taylor talks about "New Cartographers":

We see them every day, popping up on our Twitter feeds, filtered through blogs, or even scattered throughout the New York Times: maps portraying not the usual locations or destinations, but data. From people's kisses in Toronto, to the concentration of pizza joints in New York, to the number of women who ride bikes, to the likelihood of being killed by a car in any given American city, the list of lenses through which we can now view our cities and neighborhoods goes on, thanks to data-mapping geeks. "The map user has now become the map creator," is how Fraser Taylor put it to me in an interview. The director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University, Taylor is one of the world's leading cartographers, standing as the director of the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping and a member of the United Nations Expert Group on Global Geographic Information Management as well as a host of other major international mapping organizations. He describes what's going on as an enormous cultural shift from a previous era when the mapping of our cities (or countries, or world, for that matter) was placed mainly in the hands of government mapping authorities. [BMW Guggenheim Lab Blog](#)

Queen's U's Warren Mabee on Thunder Bay Wind Farm Projects: The Big Thunder wind farm on the Norwester Escarpment remains in the planning stage, A renewable energy expert says changes to Ontario's Green Energy Act could open the door to new challenges for wind farm developers from local residents who oppose their construction. The government plans to give municipalities more say in future developments. Warren Mabee, who teaches geography and policy studies at Queens University, said he won't be surprised to see some communities launch challenges of existing projects. "I think that by saying future projects will be — maybe — planned or reviewed, with a little bit more municipal oversight, opens the door for the idea that maybe we can go back," Mabee said. [CBC News](#)

Carleton U MSc student Anna Crawford, Conducts Research on Icebreaker CCGS Amundsen:

Any field work seems to come with its share of stories, adventures and complications to overcome. The time that Anna spent on-board the CCGS Amundsen last October was no different. She boarded the icebreaker off the coast of Nunavut after traveling via Yellowknife and Kugluktuk to joining a project funded in part by ArcticNet and the Canadian Ice Service. Her research looks at the 'on-ice' portion of the ice island. At each site an ablation stake was installed, ice thickness measurements were taken and a GPS tracking beacon set up – to give ourly updates of the ice islands' positions. [gLoeb Xpress](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Trevor J. Barnes and Claudio Mincab. 2012. [Nazi spatial theory: the dark geographies of Carl Schmitt and Walter Christaller](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2011.653732

Martin J. Bunch, Vasantha Kumaran and R. Joseph. 2012. [Using Geographic Information Systems \(GIS\) for spatial planning and environmental management in India: Critical considerations](#). International Journal of Applied Science and Technology 2(2):40-54.

Thibault Coulombier, Urs Neumeier and Pascal Bernatchez. 2012. [Sediment transport in a cold climate salt marsh \(St. Lawrence Estuary, Canada\), the importance of vegetation and waves](#). Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science. Doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2012.02.014

- David W. Edgington and Roger Hayter. 2012. "[Glocalization](#)" and regional hHeadquarters: Japanese electronics firms in the ASEAN region. Annals of the Association of American Geographers DOI:10.1080/00045608.2011.653731
- Jessica L. Fitterer, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Nicholas C. Coops and Michael A. Wulder. 2012. [Modelling the ecosystem indicators of British Columbia using Earth observation data and terrain indices](#). Ecological Indicators 20:151–162.
- Jill E. Harvey, Dan J. Smith, Sarah Laxton, J. Desloges and Sandra Allen. 2012. [Mid-Holocene glacier expansion between 7500-4000 cal. yr BP in the British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada](#). The Holocene. DOI: 10.1177/0959683612437868
- Zhifeng Liua, Chunyang Hea, Qiaofeng Zhang, Qingxu Huang and Yang Yang. 2012. [Extracting the dynamics of urban expansion in China using DMSP-OLS nighttime light data from 1992 to 2008](#). Landscape and Urban Planning
- A. S. Medeiros, C. E. Friel, S. A. Finkelstein and R. Quinlan. 2012. [A high resolution multi-proxy record of pronounced recent environmental change at Baker Lake, Nunavut](#). Journal of Paleolimnology. DOI: 10.1007/s10933-012-9589-20
- Nalaka Munasinghe, Craig Stephen, Colin Robertson and Preeni Abeynayake. 2012. [Farm level and geographic predictors of antibiotic use in Sri Lankan shrimp farms](#). Journal of Aquatic Animal Health 24(1):22-29.
- M.A. Niang, M.C. Nolin, I. Perron, M. Bernier, at C. Codjia. 2011. [Cartographie de la texture de surface des sols de la Montérégie à l'aide de données d'observation de la terre et de sol archives](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 37(5):548-563.
- J.F. Provencher, N. Gantner, J. Schmale, H. Swanson and J.L. Baeseman. 2012. [Early career researchers and mentors work together to shape the future of the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme](#). Arctic 65(1):115-118.
- Shelly A. Rayback, Gregory H. R. Henry and Andrea Lini. 2012. [Multiproxy reconstructions of climate for three sites in the Canadian High Arctic using Cassiope tetragona](#). Climatic Change. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-012-0431-7
- Brendan Sweeney and John Holmes. 2012. [Problematizing labour's agency: Rescaling collective bargaining in British Columbia pulp and paper mills](#). Antipode. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8330.2012.00988.x
- Liqiang Zhang, Chunming Han, Liang Zhang, Xiaokun Zhang and Jonathan Li. 2012. [Web-based visualization of large 3D urban building models](#). International Journal of Digital Earth. DOI:10.1080/17538947.2012.667159
- Tara Vinodrai, Riaz Nathu, Scott Ross, Emily Robson, Steffanie Scott and Paul Parker. 2012. [Taking regional action? Understanding networks in the local food, green energy & creative sectors in Waterloo region](#). A research paper prepared for the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO). February 2012.
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Other “Geographical” News

Global Observation for Forest and Land Cover Dynamic: Global Observation for Forest and Land Cover Dynamics (GOFD/GOLD) is a coordinated international effort working to provide ongoing space-based and in-situ observations of the land surface for the sustainable management of terrestrial resources and to obtain an accurate, reliable, quantitative understanding of the terrestrial carbon budget. The ESA GOFD-GOLD Land Cover Project Office (GOFD-GOLD LC PO) was established in February 2004. It is involved in a number of international activities & initiatives. The Newsletter is now accessible from the recently updated [GOFD-GOLD LC-IT website](#).

Squamish Approves Gondola for Famous Climbers' Park: The towering cliffs of Squamish, B.C., are at the centre of a heated debate over a proposal to build a cable-car gondola through Stawamus Chief Provincial Park and up the side of a neighbouring mountain. The plan, which has already won preliminary approval does have its critics, but the developers are confident it is going to go ahead. The projected cost is about \$20 million, with rides expected to go for about \$29 per person. [CBC News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Why Canada’s Professors are the Best (Best-Paid, That Is): Never mind the ivy league; professors in the maple-draped ivory towers of Canada are on average the best-paid in the world, new research shows. In a [new study](#) of public university salaries in 28 countries, it is Canadian profs who outstrip all others in their pay’s purchasing power. The study adjusted the dollar-value of full-time salaries to the cost of living in each country to allow a true comparison of the value of the pay. In adjusted dollars, Canada’s average full-time professor earns \$7,196 per month, compared to \$6,054 in the United States and \$5,943 in the United Kingdom. But there’s a cost to those heady salaries, Canadian universities are increasingly turning to part-time, contract, lower-paid instructors who can be excellent, but who often say they are underpaid, overworked and unconnected to campus life. [Toronto Star](#)

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