



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**UBC's John Robinson Named 2012 Environmental Scientist of the year by RCGS:** Universities are uniquely positioned to transform their entire campuses into "societal test beds for sustainability," says a University of B.C. geography professor who has been named 2012 environmental scientist of the year by the [Royal Canadian Geographical Society](#). John Robinson, executive director of the UBC Sustainability Initiative, said Friday that universities combine education and research, ownership of their own buildings, and a more liberal approach to investment returns than the private sector. "We can say, 'let's turn our entire capital stock into a sustainability experiment,'" he said, noting the 400 buildings spanning 400 hectares under UBC's control would represent 2,000 decision-makers if transplanted downtown. Universities should aim to bring the private sector, public policy-makers, and non-governmental organizations with expertise in community engagement together to build creative sustainability solutions that can then be taken off campus and into other cities and countries, said Robinson. [Vancouver Sun](#)

**U Calgary's Sean Marshall Redefines "Active" Research:** It's -25 C, snow is blowing and Shawn Marshall is stuck in a tent in the Canadian high Arctic waiting for the twin otter to take him to the other side of the icefield. Sitting around is often a part of the research process, whether it's waiting for transport, a weather window, test results, data analysis or models to run. "It can be pretty frustrating," says Marshall, a glaciologist, climatologist and professor of geography at the University of Calgary. "Part of the reason for me choosing this sort of field work was to escape from my computer." So Marshall came up with a novel way to ward off boredom and collect his crucial meteorological, snowpack and ice core data: he hired students and researchers to ski, bike or run with him to the research stations to help collect data. "I could keep fit and sane and, at the same time, get at the data in a more environmentally sound manner. On Ellesmere Island, some of my research team and I would bundle up and ski to the stations, minimizing the use of snowmobiles or aircraft," he says. After a few trips to Ellesmere Island, Marshall devised a way to add a little friendly competition between researchers. He developed a propane-powered groomer to create cross-country ski trails around one of the base camps. [U Calgary](#)

**SFU's Nick Hedley Helps West Coast Communities Find Safe Ground During an Emergency:** Dr. Nick Hedley gave a presentation in Ucluelet's community centre focused on tsunamis to demonstrate various tools his team has developed, and is developing, to help members of West Coast communities find safe ground during an emergency. Hedley, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at Simon Fraser University, focuses his research on geospatial tangible augmented reality (GeoSTAR), as well as mobile geospatial augmented reality. His work aims to make the information displayed on 2dimensional maps, more accessible through 3-dimensional and virtual applications. "2D static maps are a very common tool to communicate potential inundation risks and safe zones to communities, but they're challenging in some ways because they are communicating a phenomenon that is very dynamic," he says. He showcased an application his team have developed called Citizen Risk which allows for real time data input from users who point their smart phones in the direction they would go if a disaster were to occur. [Canada.com](#)

**UVic Geography Graduate Carmen Archer Serving in Afghanistan:** Carmen Archer missed her 20-year high-school reunion this month, but she had a solid excuse. The Victoria-raised Archer is a few time zones away in Afghanistan with the Canadian Forces. Archer, now an army captain, went to the University of Victoria, graduating in 1998 with a bachelor of arts degree in history and geography. Archer's deployment has come as Canada's combat mission ended and training Afghans for the time international forces are gone has become a major focus. Her chief duty is to obtain contracts with companies, both inside and outside Afghanistan, to keep the advisers properly supplied. [Times Colonist](#)

**U Toronto's Larry Bourne Elected to CIP College of Fellows:** Professor Emeritus [Larry Bourne](#), Department of Geography & Program in Planning at the University of Toronto, has been elected to the College of Fellows of the Canadian Institute of Planners. Election as a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Planners is the highest award the Institute can give to a planner. It is given only to those Members who exhibit the highest professional attainment and exhibit a wide breadth of experience. Such professional attainment and experience must be significant within the Canadian or international planning context of planning. [Canadian Institute of Planners](#)

**UVic Cascadia Sustainability Field School:** On May 7th UVic Geography launched the inaugural Cascadia Sustainability Field School. Twenty-eight students accompanied by instructors Cam Owens and Crystal Tremblay set out to traverse the region from Vancouver Island to the San Francisco Bay by ferry, train and bike. En route they are meeting with planners, community groups and others creatively engaging with the daunting social and ecological challenges of 21st Century cities. [Cascadia2012's blog](#)

**Memorial U's Evan Edinger at International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals:** Memorial University's Evan Edinger, a faculty member with Geography/Biology, attended the recent International Symposium on Deep-Sea Corals. "The conference is interesting because it covers the science and management aspects of deep-sea corals," said Dr. Edinger. "It includes everything from reproductive biology to spatial mapping and skeletal chemistry – basically from the microscopic to the very big picture in oceanography." The corals are vulnerable because they grow very slowly and one about the size of a pencil can be 100 years old or older. Which means recovery time after they've been damaged is very long. "We know that the first time a trawl goes through an area is when the most damage is done," said Dr. Edinger. "So we have to identify the areas that are sensitive and protect them before it is too late." [Today.MUN.ca](#)

**Ontario Schools Map-Making Competition:** The [Ontario Schools Map-Making Competition](#) (OSMMC) is housed at Wilfrid Laurier University. This is a free online competition designed to encourage and reward cartographic skills at both intermediate and senior school grades. There are three levels of competition: Grade 8 and below, Grade 9 and 10, and Grades 11 and 12. All students entering the competition receive feedback on their map with the Marking Sheet, and are recognized with a certificate of achievement from the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University. At each level of competition there is a first, second and third prize (for a total of 9 prizes). Winners will receive. [OSMMC Gallery](#)

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

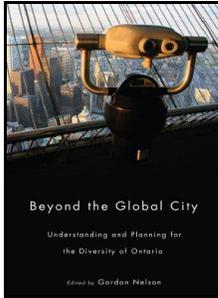
Angela Loder. 2011. Greening the city: Exploring the relationship between health, well-being, and the perception of nature in the workplace. PhD Thesis. University of Toronto, Toronto. Supervisors: Drs Ted Relph and Sarah Wakefield.

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## New Book

Gordon Nelson (Editor). 2012. [Beyond the Global City - Understanding and Planning for the Diversity of Ontario](#). McGill-Queen's University Press.

Chapter authors are: Michael Troughton; Patrick Lawrence; Lucy Sportza; Stew Hilts; Wayne Caldwell; Alison Bain; John Marsh; Nik Luka; Nina-Marie Lister; Brian Osborne; Mark Seasons; Harvey Lemelin; Rhonda Koster; Margaret Johnston; Bob Payne; Susan Preston; Stephen Murphy; and Robert Shipley.



Policies promoting Toronto as a global city and provincial economic engine have been seen as beneficial to the development of all of Ontario, yet much of the province has borne significant environmental, social, economic, and political costs as a result of one city's growth. Contributors to this volume call for a radical re-imagining of public policy at local, provincial, and federal levels, that accounts for Ontario's overlooked regions. Beyond the Global City presents a kaleidoscopic view of the province — the rich fields and small towns of the southwest, the productive agricultural lands of rural Huron County, historic Kingston and the Upper St Lawrence, the social and cultural diversity of the Ottawa valley, the near mythical woodlands and waters of Muskoka and Georgian Bay, and the heavily exploited coasts and waters of the Great Lakes and the boreal far North. In a series of regional studies, contributors describe each area's distinctive qualities and challenges and offer recommendations about what is needed to move them forward in a more equitable and sustainable way. Two initial historical chapters lay the framework for the regional discussions, while cross-cutting and integrated chapters analyze the state of natural and cultural heritage and current development theory provincially, offering guidance for the future. The ongoing great recession is discussed in the last chapter.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Darrell S. Kaufman, Yarrow Axford, R. Scott Anderson, Scott F. Lamoureux, Daniel E. Schindler, Ian R. Walker and Al Werner. 2012. [A multi-proxy record of the Last Glacial Maximum and last 14,500 years of paleoenvironmental change at Lone Spruce Pond, southwestern Alaska](#). Journal of Paleolimnology. DOI: 10.1007/s10933-012-9607-4

Sarah de Leeuw, Sean Maurice, Travis Holyk, Margo Greenwood and Warner Adam. 2012. [With Reserves: Colonial geographies and First Nations health](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2012.674897

Dean A. Shaw, Al Pietroniro and Lawrence Martz. 2012. [Topographic analysis for the prairie pothole region of Western Canada](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9409

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## Other “Geographical” News

### **Guerrilla Geographer Daniel Raven-Ellison Named Natinal Geographic Emerging Explorer:**

National Geographic's Emerging Explorers Program recognizes and supports uniquely gifted and inspiring adventurers, scientists and storytellers, who are pushing the boundaries of discovery, adventure and global problem-solving while still early in their careers. Guerrilla geographer [Daniel Raven-Ellison](#) brings the spirit of adventure to geographic education, allowing people to see the world — and the field of geography — in new and surprising ways. Guerrilla geography challenges people, especially children, to explore the world around them, engaging in creative play, making new discoveries and forming community connections. Through technologies that allow users to share their experiences digitally, guerrilla geography not only educates but also inspires young people to explore their world in ways that stretch their minds and bodies, and motivates them to educate others and take action in their own communities. His Urban Earth films demonstrate guerrilla geography in action. He has walked across 13 cities, taking photographs every eight steps and editing them to create films to reveal new perspectives on how to experience cities. His program/website, [Mission:Explore](#), and a series of award-winning kids' books of the same name encourage youth to go on adventures to learn about the world. [National Geographic](#)

**Iran Threatens to Sue Google Over Geography:** Iran is rarely shy about facing off against the West, whether the subject is its controversial nuclear program, threats to choke off Europe's oil supply or generally inflammatory rhetoric toward Israel. The latest thorn in the Islamic Republic's side: geography. Its foe: Google. Iran threatened the Internet giant with a lawsuit after the search engine dropped the name of the Persian Gulf on Google Maps. Iranians are highly sensitive about the name of the body of water, which lies between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula and has historically and internationally been known as the Persian Gulf. Some Arab states insist on calling it the Arabian Gulf. The issue has stirred up tensions between Iranians and Arabs. [CBS News](#)

**The Dead Sea is Dying:** If you keep a sharp eye open as you drive the world's lowest road, along the Israeli side of the Dead Sea, you may spot a short black line painted on a cliff face some feet above your head. It was made a century ago by British geographers, floating on a boat on the sea's surface, to mark its level at the time. But if you then turn to look for the present-day sea you'll only spot it far beneath you, at the bottom of another cliff. For its level has since fallen by more than 80 feet, mainly over the past few decades. At the same time the sea, famously the saltiest on Earth, has lost a third of its surface area. Indeed, the maps and atlases that show it as a single stretch of water are long out of date. It has shrunk so much that it has separated into two distinct lakes, connected by a canal to prevent the southernmost one from drying up altogether. And the waters are continuing to drop by more than three feet a year. [The Telegraph](#)

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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>