



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 188, August 29, 2012**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**Memorial U's Norm Catto Warns Island of Newfoundland Sinking:** An expert in coastline erosion says the island of Newfoundland is sinking by a rate of about 3.5 millimetres a year. Memorial University geography professor Norm Catto has been using carbon dating on dead tree stumps preserved in calm ocean waters to determine when and how far water moved over land. The carbon dating reveals the estimated time when salt water reached the tree sitting on land and killed its roots. Catto said some of the stumps date back to AD 340, the time of the Roman Empire, and they all tell the same story. "If you've got a dock or a piece of river or ocean property then yes, the waves are getting closer to you every day," said Catto. Catto said although the rate at which Newfoundland is sinking only amounts to about 30 cm in 100 years, the change is important when serious storms hit the island. Catto said the water is rising faster on the southern part of the island than in the north, and the only part of Newfoundland and Labrador not showing a rise in water levels is at Lake Melville in Labrador. [CBC News](#)

**Brock U's Chris Fullerton and Students Recognized for Assistance with South Algonquin Official Plan:** Brock University geographer [Chris Fullerton](#) and his students recognized for their work crafting and writing an Official Plan for South Algonquin. Since 2007, this partnership provided 17 Geography interns with real-world job experience in rural and small-town planning in Northern Ontario. [Barrysbaythisweek.com](#)

**U Toronto's Minelle Mahtani Reflects on How in Canada, 'Non-Ethnic' Still the Norm:** Canadian media has long been known to contribute to stereotyping and creating a divide between "us" and "them" through distorted coverage on race. The Bank of Canada is insisting that a female image on our \$100 bill might once again be "too Asian" for Canadian society. However, having a public institution take steps to modify a face into what it considers a neutral ethnicity marks an alarming move in an age of supposed multiculturalism for a country of immigrants. The Bank of Canada insists that after focus groups identified the scientist as coming from a particular ethnic group, she was modified into a neutral non-ethnic "composite." It appears there is no problem to portray white ethnicity, but any other "ethnic" would be crossing the line. Apparently, white is non-racial. [Globe and Mail](#)

**Western U's Chantelle Richmond to Serve on State of Knowledge of Food Security in Northern Canada Expert Panel:** [Chantelle Richmond](#), an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography at Western University, has agreed to serve on State of Knowledge of Food Security in Northern Canada Expert Panel. Panel members are selected for their diverse perspectives and areas of expertise. The Minister of Health has asked the Council of Canadian Academies to assess the state of knowledge of the factors influencing food security in the Canadian North and the health implications of food insecurity for northern Aboriginal populations. It is through the hard work of the expert panel members who volunteer their time and expertise, that the Council is able to provide high-quality, unbiased assessments that inform public policy development in Canada. [Food Security Panel](#)

**Spotlight on U Guelph's Alice Hovorka:** Dr. [Alice Hovorka](#) is associate professor of Geography and an associated faculty member of the Campbell Centre for the Study of Animal Welfare. Her main body of research concerns food production, gender, urban and rural space in the African nation of Botswana where she has spent many months talking with women who run home-based poultry farms. Alice's work in Botswana got her thinking about the many ways animals shape human life by marking out gender relations, political and economic differences, and more. The University of Guelph is one of the largest institutional users of animals in Canada, so she knew it would be an ideal place to teach a course that would explore how animals structure our space, work, identities and life closer to home. [CCSAW News](#)

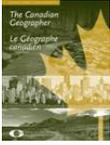
**U Winnipeg's Danny Blair Accepts Term as Associate Dean of Science:** Dr. [Danny Blair](#) who has accepted an initial five-year term as Associate Dean of Science. Dr. Blair had most recently held an acting appointment as [Associate Dean](#), and prior to that had served as Chair in the Department of Geography where he has had a long and successful career as a researcher and teacher.

**U Saskatchewan's Jill Gunn and Ryan Walker Win Canadian Planning Award:** Professors [Jill Gunn](#) and [Ryan Walker](#) were on a project team that received a Canadian Institute of Planners award. The award recognizes the Public Spaces, Activity and Urban Form Strategic Framework, phase one of Saskatoon's new city centre plan. The project team was a partnership among personnel from the City of Saskatoon, the University's RUP Program, and the firm Sweeny Sterling Finlayson & Co Architects. Gunn, Walker and their project partners won in the New and Emerging Planning Initiatives category. The awards jury had this to say about the project: "The Public Spaces, Activity and Urban Form Strategic Framework effectively measures a plethora of urban planning issues, puts them in context and provides explicit and thoughtful recommendations for vastly improving the mix of activities, density and public life in Saskatoon. The Framework is premised on public space and public life being a leading driver of the economic, social and environmental health of urban areas. The Framework hits high, is beautifully illustrated and is one of the most comprehensive downtown analyses the Jury has seen." [US Recent News](#)

**Newsletter of the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group. No. 32, August 2012:** The most recent issue of the CGRG Newsletter is available for downloading. [Past issues](#) archived on the CGRG website. Announced in this issue was the winner of the 2012 J. Ross Mackay Award, Dr. Chris Hugenholtz, Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge. The award is presented annually by the CGRG in recognition of a significant achievement by a young geomorphologist within Canada. Featured as well is a profile of Jon Tunnicliffe of Carleton University and Dominic (Nick) Reiffarth, a Ph.D. student in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies at the University of Northern British Columbia. Nick is working with Drs. Ellen Petticrew (Geography, UNBC) and Philip Owens (Environmental Science, UNBC) on tracing soil and sediment movement using compound-specific stable isotopes. [Download CGRG Newsletter No. 32.](#)

**McMaster U's Mike Waddington Keen to Study Bog Fire:** Mike Waddington is keen on getting into the Wainfleet Bog and gathering samples of soil and peat to take back to his lab at McMaster University. The area of the bog that caught on fire, which is believed to have been sparked by a lightning strike, was one the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority had started restoration efforts. Studying burned peat from the recent fire could help the professor in the university's school of geography and earth sciences and associate director of the McMaster Centre for Climate Change, and his students, develop a moisture code for peat bogs. "We want to take peat core samples and start to research and follow the recovery. We're always keen to see impact sites ... it helps us understand more." Waddington has been studying peatland wildfire, drought, and mining impacts and reclamation for the past 25 years and said the fire, in the northwest section of the bog, could have been far worse than it was. [Stcatherinestandard.ca](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Nadine Schuurman. 2012. [Who is The Canadian Geographer?](#) *The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien* 56(3):295.

As a new editor, the last six months have proven an exhilarating mix of new people, new responsibilities and the odd unanticipated glitch getting from manuscript submissions to published volumes. I was lucky to have followed in the footsteps of Ian MacLachlan who left me two issues mostly accounted for. Moreover, working with Anne Godlewska, past president of The Canadian Association of Geographers, and the amazingly supportive staff at Wiley Blackwell has eased me into the position. After six months in, I can now reflect on who we are as a journal, and ask questions about what Canadian Geographers want the journal to become. The questions are important precisely because TCG is a journal that strives to serve our diverse and disparate community.

I can start with where we are now. From a metrics perspective, we have a relatively low impact factor; a very high (and growing) library access rate; and excellent world-wide circulation and library sales. Based on our impact factor, we are ranked 17th amongst Canadian journals in the Social Sciences but somewhat lower in the relative ranks of Geography journals. The issue of impact factor is usually ignored unless it is high—in which case journals constantly tout their success. But I am going to face this paper tiger in the interests of clarification and change.

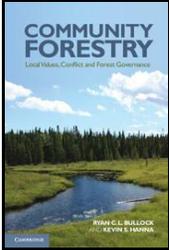
Impact factor is measured by taking all references to referred, published manuscripts in the journal over the past two years and dividing by the total number of papers over the same period. This works very well for rapidly changing scientific disciplines where citations are stale after two years but less well for Geography, a discipline in which foundational “classics” are cited decades later. Certainly, a five-year window would serve us better. As would being a bigger discipline. Medical journals tend to have higher relative citation rates simply because so many people read and cite them. Their pool is enormous. Computer science changes every five minutes so the impact factor calculation is kinder to it. A community makes an impact factor. So if more people are reading and citing this journal, it will change; it is a dynamic and responsive measure.

Here is the really good news. People all over the world are downloading and reading TCG. In 2011, TCG/LGC articles were downloaded 64 805 times. This compares with 45 297 article down-loads in 2010, and represents an increase of 41 percent. This is a reflection of the work that Wiley has done in maintaining the journal's relatively high subscription rate.

What is really interesting is what people are citing in the journal. Last year (2011) saw a surprisingly homogeneous mix of top-cited papers with almost all the top-cited papers in the special issue on Inuit Sea Ice. We are a unique journal in that we represent some of the most comprehensive work done on First Nations in Canada (see issue 56(2) on Progress in Canadian Indigenous Geographies: Community-Based Participatory Research). But if you examine the top-cited papers over the last decade, they reflect the extreme heterogeneity of our discipline and especially our journal. To make *The Canadian Geographer* reflect its special place in Geography in Canada and the world, I urge you to contribute to and cite the journal. We are all *The Canadian Geographer*.

## New Books

Ryan C.L. Bullock and Kevin S. Hanna. 2012. [Community Forestry Local Values, Conflict and Forest Governance](#). Cambridge University Press. 192 p.



Providing a critical and incisive examination of community forestry, this is a detailed study of complex issues in local forest governance, community sustainability and grassroots environmentalism. It explores community forestry as an alternative form of local collaborative governance in globally significant developed forest regions, with examples ranging from the Gulf Islands of British Columbia to Scandinavia. Responding to the global trend in devolution of control over forest resources and the ever-increasing need for more sustainable approaches to forest governance, the book highlights both the possibilities and challenges associated with community forestry implementation. It features compelling case studies and accounts from those directly involved with community forestry efforts, providing unique insight into the underlying social processes, issues, events and perceptions. It will equip students, researchers and practitioners with a deep understanding of both the evolution and management of community forestry in a pan-national context.

---

### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Julia Affolderbach, Roger Alex Clapp and Roger Hayter. 2012. [Environmental bargaining and boundary organizations: Remapping British Columbia's Great Bear Rainforest](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2012.706567

J.M. Buttle and A.G. Farnsworth. 2012. [Measurement and modelling of canopy water partitioning in a reforested landscape: the Ganaraska Forest, southern Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2012.08.021

Patrice E. Carbonneau, Hervé Piégay, Walter Bertoldi, Hervé Piégay, Thomas Buffin-Bélanger, David Graham and Stephen Rice. 2012. [15. Applications of close-range imagery in river research](#). In Fluvial Remote Sensing for Science and Management. Edited by: P.E. Carbonneau and H. Piégay. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, UK. doi: 10.1002/9781119940791.ch15

J. Graham Cogley. 2012. [Climate science: Himalayan glaciers in the balance](#). Nature 488:468–469.

Alice J. Hovorka. 2012. [Women/chickens v. men/cattle: insights on gender-species intersectionality](#). Geoforum 44:875-884.

Ashley Ning and Kathi Wilson. 2012. [A research review: exploring the health of Canada's Aboriginal youth](#). International Journal of Circumpolar Health. 71. doi.org/10.3402/ijch.v71i0.18497

Ryan P. Powers, Nicholas C. Coops, Jessica L. Morgan, Michael A. Wulder, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Charles R. Drever and Steven G. Cumming. 2012. [A remote sensing approach to biodiversity assessment and regionalization of the Canadian boreal forest](#). Progress in Physical Geography. doi:10.1177/0309133312457405

Li Shen, Huiping Xu, Xulin Guo and Ping Wu. 2012. [Oceanography of Skeletonema costatum harmful algal blooms in the East China Sea using MODIS and QuickSCAT satellite data](#). Journal of Applied Remote Sensing 6. doi:10.1177/1.JRS.6.063529

---

## Other “Geographical” News

**Greenhouse in Canada's Northwest Territories Model for Northern Communities:** People in the community of Hay River, in Canada's Northwest Territories, have finished building their new community greenhouse. The 20 metre by 10 metre structure means there will be more fresh vegetables on the community's tables. It's also part of a study being done for Northwest Territories senator Nick Sibbeston. Jamie Bastedo, an environmental consultant, says Sibbeston is looking for ways to build local economies in the North. "We're kind of literally and figuratively sowing the ability to grow food up here and to make money or save money," Bastedo said. Building a greenhouse in Hay River, having other communities learn from that as far north as the Arctic coast. That's enhancing federal sovereignty." Bastedo said. [EyeontheArctic](#)

**First Chinese Ship Crosses Arctic Ocean Amid Record Melt:** An icebreaker has become the first ship from China to cross the Arctic Ocean, underscoring Beijing's growing interest in a remote region where a record thaw caused by climate change may open new trade routes. The voyage highlights how China, the world's no.2 economy, is extending its reach to the Arctic which is rich in oil and gas and is a potential commercial shipping route between the north Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The icebreaker Xuelong, or Snow Dragon, arrived in Iceland this week after sailing the Northern Route along the coast of Russia. Expedition leader Huigen Yang, head of the Polar Research Institute of China, said he had expected a lot more ice along the route at this time of year than the vessel encountered. "To our astonishment ... most part of the Northern Sea Route is open," he told Reuters TV. The icebreaker would return to China by a route closer to the North Pole. [Reuters](#)

---

## Some not so “Geographical” News



---

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