Mount Allison U’s Colin Laroque Presented with AAU Teaching Award: The Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) announced that one of the winners of the AAU’s regional awards for excellence in teaching and educational leadership is Dr. Colin Laroque, Department of Geography and Environment, Mount Allison University. Colin is receiving the 2012 AAU Distinguished Teaching Award in recognition of his outstanding teaching over a number of years. The AAU represents the 16 universities in Atlantic Canada and the University of the West Indies. The AAU is an advocate for the important role Atlantic universities play in preparing future leaders of our communities, in path-breaking research and innovation and in contributing to the economic prosperity and quality of life of the Atlantic region. AAU News Release | MTA News | Sackville Tribune Post |

An Ill Wind Good News for Memorial Geographers: More than a week later, the destruction from Tropical Storm/Hurricane Leslie is still being felt across Newfoundland and Labrador’s capital city. The debris is piled high in St. John’s Bowring Park and Bannerman Park is littered with uprooted trees. But geographers Dr. Trevor Bell and Maggie Danek from the Department of Geography have benefitted from these unexpected windfalls. The pair have spent the last 12 months studying the potential of whether or not old downtown trees can preserve annual records of environmental lead pollution in St. John’s as part of the ongoing LeadNL project. Dr. Bell is the principal investigator of LeadNL. Today.MUN.CA

For UVic’s Ken Josephson Mapping is About Visualizing Connections: After nearly four decades working as a cartographer, in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria since 1981 and eight years prior to that with the federal government, Ken Josephson is hesitant to even refer to his work as “mapping.” Instead, he sees it as an empowerment tool for community engagement and a way to open up stories and give voice to those who otherwise might not get heard. Josephson works in communications and community mapping in Josephson works in communications and community mapping in the geography department. Much of what he does is create the visual representations used for public-engagement and community-consultation processes. Through the graphics he provides, people are able to make connections they might not otherwise see or think of or remember, and thus they’re prompted to share key information and intriguing stories that become part of the community record. “It’s a research methodology for gathering information and re-presenting it,” Josephson says. “We’ve seen maps used to visually start documenting, to kickstart the brainstorming for planning and visioning, to build and move toward consensus much earlier.” The Ring

UBC’s Derek Gregory Awarded Internationalen Wissenschaftspris der Deutschen Geographie: Derek Gregory, Department of Geography of the University of British Columbia, has been awarded the inaugural Internationalen Wissenschaftspris der Deutschen Geographie (International Science Award of German Geography).
UBC’s Jamie Peck Appointed as a Distinguished Scholar in Residence: The Peter Wall Distinguished Scholars in Residence Award is available to UBC Faculty members to spend one year in residence at the Peter Wall Institute, in a collaborative, interdisciplinary environment.

New in The Canadian Geographer


New Books


Building a Market

Each year, North Americans spend as much money fixing up their homes as they do buying new ones. This obsession with improving our dwellings has given rise to a multibillion-dollar industry that includes countless books, consumer magazines, a cable television network, and thousands of home improvement stores. Building a Market charts the rise of the home improvement industry in the United States and Canada from the end of World War I into the late 1950s. Drawing on the insights of business, social, and urban historians, and making use of a wide range of documentary sources, Richard Harris shows how the middle-class preference for home ownership first emerged in the 1920s—and how manufacturers, retailers, and the federal government combined to establish the massive home improvement market and a pervasive culture of Do-It-Yourself.
Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers


of youth in Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Canada. Global Environmental Change.
doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.07.010


Recent Theses and Dissertations


Other “Geographical” News

How Google Earth Changed the World: Google Earth looks like a traditional atlas”. "Its homepage is an image of the world, and then you drill down through the layers. It mimics the history of cartography. The most significant difference between Google Earth and its predecessors is the lack of geographers involved in its creation and maintenance. Google's top "Geospatial Technologist" is Ed Parsons, a former chief technology officer at Ordnance Survey. But almost all the other people who work on the application are tech professionals. They even resist describing Google Earth as a map."Geography as a discipline has no involvement with what's going on online," says Brotton a professor of Renaissance studies at Queen Mary, University of London. "Geographers are concerned because, for instance, they don't know if or how these maps are being peer-reviewed." The Independent

Mapping Our Memories: The Atlas of the Great Irish Famine is one of the most comprehensive studies of the greatest catastrophe in modern Irish history. The Great Irish Famine (1845-52) is seen not only as the most defining event in modern history but as the greatest natural disaster of the modern age. As many as 1m people died of starvation and famine-induced diseases. The terror that faced those who died during the Famine defies description. Irish Examiner

How 'Geography' Informs The Fate Of The World: To understand many of the worlds triumphs, tragedies and conflicts, according to geopolitical analyst Robert Kaplan, look no further than a map. In his book The Revenge of Geography, Kaplan argues that geography is not just important to understanding world affairs — it's central to understanding where we've been and where we're going. Kaplan uses this framework to look ahead and speculate about how geography will inform the future development and relations of countries like the United States, China and Iran. NPR Books
North America’s Rocky Mountains Affect Norway’s Climate: Both the Gulf Stream and the Norwegian Sea have a major impact on Norway’s climate. However, it turns out that weather conditions are also influenced by geographical elements from much farther away. The Rocky Mountains, for instance, play a major role in weather in Norway. ScienceDaily

Himalayan Glaciers: Climate Change, Water Resources, and Water Security: Scientific evidence shows that most glaciers in South Asia’s Hindu Kush Himalayan region are retreating, but the consequences for the region’s water supply are unclear. Himalayan Glaciers: Climate Change, Water Resources, and Water Security makes recommendations and explains that changes in the availability of water resources could play an increasing role in political tensions, especially if existing water management institutions do not better account for the social, economic, and ecological complexities of the region. Read this Book Online, Free

Some not so “Geographical” News

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