



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Carleton U's Chris Burn Receives First-Ever Yukon North Slope Conservation Award:** Carleton Geography Professor Chris Burn has been awarded the first Yukon North Slope Conservation Award by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council for North Slope. The award was established by the council this year to recognize outstanding contributions by individuals and organizations toward the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional Inuvialuit use on the Yukon North Slope. The council recognized Burn's effort to examine the impact of climate change on the permafrost terrain of Herschel Island and his close working relationship with Inuvialuit communities and their involvement in his research. Burn was also recognized for his work in writing, editing and producing of the book *Herschel Island Qikiqtaryuk: a natural and cultural history of Yukon's Arctic Island*. The book organized the diverse contributions of 41 authors, more than half of whom live in northern Canada. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**Universite de Montreal's Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier Reports Nunavut's Mysterious Ancient Life Could Return by 2100 as Arctic Warms:** Global climate change means that recently discovered ancient forests in Canada's extreme north could one day return, according to Alexandre Guertin-Pasquier of the Universite de Montreal's [Département de géographie](#). "According to the data model, climate conditions on Bylot Island will be able to support the kinds of trees we find in the fossilized forest that currently exist there, such as willow, pine and spruce. I've also found evidence of a possible growth of oak and hickory near the study site during this period," Guertin-Pasquier said. "Although it would of course take time for a whole forest to regrow, the findings show that our grandchildren should be able to plant a tree and watch it grow." [ScienceDaily](#) | [Toronto Sun](#)

**U Calgary's Darren Sjogren Using Social Media to Improve Classroom Participation:** Letting go of the long-held notion that handheld devices and Internet use don't belong in the classroom, university professors are discovering unique ways to engage students using a variety of technology and social media. Darren Sjogren, associate professor of Geography at U of C, has also experienced big improvements in class participation using the unique new website Top Hat Monocle. As a form of test preparation, Sjogren sends out multiple-choice questions through the website during class. Students who are logged on can provide an answer, and within seconds Sjogren knows what percentage of the class has the right answer and what percentage doesn't. Discussions follow, and students are more engaged. "Attendance was significantly higher when we did this, and not just by a little bit," Sjogren said. "It was an optional geography class, so normally I might only get 50 per cent attendance, but with this I would get 75 to 80 per cent attendance." [Calgary Herald](#)

**U Memorial Geographers Reveal Elevated Levels of Metals in St. John's Soil:** Memorial University Graduate student Robert Foley and Geography professors Trevor Bell and David Liverman looked specifically at levels of various metals to explore the potential impact for ecosystem and human health of metal levels in St. John's soil. "We chose these metals because Canada has identified soil quality guidelines for them to protect both environmental and human health" said Robert Foley. "When these guideline levels are exceeded, it may indicate a potential hazard for residents and animals exposed to the soil or plants growing in the soil." Our study took advantage of a large database of metal concentrations in residential soil samples from across the city collected as part of a soil lead project in 200X" observed Trevor Bell. Using statistical techniques, the research team was able to identify clusters of metals in soil samples and together with their spatial patterns to suggest that weathered paint, vehicular emissions, and coal burning were important sources for the main metal contaminants in the sampled soils. Using a contamination index, soils in the downtown area and on residential properties predating the 1950s were classified as highly contaminated. [MU Geography Department](#)

**UBC Geography Welcomes Applications for Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships:** The UBC Geography Department welcomes applications for the Killam Postdoctoral Research Fellowships, 2013-14. The Geography Postdoctoral Committee can nominate one candidate this year to enter the university-wide competition. The fellowships are awarded for a maximum of two years, subject to review at the end of the first year, and include a stipend of CAD \$50,000 per annum and a travel and research allowance. The number of awards available across campus varies between three and five per year. All necessary application materials must be received at the UBC Geography Department by Friday, October 26, 2012. [Killam Details](#)

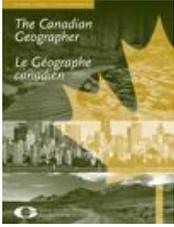
**U Toronto's André Sorensen and Paul Hess Examine How Land is Being Used in the Suburbs:** Municipal planning diagrams in Greater Toronto don't provide much detail, and the province doesn't make its land-use data available to researchers. As well, zoning and approved uses for a particular site don't necessarily correspond to what ended up being built there. To fill the void of accurate data, geographers André Sorensen and Paul Hess recruited about three dozen students to meticulously code the actual land uses on each piece of property across the GTA. Their research tool: Google Street View, which allows users to zoom in and "see" what's happening at ground level in every nook and cranny of the city. "It's very laborious," admits Sorensen, noting that in three years the team has coded five million parcels of land; the analysis will continue for another two years. The aim is to create a baseline, and then update it every five years in tandem with the census. [U of T Magazine](#)

**UBC Okanagan's Rob Young Reveals Newly-Arrived Ice Age Artifacts:** As Associate Professor Rob Young carefully reveals his newly-arrived Ice Age artifacts -- a horse skull, mammoth bone and bison skull -- he reminisces about a time when super predators and giant beasts ruled the unforgiving wilderness. "These Ice Age pieces, found in the Yukon, are very rare. Horse skulls in particular are easily broken up; it's unusual to find one still intact," explains Young, who teaches Earth and environmental sciences in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC's Okanagan campus. "It's quite amazing to think that these pieces belong to animals that lived in a time where a 2,000-pound giant bear could run as fast as a race horse and lions were double the size of what they are now." [UBC-O Media Release](#)

**U Calgary's John Yackel on Why Melting Arctic Ice Cap Has Serious Ramifications for Planet:** John Yackel, head of the department of geography at the University of Calgary has been documenting the annual summer ice melt in the Arctic for the past 15 years. This year ice levels are more dramatically diminished than at any time since satellite monitoring began 33 years ago. "This is the smallest minimum ice extent we've ever had, and not just in the satellite record, but probably in the last million years," says Yackel. From the patterns he has observed, this year's extreme melt could be the beginning of a frightening trend. [UToday](#)

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## New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Yale D. Belanger, Robert J. Williams and Jennifer N. Arthur. 2012. [Manufacturing regional disparity in the pursuit of economic equality: Alberta's First Nations Gaming Policy, 2006–2010](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00445.x

Richard Frank, Martin A. Andresen and Patricia L. Brantingham. 2012. [Visualizing the directional bias in property crime incidents for five Canadian municipalities](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00450.x

Magdalene Goemans and Patricia Ballamingie. 2012. [Forest as hazard, forest as victim: Community perspectives and disaster mitigation in the aftermath of Kelowna's 2003 wildfires](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00447.x

Herbert C. Northcott and Courtney R. Petruik. 2012. [Trends in the residential mobility of seniors in Canada, 1961–2006](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00449.x

Torbjørn Trondsen. 2012. [Value chains, business conventions, and market adaptation: A comparative analysis of Norwegian and Icelandic fish exports](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00448.x

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

James D. Ford, Kenyon C. Bolton, Jamal Shirley, Tristan Pearce, Martin Tremblay and Michael Westlake. 2012. [Research on the human dimensions of climate change in Nunavut, Nunavik, and Nunatsiavut: A literature review and gap analysis](#). Arctic 65(3).

Ken Hewitt. 2012. [Environmental disasters in social context: toward a preventive and precautionary approach](#). Natural Hazards. DOI: 10.1007/s11069-012-0205-6

Kate Lane, Alice Hovorka and Alexander Legwegoh. 2012. [Urban food dynamics in Botswana: insights from Gaborone's Central Business District](#). African Geographical Review. DOI:10.1080/19376812.2012.715975

Joesph M. Shea; Brian Menounos; R. Dan Moore and Christine Tennant. 2012. [Regional estimates of glacier mass change from MODIS-derived equilibrium line altitudes](#). The Cryosphere Discussions 6(5):3757-3780.

James W. N. Steenberg, Peter N. Duinker and Peter G. Bush. 2012. [Modelling the effects of climate change and timber harvest on the forests of central Nova Scotia, Canada](#). Annals of Forest Science. DOI: 10.1007/s13595-012-0235-y

Chaoyang Wu and Jing M. Chen. 2013. [Diverse responses of vegetation production to interannual summer drought in North America](#). International Journal of Applied Earth Observation and Geoinformation 21:1–6.

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Kaila-Lea Clarke. 2012. [Climate-related stresses on human health in a remote and rural region of Ontario, Canada](#). Unpublished MA thesis. University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario.

Alexander Jane Conway, A. 2012. [An investigation of forest-grassland dynamics in southwest Yukon, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. 129 p.

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Ten World Capitals You Can Find in Canada:** Do you know where to locate the french fry capital of the world on the map? How about the potash capital? Canada has more than its share of self-proclaimed capitals of the world. Here are some for you to consider the next time you're planning a vacation. [The Vancouver Sun](#)

**Twenty-Three Nuclear Power Plants Found to Be in Tsunami Risk Areas:** Tsunamis are synonymous with the destruction of cities and homes and since the Japanese coast was devastated in March 2011 we now know that they cause nuclear disaster, endanger the safety of the population and pollute the environment. In the [recent study](#), the researchers drew a map of the world's geographic zones that are more at risk of large tsunamis. Based on this data, 23 nuclear power plants with 74 reactors have been identified in high risk areas. Out of them, 13 plants with 29 reactors are active; another four, that now have 20 reactors, are being expanded to house nine more; and there are seven new plants under construction with 16 reactors. [ScienceDaily](#)

**You Are What You Eat – And Where You Live:** In her medical and health geography class last spring, geography professor Debarchana Ghosh asked her students to do something a bit odd: to look for terrible food. “I asked them to go to their neighborhood and find the highest-calorie food they could for just one dollar or less,” she says. The students expected to come back with tales of sugary processed foods. But what astounded them was the sheer size of food they could acquire for a mere buck. The winner was a pre-wrapped package of sixteen pieces of pie for 96 cents, containing 6,880 calories. “It makes a point,” says Ghosh. “If someone is struggling with money and has to feed their family, that's what they're going to choose: the cheap, calorie-rich foods in their neighborhood.” [University of Connecticut](#)

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## Some not so "Geographical" News



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