



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Memorial U's Ratana Chuenpagdee Directs Large-scale Project on Small-Scale Fisheries:** Ratana Chuenpagdee is a big thinker. As the Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Sustainability and Community Development in Memorial's Department of Geography, she is deeply interested in the interconnectivity and interdependency between natural and human systems. And that big thinking has led to a big project. Dr. Chuenpagdee is the project director for the six-year, \$2.5-million SSHRC-funded project, Too Big to Ignore: Global Partnerships for Small-Scale Fisheries Research. It involves 15 partners including intergovernmental organizations, research and academic institutions, environmental organizations and non-governmental organizations as well as 62 researchers based in Canada and 26 other countries around the world. The project's inaugural meeting took place recently in St. John's. "This is the first time a project of this scale has focused on small-scale fisheries and I'm very pleased we here at Memorial University are hosting the initiative, given the importance of small-boat fisheries in the province," said Dr. Chuenpagdee. [TODAY.MUN.CA](http://TODAY.MUN.CA)

**Trent U's Mark Skinner Examines How Voluntarism Helps Rural Communities Cope with Aging Populations:** Mark Skinner, a professor of Geography, has been awarded a SSHRC Insight Development grant to examine how voluntarism can help rural communities cope with aging populations when their economy changes. The two-year study will take place in two resource-dependent communities in northern BC that weren't designed to accommodate older people. "The results of this study have implications for policy development in other rural communities across Canada who will face similar challenges as their population ages," said Dr. Skinner. "Not only will we learn how voluntarism can help communities support seniors, we will also gain insight into how older people can help resource-dependent communities deal with economic cycles." [Trent Daily News](#)

**UVic's Ken Josephson Contributes to News Community Green Map:** The University of Victoria's Community Mapping Initiative, Department of Geography and Office of Community-Based Research have added the newest community green map—Oak Bay's—to a growing local series. Oak Bay's "Home Is All Around Us" green map visually captures the region's natural, Indigenous and cultural heritage as well as ecological reserves, bike lanes, local gathering places, community values, future visions and more. The Community Association of Oak Bay coordinated the project with assistance from other supporters and sponsors, including the Victoria Real Estate Board. UVic mapping experts and community researchers have been working closely with local governments for several years now to develop a network of green maps to highlight and link special aspects of our region. Worldwide, the [Green Map® System](#) is a non-profit movement which uses a universal system of icons. It was launched in the mid-1990s in New York and now boasts more than 750 interactive editions in 61 countries. [UVic Media](#)

**U Waterloo Student Graham Pope Talks about Co-op in Alert, Nunavut:** Graham Pope spent an 8 month co-op work term in Alert, Nunavut, the most Northern point in Canada. He talks about his experience living and working in a place where there is 6 months of daylight and 6 months of nighttime. [Cool Geography Jobs on YouTube](#)

**U Toronto Scarborough's Minelle Mahtani on Racism in Canada:** Some analysts say the changes point to a deep-rooted, yet widely ignored undercurrent of racism in Canadian society. "Fighting racism in the States is like punching a brick wall, but fighting it in Canada is like punching a marshmallow – it always melds back to the same shape," said Minelle Mahtani, a professor at University of Toronto Scarborough. "We live in an ostrich-head-in-the-sand-like denial that racism exists in this country, and yet systemic discrimination is the norm." [The Guardian](#) | [The Globe and Mail](#)

**Mount Allison University Undergraduate Bryan Mood Talks about Working in a MAD Lab:** Last summer I was hired at the MAD lab to write a web-based computer program for landowners in Saskatchewan. An owner can input information, such as where they live and what shelterbelt tree species they want to plant, then the program produces a graph that illustrates how their chosen species is projected to grow up to the year 2100. With this information the farmers can then plant appropriate species. However, we are missing some information in the program about how species will grow in specific locations of the province. My honours project looks at white spruce growth in shelterbelts throughout Saskatchewan and specifically on how and why the tree species growth changes from the eastern to western and northern to southern boundaries of the province. I got this idea from a paper I was reading about the importance of spatial connections in tree-ring analysis. I am very interested in including spatial dimensions into this larger project, as it adds to the information gathered from the temporal component of the tree timelines. [MTA Questions](#)

**U Waterloo Geography Student Crowned Miss Oktoberfest 2012:** Geography and Environmental Management student Lindsay Coulter for being crowned Miss Oktoberfest 2012. As the official ambassador for North America's largest Oktoberfest, Coulter will make upwards of 125 public appearances. [The Record.com](#)

**Western U's Planetary Cartographer Philip Stooke Releases Mars Atlas:** Award-winning Western planetary cartographer Philip Stooke will officially launch his latest project, [The International Atlas of Mars Exploration – The First Five Decades: 1953 to 2003](#). "It's not unlike an atlas of Canadian Arctic exploration with detailed maps of all the explorers' routes, what they did at each stop, reproductions of the maps they used and so on," said Stooke, a professor cross-appointed at Western's Departments of Geography and Physics & Astronomy. "This kind of representation has never been done before." Stooke collected a wealth of information from many sources, including a great deal of material that has never been published before. [Western News](#)

**Bishop's U's Matthew Peros Receives Support for State-of-the-Art Climate Change Lab:** Thanks to almost \$ 800 000 of research funding, [Matthew Peros](#), Canada Research Chair for Climate and Environmental Change, has assembled a truly world class laboratory. He and his colleagues from the Multi-Scale Climate and Environmental Change (M.U.S.C.L.E.) research cluster will use these facilities to conduct crucial research on the impact of climate and environmental changes on microorganisms, ecosystems, vegetation, melt waters, coastlines, and more. The new Bishop's laboratory is equipped with cutting-edge technology such as high-magnification microscopes, a laser particle size analyzer, tree-ring analysis instruments, and a range of field equipment to facilitate data collection from a wide variety of wetlands and other environments. Soon, a spectrophotometer will be added. The type of work being done here includes a project being led by [Elizabeth Levac](#) focused on developing automated microfossil identification systems. [Bishop's University News](#)

**U Guelph's Evan Fraser Warns We're Eating More than We're Producing:** Maintaining a large stock-to use buffer for food is a bit like holding onto a large cash reserve in an investment portfolio. When times are good – things are stable and the economy is growing – it makes sense to reduce your cash and invest more of your money to get better returns. But just like saving your money means you miss all sorts of opportunities you might otherwise enjoy, storing food as a buffer is costly, too. For a poor nation, building the infrastructure to maintain food stores is an expense that few can afford. Managing such systems, meanwhile, has in the past also proven rife with problems such as corruption. Yet despite these challenges, building the capacity to maintain larger food stores is necessary. Since virtually no one expects the weather over the next few decades to be as accommodating as in the past we need to take the opportunity now to build up our reserves. Only when we have a bigger buffer between urban consumers and the dangerous swings of international commodity markets will we be able to prevent a repeat of the food related political unrest of the past four years. [CNN World](#)

**Queen's U's Mark Rosenberg Awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal:** [Mark Rosenberg](#) has been awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to gerontology. Mark was nominated by the Board of Directors and the membership of the Canadian Association on Gerontology and will be presented with his award during the Opening Ceremonies of CAG 2012: "[Aging in a Changing World](#)." The meetings take place in Vancouver.

**36th Annual Meeting of the CAG Prairie Division:** The [Department of Environment and Geography](#) at the University of Manitoba recently hosted the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers at the Heartland Inn in Winkler, MB, September 28-30, 2012.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dominic Odwa Atari, Isaac N. Luginaah, Kevin Gorey, Xiaohong Xu and Karen Fung. 2012. [Associations between self-reported odour annoyance and volatile organic compounds in 'Chemical Valley', Sarnia, Ontario](#). Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. DOI: 10.1007/s10661-012-2887-3

Laura C. Brown and Claude R. Duguay. 2012. [Modelling lake ice phenology with an examination of satellite-detected subgrid cell variability](#). Advances in Meteorology. doi:10.1155/2012/529064

Sylvio Demers, Thomas Buffin-Bélanger and André G. Roy. 2012. [Macroturbulent coherent structures in an ice-covered river flow using a pulse-coherent acoustic Doppler profiler](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3334

Belinda Dodson, Asiyati Chiweza and Liam Riley. 2012. [Gender and Food Insecurity in Southern African Cities](#). Urban Food Security Series No. 10. Queen's University and AFSUN: Kingston and Cape Town.

Cameron Proctor, Vincent Robinson, Yuhong He. 2012. [Multispectral detection of European frog-bit in the South Nation River using Quickbird imagery](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing 38(4):476-486.

Rita Winkler, Sarah Boon, Barbara Zimonick and Dave Spittlehouse. 2012. [Snow accumulation and ablation response to changes in forest structure and snow surface albedo after attack by mountain pine beetle](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9574

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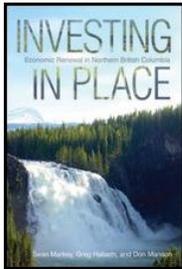
## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Liam McGuire. 2012. [The ten cities of Toronto: patterns of socio-economic inequality and polarization throughout the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia. Supervisor: Dr. Elvin Wyly.

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## New Books

Sean Markey, Greg Halseth, and Don Manson. 2012. [Investing in Place. Economic Renewal in Northern British Columbia](#). UBC Press. 352 p.



Northern British Columbia is a place of rich cultures, diverse communities, and a strong sense of identity. The future of this vast, resource-rich region and the people who call it home could be either driven by a narrow economic agenda or guided by innovative, place-based solutions that seek to build viable communities and resilient local and regional economies. Investing in Place is about creating the foundations for renewing northern British Columbia's rural and small-town economies. Markey, Halseth, and Manson argue that renewal is not about nostalgic reliance on the policies and economic strategies of the past -- rather, it is about building a pragmatic and innovative vision for development, one that acknowledges both the opportunities and the challenges posed by resource development and global and technological change. For policy-makers and residents alike the path to renewal lies in place-based development, which consists of people working together at all levels of the community and region to take advantage of local opportunities in a sustainable, responsible way.

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## Other "Geographical" News

**Map of the Day - New York's Geography of Complaining:** Statistical confirmation of what was always known: Manhattan is loud, the Bronx is the world's graffiti capital, and the other three boroughs are covered in garbage. At least those seem to be the obvious conclusions from this map, by Dietmar Offenhuber, based off two years of 311 complaints. Green corresponds to noise complaints, blue to litter complaints, and magenta to graffiti. [The Atlantic Cities](#)

**Southern Hemisphere Becoming Drier:** A decline in April-May rainfall over south-east Australia is associated with a southward expansion of the subtropical dry-zone. CSIRO researchers found that the autumn southward expansion of the subtropical dry-zone is greatest over south-eastern Australia, and to a lesser extent, over the Southern Ocean to the south of Africa. An important issue remains as to why the poleward expansion is largest in autumn, and there is still uncertainty about the role of external forcings -- such as greenhouse gases -- as climate models underestimate the southward expansion of the Hadley cell edge. [ScienceDaily](#)

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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>**