



# GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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**Remembering Sue Vajoczki:** Sue Vajoczki was an internationally recognized award-winning teaching professor and scholar whose passion for teaching, learning and students touched every corner of our campus and beyond. Since 2010 she led McMaster's Centre for Leadership in Learning and was an associate professor in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences. As an enthusiastic educator and lifelong learner, Sue demonstrated an enduring commitment to linking the student and classroom experience with research, and translating this into effective pedagogical leadership and heightened student achievement. Her dedication to students and academic excellence demonstrated how she valued engagement, critical evaluation, and controlled experimentation in enhancing university teaching and learning. Her many contributions will be greatly missed by her colleagues and friends. [McMaster Daily News](#)

**Simon Fraser U's Valerie Crooks Explores Issue of Medical Tourism:** Dental work in Mexico, a facelift in Barbados, or perhaps a knee replacement in India. These are just a few of the many options for surgeries available around the world to those who can afford to pay out of pocket. The ethics, equality and safety of what is known as "medical tourism" comprise a complicated subject of debate, however. In response to this, a team of researchers at Simon Fraser University is studying the topic to help find some answers to offer Canadian patients considering cross-border health care. Valorie Crooks, a health geographer at SFU, recently received a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research award for an eight-year period to further her research in this area. Her qualitative study focuses on Canadian medical tourism in Barbados, Guatemala, Mexico and India. Crooks hopes to gain a better understanding of the impacts of medical tourism for both Canada and the destination country. By next year, she and her team of researchers hope to have a tool guide for Canadians who are considering medical tourism to help them carefully consider their options. [BurnabyNow](#)

**UQAM Catherine Trudelle Réhabiliter les Conflits Urbains:** Depuis quelques années, le projet de reconstruction de l'échangeur Turcot, le plus gros carrefour autoroutier au Québec, suscite la controverse. En février dernier, évoquant les impacts néfastes de la pollution routière sur la santé de la population, la Direction de la santé publique de Montréal s'est opposée à l'aménagement d'aires de jeux pour enfants et de jardins communautaires à proximité du futur échangeur, tel que proposé par le ministère des Transports du Québec. Selon Catherine Trudelle, professeure au Département de géographie et titulaire de la Chaire de recherche du Canada sur les conflits socioterritoriaux et la gouvernance locale, le projet de reconstruction du complexe Turcot risque de transformer radicalement le cadre de vie de la population du sud-ouest de Montréal. «L'an dernier, des centaines de résidents de ce quartier avaient manifesté leur opposition au projet et avaient réclamé que des mesures soient prises pour réduire la circulation automobile et pour favoriser le développement des transports collectifs», rappelle-t-elle. [UQAM Entrevues](#)

**Brock U's David Butz Uses Autophotography to Chronicle Research Participants:** When Brock University geography professor David Butz wanted to ask residents of a Pakistani village how they felt about a new road being constructed in their community, he brought along a vital piece of research equipment. A camera. "We're distributing cameras, people are taking pictures, we're downloading them and then we're interviewing people about their pictures" using a methodology called autophotography Butz said. Autophotography allows research participants to speak for themselves by selecting what they choose to focus on as they take their pictures. In Butz's and Cook's case, residents took lots of pictures of different construction sites and styles, leading to discussions on changing lifestyles, new materials being imported into the community, hygiene and how people relate to one another, among other topics. "When people bring these pictures, they've already mapped out to some extent what the conversation is going to be like, so you're getting a conversation that's driven much more by your participants." [The Brock News](#)

**Geography at Brandon U Celebrates 50 Years of Teaching Excellence:** In 1962, a new Department of Geography, with faculty member Dr. John Tyman, was launched at Brandon College (BC). Three years later, there were five geography course offerings and Dr. John Welsted became the second full-time faculty member. When BC achieved its university status in 1967, the Department began to set its own path. Over the years, 37 people have held full-time faculty positions in the Geography Department, though the early "builders" of the program have either moved on or retired. Dr. Tyman served as Dean of Science from 1973 to 1975 and then moved to Australia. Dr. Welsted served the Department for 32 years; sadly, he passed away in Victoria, in 2009. Dr. Stadel returned to Austria in 1992. Dr. Rounds left to serve as director of the Rural Development Institute in 1988 and retired ten years later. Dr. Everitt retired in 2007 and is living in the British Virgin Islands. Dr. McGinn just retired in January. Current faculty includes Dr. Dion Wiseman (geomatics, physical), Dr. Chris Malcolm (biogeography, wildlife management), Dr. Derrek Eberts (economic, urban), Dr. Johannes "Joe" Koch (dendrochronology, geomorphology), Dr. Daniel Olsen (tourism, cultural) as well as instructional associate Wenonah van Heyst (geomatics, physical) and adjunct member Dr. Drew Hoysak (ecology, population ecology). [Brandon University Alumni News](#)

**BBC to Feature Carleton U Master's Student Anna Crawford's Research about Ice Island:** The BBC will feature Anna Crawford, who's studying geography and earth science, in a two-part documentary about pieces of an ice island in Baffin Bay that was more than 20-billion tons and four times the size of Manhattan. The BBC caught Crawford on camera with British Arctic Survey scientists while doing field work on the Petermann Ice Island. "I think her passion and excitement for her science will show through on camera and really be brought to life for the masses," says Prof. Derek Mueller, Crawford's supervisor at Carleton. Crawford visited some pieces last October, just one month after starting her master's degree, to track their movements and take measurements of their thicknesses. "There was quite a learning curve but it was really great to be thrown into it," she says. "Being able to see what you're working on adds excitement and a personal touch to your work." [Carleton Now](#)

**York U's Kathy Young Pursues Wild Science:** Discouraging polar bears from joining you for breakfast, avoiding hippos that might bite you in two and learning to bathe in caiman-infested rivers are not part of a scientist's traditional job description. But if you're a field researcher — someone who gets out of the lab to collect and analyze data — you may want to master some of these skills. Kathy Young at York University's Department of Geography is using her degrees in biology and geography to figure out how Arctic wetlands and ponds are responding to climate fluctuations. Young has discovered that some Arctic ponds and wetlands are indeed drying out, and she worries about what that might mean for the animals and people who rely on such watery habitats. These areas act as grocery stores in a place where food can be scarce. Musk ox, caribou and migrating birds eat the wetlands' grasses, flowers, herbs and seeds. The Inuit (native peoples) in turn hunt these animals. [Science News for Kids](#)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Philip Antwi-Agyei, Andrew J. Dougill, Evan D.G. Fraser and Lindsay C. Stringer. 2012. [Characterising the nature of vulnerability to climate variability: empirical evidence from two regions of Ghana](#). Centre for Climate Change Economics and Policy. Working Paper No. 105. Sustainability Research Institute Paper No. 37.

René A. Enguehard, Rodolphe Devillers and Orland Hoerber. 2012. [Comparing interactive and automated mapping systems for supporting fisheries enforcement activities—a case study on vessel monitoring systems \(VMS\)](#). Journal of Coastal Conservation. DOI: 10.1007/s11852-012-0222-3

Greg H.R. Henry, K.A. Harper, W. Chen, J.R. Deslippe. 2012. [Effects of observed and experimental climate change on terrestrial ecosystems in northern Canada: results from the Canadian IPY program](#). Climatic Change. DOI: 10.1007/s10584-012-0587-1

Virpal Kataure and Margaret Walton-Roberts. 2012. [The housing preferences and location choices of second-generation South Asians living in ethnic enclaves](#). South Asian Diaspora. DOI:10.1080/19438192.2013.722385

Julia Linke and Greg J. McDermid. 2012. [Monitoring landscape change in multi-use west-central Alberta, Canada using the disturbance-inventory framework](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 125:112-124.

A. Ludwig, P. Berthiaume, J. Richer, R. Tinline and M. Bigras-Poulin. 2012. [A simple geometric validation approach to assess the basic behaviour of space- and time- distributed models of epidemic spread – an example using the Ontario rabies model](#). Transboundary and Emerging Diseases. DOI:10.1111/tbed.1201010.1111/tbed.12010

Cheryl McKenna Neuman, Bailiang Li and David Nash. 2012. [Micro-topographic analysis of shell pavements formed by aeolian transport in a wind tunnel simulation](#). Journal of Geophysical Research. 117, F04003. doi:10.1029/2012JF002381

Casey O'Laughlin and Danika van Proosdij. 2012. [Influence of varying tidal prism on hydrodynamics and sedimentary processes in a hypertidal salt marsh creek](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3340

B. Parlee and C. Furgal. 2012. [Well-being and environmental change in the arctic: a synthesis of selected research from Canada's International Polar Year program](#). Climatic Change. DOI:10.1007/s10584-012-0588-0

M.S. Rice, E.A. Cloutis, J.F. Bell III, D.L. Bish, B.H. Horgan, S.A. MertzMan, M.A. Craig, R.W. Renaut, B. Gautason and B. Mountain. 2012. [Reflectance spectra diversity of silica-rich materials: Sensitivity to Environment and Implications for Detections on Mars](#). Icarus. doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2012.09.021

Jennifer J. Silver, Zoe A. Meletis and Pryia Vadi. 2012. [Complex context: Aboriginal participation in hosting the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games](#). Leisure Studies 31(3): 291-308.

Marcie Snyder and Kathi Wilson. 2012. [Urban aboriginal mobility in Canada: Examining the association with health care utilization](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.09.020). Social Science & Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2012.09.020

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Weather-Making High-Pressure Systems over Oceans Predicted to Intensify:** High-pressure systems over oceans, which largely determine the tracks of tropical cyclones and hydrological extremes in much of the northern hemisphere, are likely to intensify this century. The study's findings suggest that as summertime near-surface high-pressure systems over the northern Pacific and Atlantic oceans strengthen, they could play an increasingly important role in shaping regional climate, particularly the occurrence of drought and extreme summer rainfall, in coming years. [Science Daily](#)

**Teaching with Writing:** The website of the Writing Center at Colorado State University is a great source of information for people who teach writing. A good place to start is the Teaching Guides area, which includes strategies on Planning & Conducting Classes, Teaching Specific Writing Skills, and Writing Across the Curriculum. Furthermore, the Teaching Activities section includes a range of compelling aides including Argument Quiz Discussion Starter, Evaluating Writing, and A Storyteller's Misguided Guide to Focus. [Writing@CSU](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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