



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo's André Roy Presented with ACFAS - Michel-Jurdant 2012 Award: This year at the 68th Gala de L'ACFAS to benefit excellence in science, the ACFAS - Michel-Jurdant 2012 Award, for research in environmental science was awarded to Professor André Roy, associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Montreal since 2011 and Dean of the Faculty of Environment University of Waterloo. Dr. Roy literally gave Quebec its credentials in terms of fluvial geomorphology, an area virtually nonexistent 30 years ago and in recent decades he has trained a whole generation of geomorphologists / hydrologists who work in Quebec and elsewhere in the world. He has made many advances in geomorphology and his work and scientific influence have had an effect in the development and protection of the environment. [Prix Michel-Jurdant](#)

Western U's Irena Creed Leads Initiative to Study Future of Great Lakes Basin: A new initiative led by Western University scientist Irena Creed, Canada Research Chair in Watershed Sciences and a professor in Western's Departments of Biology, Earth Sciences and Geography, unites Canadian and American researchers and educators invested in bettering the future of water in the Great Lakes Basin. Creed, along with colleagues from McMaster University, SUNY at Buffalo and The University of Michigan, together with Western postdoctoral fellow Katrina Laurent, is leading the project, which includes Canadian and American academics, government, non-government organizations, industry, and private citizens, to forge consensus on the desired future of the Great Lakes Basin-St. Lawrence River Basin. "This project is critical for understanding the future that current policy is leading us towards," says Creed, the Canada Research Chair in Watershed Sciences and a professor in Western's Departments of Biology, Earth Sciences and Geography. "Experts will be given the tools needed to construct actionable recommendations, which will bring public policies closer to achieving socio-ecological sustainability in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Basin." [Western Daily News](#)

WLU's Brent Wolfe Reports Little Long-Distance Impact from Oilsands Mines in Northern Alberta: The extent to which Alberta oil sands mining and upgrading operations have enhanced delivery of bitumen-derived contaminants via the Athabasca River and atmosphere to the Peace-Athabasca Delta is a pivotal question that has generated national and international concern. In a [recently published study](#), Brent Wolfe, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, and his co-author report that they couldn't find any increase over time of toxic hydrocarbons or heavy metals in sediments from lakes and rivers on the Athabasca Delta north of the oilsands mines. Based on analyses of lake sediment cores, Wolfe and his co-authors provide evidence that the Athabasca Delta has been a natural repository of Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds (PACs) carried by the Athabasca River for at least the past two centuries. The detected no measureable increase in the concentration and proportion of river-transported bitumen-associated indicator PACs in sediments deposited in a flood-prone lake since onset of oil sands development. [Calgary Herald](#)

UT Mississauga's Pierre Desrochers on Oil Sands Environmental Impact: A majority of Canadians support oil sands development so long as continuous efforts are made to limit its environmental impact, says a new poll. The survey and a companion ed along with a research paper outlining how oil-sands producers are innovating and introducing new technology to limit environmental damage as well as reduce production costs. "Few people are aware that the production of a barrel of oil from the oil sands emits between 26 and 29 per cent less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than twenty years ago, or that more than 70 per cent of the water used in the extraction process is recycled," said co-author Pierre Desrochers, an associate geography professor at the University of Toronto Mississauga and an associate researcher at the institute. [Globe and Mail](#)

Western U's Jason Gilliland Participates in Round Table Discussion on London's Image: Dr. Gilliland recently joined host, Randy Richmond from the London Free Press (LFP) along with LFP Editor in Chief, Joe Ruscitti and Sean Galloway, Manager of Urban Design from the City of London for a round table discussion on London's image as part of the City's multi year project. The panel discussed areas London should focus on and how it can stand out from other competing cities in Ontario and Canada. [London Free Press](#)

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Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jean Andrey, Derrick Hambly, Brian Mills and Sadia Afrin. 2012. [Insights into driver adaptation to inclement weather in Canada](#). Journal of Transport Geography. doi.org/10.1016/j.jtrangeo.2012.08.014

Richard Harris. 2012. "[Ragged urchins play on marquetry floors](#)": The discourse of filtering is [reconstructed, 1920s–1950s](#). Housing Policy Debate 22:463-482.

Jed A. Long and Trisalyn A. Nelson. 2012. [Measuring dynamic interaction in movement data](#). Transactions in GIS. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9671.2012.01353.x

James A. MacEachern and Michael C. Roberts. 2012. [Ichnological evidence of jökulhlaup deposit recolonization from the Touchet Beds, Mabton, WA, USA](#). Quaternary Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.yqres.2012.09.001

Other “Geographical” News

Principles of the Global Positioning System: This MIT course allows interested individuals the opportunity to learn about the principles of the global positioning system. The materials here include the syllabus, lecture notes, and assignments. The lecture notes constitute the heart of the offerings and are divided into 23 sections. These include "Coordinate and Time Systems," "GPS satellite orbits," and "Basic antenna operation." Visitors can elect to download all of the course materials at once, or they can select certain items of interest individually. [Openwarecourse](#)

Government in Canada's Eastern Arctic to Issue Permafrost Guide to Homeowners: Melting permafrost is one of the major concerns associated with climate change in the North. As the frozen subsoil thaws, it can cause all sorts of problems; buckled roads, shifting foundations and broken infrastructure. Now, the Nunavut government wants to help homeowners prepare and protect their homes. In some parts of the western Arctic, melting permafrost is already a builder's foe. The shifting ground can wreak havoc on foundations, requiring expensive repairs. The government is now devising a "Homeowner's Guide to Permafrost" which is meant as a sort of primer for a complex issue. "What permafrost is, what the permafrost regime in Nunavut is like, why some of these structures in Nunavut are dependent on a stable permafrost regime, and where there are measures a homeowner can take to promote and to preserve permafrost under their home, where there are things they can do, we'll show them how to do it," said Rob Eno from Nunavut's Department of Environment. [Eye on the Arctic](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



Mantra of the Successful Graduate Student:

Sleep is overrated. My professor is infallible. Coffee is god.

Demotivation.us

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