



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Lethbridge U's Ian MacLachlan suggests there are local opportunities for 'industrial ecology': By working together, government and industry can build large industrial complexes while protecting their environment. A Lethbridge geographer cited an Australian success to show how manufacturing plants and refineries can integrate their operations and use each other's byproducts. Ian MacLachlan, a faculty member at the University of Lethbridge, outlined the story of the Kwinana industrial complex near Perth. Founded in 1952 - the same year as Kitimat, B.C. - the city's industrial zone processes aluminum, gold and nickel as well as crude oil. Unlike Kitimat, it's far from a one-industry town. Without government incentives, he suggested, not even major industrial areas like "Upgrader Alley" near Edmonton are likely to adopt "industrial ecology" practices. "There are no signs of it there," he said. Closer to home, MacLachlan said linkages are possible in the city's new Sherring Business and Industrial Park. Economic Development Lethbridge has opened opportunities through its "teconnect" facility, and proponents of a "district" power plant based on natural gas turbine technology have spoken about a hot-water heating utility near its site. [Lethbridge Herald](#)

Western U's Jeff Hopkins suggests more downtown residents needed in London: During the past decade-plus, London city council has invested \$100 million in downtown redevelopment. Continuing that trend is crucial to downtown's "long-term viability," said John Paul Sousa, planning and research analyst at city hall. For one expert, it's worth noting Canadian downtowns, London's included, weren't abandoned as badly as their U.S. counterparts, Detroit the most glaring example. But the commercial decline of London's core was dramatic by the 1990s, thanks to a post-Second World War flight to the suburbs and the proliferation of malls at the city's edges, says Jeff Hopkins, an urban cultural geographer at Western University. Reversing that demise requires more people living downtown, he said, which is what makes the new statistics so encouraging. "A vibrant downtown (needs) a number of different people down there for a number of different reasons at a number of times of day," Hopkins said. "You don't want 'nine-to-five downtown's busy' and then at five o'clock everyone gets in the car and leaves." [London Free Press](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki appears before parliamentary committee studying usefulness of public-private partnerships: Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz sang the praises of public-private partnerships in an appearance before a parliamentary committee. But he left with a request to provide more information to back up his claims. Most P3 proponents say the private sector is better at delivering projects on time and on budget than governments. The private sector bears the extra costs if the P3 project fails to meet deadlines and cost estimates. University of Toronto geography Prof. Matti Siemiatycki, who has studied P3s for a decade, told the committee he was concerned the value-for-money assessments were unclear. He said P3s provide savings to the public sector only if the risk transfer is great enough to outweigh the higher interest costs the private sector pays, he said. Siemiatycki said in his study of 28 P3s in Ontario worth about \$7 billion, the average risk transfer was 49 per cent of what the project would have cost if the public sector did it on its own. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Carleton U Geography PhD candidate Beth Mburu researching food security in Africa: Beth Mburu, a PhD candidate with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, is identifying ways which small farmers in Africa can use to enhance their ability to adapt to climate change and its impact on their livelihood. She says that this could lead to a higher output of locally grown food so that the continent would then require less assistance from other countries. She is focusing her research on Kenya as she grew up there and obtained her undergraduate degree from the University of Nairobi. [Carleton U Grad Student Research](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser participates in panel discussion on global food security: A recent report has that global food prices are rising and are likely to touch an all-time high in 2013 due to drought in some parts of the world. World food prices are once again drawing global attention as drought in the US, South America and Russia have diminished crop prospects and tightened already low inventory levels. In response, some countries are doing what they can to make sure food availability for their own people. But governments' interventions like this to check high food prices by way of export bans and commodity stockpiling could exacerbate commodity price volatility. Recently, Evan Fraser, Canada Research Chair in Global Human Security in the Department of Geography at the University of Guelph participated in a panel discussion focused on the topic of food security. [CRIEnglish](#)

Algoma U offers geography courses in 'block plan': Algoma University delivers courses differently from the conventional university model. Richard Myers, president of the university, said the courses, including... geography, history and English, will be offered in a "block plan" where students complete them one at a time in three-week increments, rather than juggle five courses at once. Myers believes in some ways, the system of having new university students take five courses at once, "sets people up to fail." Chatham Coun. Anne Gilbert believes the concept of block learning is great for students who don't learn in the traditional way. [Chatham DailyNews](#)

Geographer Sue Vajoczki always rose to challenge: Sue Vajoczki crammed a lot of living into her 46 years. "She got more done in a day than most people do in three," her brother, Tom Cox, said Tuesday. "She was always multi-tasking." Ms. Vajoczki, director of the Centre for Leaders in Learning at Hamilton's McMaster University, died at the Stedman Community Hospice after battling with cancer for much of the last year. Ms. Vajoczki, who was named director of the McMaster centre in 2010, was especially renowned for her work using experiential learning - a form of hands-on work that draws students into all aspects of a problem. Her expertise in the area landed her a national 3M Teaching Award earlier this year. [Brantford Expositor](#)

Canadian Geographic Education is teaching students a new lesson: Canadian Geographic Education, as part of a three-year partnership with Shell Canada, CG Education has created Energy Use lesson plans to educate high school students about the increasingly pertinent issues surrounding energy consumption and conservation. The lessons, which utilize resources such as Canadian Geographic's annual environment issue, focus on a broad range of power- and resource-related issues. Students are given the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, including designing an energy-efficient home, analyzing the effects that cycling has on our collective carbon footprint and simulating a task force to consider the costs and benefits of oil and gas production and consumption. [RCGS News](#)

U Toronto Mississauga's Ron Buliung joins Journal of Transport Geography: Ron Buliung has been selected as the Canadian member of the international editorial board of the Journal of Transport Geography. JTG is the second highest ranked journal in transportation research - a category that spans disciplines including engineering, geography, economics, and planning. [UTM News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Patricia Ballamingie and Susan Tudin. 2012. [Publishing graduate student research in geography: the fundamentals](#). Journal of Geography in Higher Education. DOI:10.1080/03098265.2012.729815

Zhang XianFeng Liao ChunHua, Liu Yu and Li Jonathan. 2012. [An IconMap-based exploratory analytical approach for multivariate geospatial data](#). Science China Information Sciences. DOI:10.1007/s11432-012-4692-6

Kevin M. Gorey, Isaac N. Luginaah, Eric J. Holowaty; Guangyong Zou, Caroline Hamm, Emma Bartfay, Sindu M. Kanjeekal, Madhan K. Balagurusamy, Sundus Haji-Jama and Frances C. Wright. 2012. [Effects of being uninsured or underinsured and living in extremely poor neighborhoods on colon cancer care and survival in California: historical cohort analysis, 1996-2011](#). BMC Public Health 12:897 doi:10.1186/1471-2458-12-897.

Bethany Haalboom and David J. Natcher. 2012. [The power and peril of vulnerability: Approaching community labels with caution in climate change research](#). Arctic 65:319-327.

Tor H. Oiamo, Isaac N. Luginaah, Michael Buzzelli, Kathy Tang, Xiaohong Xu, Jeffrey R. Brook and Markey Johnson. 2012. [Assessing the spatial distribution of nitrogen dioxide in London, Ontario](#). Journal of the Air & Waste Management Association 62:1335-1345

Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Sherilee L. Harper, Victoria L. Edge, 'My Word': Storytelling and Digital Media Lab and Rigolet Inuit Community Government. 2012. [Storytelling in a digital age: digital storytelling as an emerging narrative method for preserving and promoting indigenous oral wisdom](#). Qualitative Research. doi:10.1177/1468794112446105

Simon Springer. 2012. [Anarchism! What geography still ought to be](#). Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography 44:1605–1624.

Simon Springer, Anthony Ince, Jenny Pickerill, Gavin Brown and Adam J. Barker. 2012. [Reanimating anarchist geographies: a new burst of colour](#). Antipode 44:1591–1604.

Simon Springer, Heather Chi, Jeremy Crampton, Fiona Mcconnell, Julie Cupples, Kevin Glynn, Barney Warf and Wes Attewell. 2012. [Leaky geopolitics: The ruptures and transgressions of WikiLeaks](#). Geopolitics 17:681–711.

Alan Walks. 2012. [Suburbanism as a way of life, slight return](#). Urban Studies. doi:10.1177/0042098012462610

Other “Geographical” News

Explaining the gap in your resumé. Time out for a baby: With intense competition for academic jobs, many young scholars worry about how to best position themselves for success. And if the candidate is a newly minted PhD who took a break from publishing or a delay in completing the degree due to childbirth, and perhaps even some time out for full-time parenting, the anxiety increases. One such scholar wrote University Affairs to ask: “How do I explain the gap in my research productivity? Would confessing that I have a young child prejudice a hiring committee against me?” [University Affairs](#)

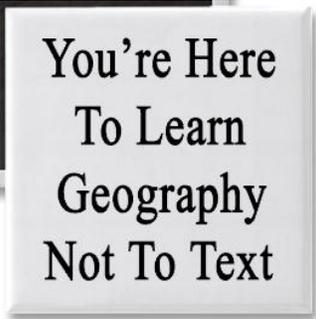
Should I become a professor? It's nice work, if you can stand getting it: Have you ever looked at the front of your lecture hall or into a professor's office and thought, "That looks like a pretty good gig"? Probably not. But if you have, you may have wondered how you get from where you are to where your professor is. As you might imagine, it's neither easy to get there nor always as much fun as it looks. MACLEANS.ca

Google Maps gets natural geography update with colorful terrain: Google Maps has revealed a completely naturalized iteration of their global land environment this week with new terrain, color gradations to depict vegetation, and labels for lovely natural land formations of all kinds. This update makes that 3D globe you've got in your closet look all the more useless as you're now able to see the mountains, coast over the plains, and see where the densest forests in the world are. Google has shown this Maps update in a collection of great examples including Brazil and Columbia (with the African Basin) and Southern Asia – now covered with luscious vegetation. [SlashGear](#) | [WebProNews](#)

One slight advance, one significant retreat at Garibaldi Park's Wedgemount Glacier: It is the 40th anniversary of monitoring Wedgemount Glacier. Much has changed in those four decades. In 1973, the glacier was floating on the lake; by 1991 the glacier terminus was back to the lakeshore. Then it began receding upslope, fast, and now the terminus is almost 300 metres from the lakeshore. It's on a roll, except it's in the wrong direction, and the recession over the last year between monitoring was a near record — 28.6 metres. In the 1930s it was more, but in our period of measurements it is a record loss, and since 1991 the average recession has been 13.6 metres per year. Well, did we ever witness an advance of the glacier? The answer is yes, in 1981, but less than one metre. [Pique](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

Weird jobs people do make Canada great: The National Occupational Classification, a monster list of official job titles at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada lists 520 basic job categories and 30,000 specific job titles. There's a ditch cleaner but no ditch digger. And then there are heads of departments of universities, but here's a true oddity: The list recognizes the chairman, -woman, or -person of just six departments: physics, linguistics, geography, food science, visual arts and theology. Take that, [geology] department. [Ottawa Citizen](#)



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