



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 202, November 11, 2012**  
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**Carleton U's Fraser Taylor wins 3M Environmental Innovation Award for advances in cartography:** 3M Canada has announced that Carleton's Fraser Taylor is the recipient of the fourth annual 3M Environmental Innovation Award. Taylor is a Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Geography and director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre. The centre aims to merge technology and cartography in new and interesting ways. Cybercartography, a term he introduced during a conference in 1997, has since been accepted around the world. Among his many research interests, Taylor has been working to develop a framework that merges crowd-sourced data with official data from government and scientific sources. The goal is the ability to map intangible data such as social phenomena, moods and feelings, or data not usually considered by official sources, such as the concentration of record stores in a given city or stray cats in a neighbourhood. The award, sponsored by 3M Canada in partnership with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS), celebrates individuals involved in a local, regional or national project, program or initiative that has provided innovative solutions that protect, restore or preserve the environment. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**U Regina's Ulrike Hardenbicker offers the real dirt on Regina gumbo:** Long before human life came to the Prairies when Glacial Lake Regina covered a significant portion of southern Saskatchewan. It formed as a giant pool of water run-off for glaciers that covered most of the province. The lake — that covered an area about 150 kilometres long and 75 kilometres wide, extending from north of Regina to Weyburn — drained slowly but left behind land that was uncommonly flat. But the soil had a unique chemical makeup that frustrates municipalities and homeowners to this day. "It all has to do with the clay mineral," said Ulrike Hardenbicker, an associate professor at the University of Regina's geography department. The issue with the soil has to do with sodium bentonite, a component that makes the soil eager to take on water and expand. Different versions of bentonite are used for its absorbent qualities for more practical purposes including cat litter and wine making. "If you have 10 grams of clay, it can absorb up to 30 grams of water. And when that happens, it swells. When it's wet, it changes its volume," said Hardenbicker. So the reaction to all of the mucky clay on which Regina was built is relatively straightforward — when it gets wet, the clay grows and holds onto its expanded size for long periods of time. It drains slowly and the soil similarly shrinks to its original size. [Leader-Post](#)

**McMaster U's Maureen Padden wins award for Envirothon:** [Maureen Padden](#), Assistant Professor in the School of Geography & Earth Sciences, won an Environmental Award from the [Hamilton Conservation Authority](#) for [Envirothon](#) (an environmental competition for high school students). For more information, visit [Envirothon](#).

**Algoma U welcomes new faculty member Chunhua Zhang:** Dr. Chunhua Zhang joins the Algoma University in a tenure-track appointment in Geography. Chunhua earned both his M.Sc. and B.Sc. from Southwest China Normal University [China] and his Ph.D. from the University of Saskatchewan Prior to coming to Algoma U, Dr. Zhang held the position of Assistant Professor [tenure-track] in the Department of Geosciences, East Tennessee State University. Dr. Zhang is an accomplished scholar with a large array of peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Zhang's teaching and research interests include GIS, physical geography, and improving agricultural productivity in Northern Ontario through remote sensing. [SooToday.com](http://SooToday.com)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Matthew J. Burke, Tracy A. Brennand and Andrew J. Perkins. 2012. [Transient subglacial hydrology of a thin ice sheet: insights from the Chasm esker, British Columbia, Canada](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 58:30–55.

Teresa L. Evans and Maycira Costa. 2013. [Landcover classification of the Lower Nhecolândia subregion of the Brazilian Pantanal Wetlands using ALOS/PALSAR, RADARSAT-2 and ENVISAT/ASAR imagery](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 128:118–137.

Ahmed S. Khan. 2012. [Understanding global supply chains and seafood markets for the rebuilding prospects of northern gulf cod fisheries](#). Sustainability 4:2946-2969.

Alexandre Lamarre, Michelle Garneau and Hans Asnong. 2012. [Holocene paleohydrological reconstruction and carbon accumulation of a permafrost peatland using testate amoeba and macrofossil analyses, Kuujuarapik, subarctic Québec, Canada](#). Review of Palaeobotany and Palynology 186:131–141.

Christopher J. Lemieux, Jessica L. Thompson, Jackie Dawson and Rudy M. Schuster. 2012. [Natural resource manager perceptions of agency performance on climate change](#). Journal of Environmental Management . doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2012.09.014

Josh Lepawsky. 2012. [Legal geographies of e-waste legislation in Canada and the US: Jurisdiction, responsibility and the taboo of production](#). Geoforum 43:1194–1206.

Mark Rounsevell, Derek T. Robinson and D. Murray-Rust, 2012. [From actors to agents in socio-ecological systems models](#). Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B 367:259-269. DOI:10.1098/rstb.2011.0187

Derek T. Robinson, D.T. 2012. [Land-cover fragmentation and configuration of ownership parcels in an exurban landscape](#). Urban Ecosystems 15:53-69. DOI: 10.1007/s11252-011-0205-4

Brent Taylor and Rob C. de Loë. 2012. [Conceptualizations of local knowledge in collaborative environmental governance](#). Geoforum 43:1207–1217.

Zhijie Zhang, Dongmei Chen, Michael P. Ward and Qingwu Jiang. 2012. [Transmissibility of the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus, subtype H5N1 in domestic poultry: a spatio-temporal estimation at the global scale](#). Geospatial Health 7:135-143.

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Phil Mount. 2012. [Local Food, scale and conventionalization: mid-scale farms and the governance of "Local Beef" chains](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Guelph, Guelph Ontario. Supervisor: John Smithers.

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## Other "Geographical" News

**Comprehensive new atlas brings B.C. history to life:** It's impossible to truly appreciate history without understanding geography. The 900 maps, along with copies of hundreds of old photographs and documents, make this book an invaluable reference work for anyone interested in B.C. history. There has never been a book like this - never a geographic history of the province as comprehensive as what Hayes has compiled. This is no mere collection of old maps - this book helps to bring B.C.'s history to life. [Times Colonist](#)

**International Committee Geochange stood up for Italian scientists sentenced to 6 years:** The International Committee GEOCHANGE on Global Geological and Environmental Change (Germany), which unites leading scientists and experts from 89 countries, and the Global Network for the Forecasting of Earthquakes (GNFE, UK) have addressed the Italian President with a letter regarding the 6-year imprisonment of known scientists and government officials. They are being charged with manslaughter on the grounds that they denied the possibility of a strong earthquake that did occur in the city of Aquila on April 6, 2009, preventing the city's population from preparing in time for the disaster. [ArkNow.net](#)

**New method could help communities plan for climate risk:** Climate scientists cannot attribute any single weather event. But extreme events are glimpses of the types of occurrences the world could be more vulnerable to in the future. How can we be better prepared? Researchers have developed a new tool to help policymakers, city planners and others see the possible local effects of climate change. Its regional projections of climate trends allow local planners to evaluate risks, and how these risks could shape crops, roads and energy infrastructure. [ScienceDaily](#)

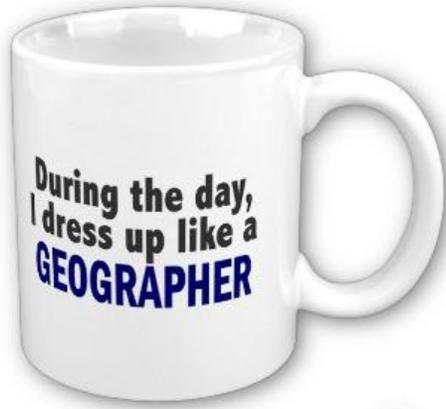
**Call for advances in restoration sedimentology to protect world's river deltas:** Rapid advances in the new and developing field of restoration sedimentology will be needed to protect the world's river deltas that are disappearing at alarming rates. Extraordinarily important, deltas are ecologically rich and productive, and they are home to about 10 percent of the world's population. Because of dams and flood-control barriers many rivers no longer carry enough sediment to offset sea-level rise and coastal subsidence. "From today's perspective," Edmonds says, "the future of the Mississippi River delta is grim. But river diversions have proven successful, and there is a lot we don't know about the sedimentological processes of land-building that may change projections." [ScienceDaily](#)

**Keep your job talk short and simple:** Like it or not, the seminar is the single most important part of an academic interview. Many people in the department in which you are interviewing won't have read your CV or publications, so the seminar is often their only chance to evaluate your research and teaching capabilities – and your personality. Every detail of a job talk – from the background colour of the slides to the pace and tone of delivery – should be proofed, polished and perfected. Even a small typo in a figure title or a yawn in mid-sentence can leave an indelibly bad impression on some members of an audience. "Don't expect to be fresh and clearheaded at the interview," a friend warned me. "Assume that you'll be tired and anxious, so prepare accordingly." For me this has meant a lot of rehearsing and reviewing of my job talk. [University Affairs](#)

**A 5th undergraduate year: should you do it?** While taking five years to fulfill a four year degree program is becoming fairly common nowadays, the decision to enrol in that 5th year is an important one and requires many considerations (especially for those of you considering a 5th year who may not necessarily “need” it to graduate. The prospect of facing graduation can be exhilarating and exciting, but also highly stressful if you do not have any particular visions of where you see yourself once you leaving. [Life @ U of T](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)

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