



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Calgary's Greg McDermid shifts focus from grizzlies to iguanas: Greg McDermid hasn't given up on Alberta's grizzly bears but is shifting his focus as takes on the plight of endangered iguanas on the tropical island of Anegada. The geography department's associate professor is hoping his expertise with remote-sensing technology might assist in winning the iguanas a reprieve similar to the one he and his research group helped bring to the province's grizzly population. McDermid first learned of the iguanas' plight while on vacation in the islands. There he met Kelly Bradley, a conservation biologist from the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas. Bradley was on a solitary mission to save the iguanas of Anegada, which had become critically endangered due to habitat alteration and an explosion of feral cats on the island. Recognizing that his work with advanced habitat mapping could be of great aid to the project, McDermid and his team went to Anegada equipped with a small drone aircraft outfitted with GPS technology and camera systems. With this, McDermid is able to study the habitat of the iguanas and, hopefully, use this information to map out a plan for how to best preserve the lizards. [Calgary UToday](#)

Memorial U students work with Central West region on land use planning initiatives: Since September, students in GEOG 3350: Community and Regional Planning and Development at Memorial University have been directly involved in a regional planning initiative here in Newfoundland. This exciting opportunity is the result of a partnership with the Grand Falls-Windsor – Baie Verte – Harbour Breton Regional Council, the largest geographic Rural Secretariat region on the island. Students are working with the Regional Council to identify best practices and/or lessons learned for land use planning in a large rural region. Based on regional priorities identified by the Regional Council, students are examining land use planning in five key areas: aquaculture, access to crown lands, forestry, waterfront/cabin development, and tourism and recreation. Students are working to identify other jurisdictions in Canada dealing with similar opportunities and challenges. This initiative will culminate in a series of land use planning case studies at the end of the fall term. This initiative is facilitated through funding from the Rural Secretariat, a provincial government entity focused on advancing the sustainability of rural communities and regions in Newfoundland and Labrador. [Rural Resilience](#)

McGill U's Geographic Information Centre posts 2012 ENVI Award winners: Poster winners from GIS Day: 1. Joseph Ariwi, Günther Grill and Dr. Bernhard Lehner. *Global Data Development of Waterfall Features*; Günther Grill, and Dr. Bernhard Lehner. *Fragmentation of migratory fish habitat due to future hydropower development in the Mekong River Basin: Which dam is worst?*; and, Malcom Araos-Egan and Dr. Benjamin Forest. *GIS Applications to Estimate the Demographic and Political Characteristics of Proposed Quebec Ridings*. [View the posters at GiC](#)

U Waterloo's Susan Elliott and the School of Public Health and Health Systems: Susan Elliott joined the University of Waterloo two years ago as the new dean of applied health sciences. She had just completed her first term as dean of social sciences at McMaster University when the position at Waterloo became available. A multi-disciplinary faculty such as applied health sciences seemed a natural fit, given her profession as a medical geographer. Elliott knew there was an intention to transform an existing department into a school, but as the scope of planning grew, it became much more than a simple transition and name change. She liked what she was hearing about cross-faculty co-operation. "My job is to facilitate those dreams – to get rid of barriers," she says. [Waterloo Alumni](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont on British Columbia contest offering prizes for killing of wolves: A privately run contest this winter in northeast British Columbia, Canada, offers hunters money and other incentives for killing wolves. Hunters who kill the largest wolves can win up to \$1,000. A booby prize of \$150 will be awarded for the smallest wolf. Contestants can enter up to three wolves. Chris Darimont, a conservation scientist in the University of Victoria geography department, says the hunt makes the majority of hunters look bad. "This is not about putting food on the table or feeding families, this is about feeding the egos of small men with big guns," he said. "There is this focus on size. I'll leave that up to psychologists as to why, but it seems to dominate those interested in hunting for trophies." [The Oregonian](#) | [Vancouver Sun](#)

Memorial U's Alistair Bath brings a human dimension to Prairie wolf conference: Although he is not a biologist, Memorial University academic Alistair Bath has a lot to teach natural scientists and conservationists about the nature of human dimensions in the field of wildlife management. That's not as surprising as it might seem. Bath is, after all, considered a world leader in that field. A professor in MUN's department of geography, Bath recently gave a talk entitled the Human Dimensions in Large Carnivore Management at the First International Wolf and Carnivore Conference in Thompson, Man. Fiona Scurrah, an environmental assessment officer with Manitoba Hydro, was at the conference and said Bath brings an expanded and balanced perspective to the issue of wildlife management — one that is especially helpful to those dealing with the issue from a purely scientific or research perspective. [The Telegraph](#)

Queen's U's Warren Mabee on efficiencies of power technologies: Public hearings on a nuclear power plant on Lake Ontario were postponed following an overflow of interventions and comments from the public. Discussions on the possible refurbishment and continued operation of the Darlington Nuclear Plant were pushed until early December. The refurbishment of the nuclear site would allow the plant to run for another 30 years and continue to account for about 30 per cent of electricity generated in Ontario. The proposals brought about discussion surrounding nuclear energy and the environmental and health effects the plant might encompass. "This is really a decision that will weigh on [Queen's students] heavily," said Warren Mabee, a professor in geography and the School of Policy Studies. "We want the cleanest and friendliest technology that we can come up with and I do think that it's going to be some of the renewables that are going to win ultimately." Mabee estimated it may take up to two generations to make improvements to nuclear technologies. Solar technologies have been advancing and can improve at faster rates than a nuclear reactor design can and thereby improve waste management, he said. Mabee noted there are two kinds of nuclear waste: the highly radioactive waste needed to be cooled in giant water pools and the low radioactive waste consisting of clothing and materials that has come into contact with radioactivity. All nuclear plants in Canada keep their waste on site. "It means that those sites are essentially stockpiling waste," Mabee said. Although there have been no major issues surrounding waste management at the present time, Canada has no future plan in place to deal with these wastes, Mabee said. [The Queen's Journal](#)

Nova Scotia geographer teacher Steve Wohlmuth recognized for 'making a difference': Central Kings teacher Steve Wohlmuth is one of 10 teachers recognized by the Nova Scotia Teachers Union as

part of its 'Teachers Make a Difference' initiative. Wohlmuth, who was admittedly "humbled" by the recognition, was especially pleased by the fact that it came from students. "We're all recognized by our peers now and then, but when it comes from students, it makes it even more special," he said. "You can receive no greater recognition than from those who are in front of you every day." [The Kings County Register](#)

Queen's U congratulates the class of Fall 2012: The Department of Geography has offered congratulations to the following students who were awarded degrees at the Fall 2021 convocation: Heather Hall (PhD) Supervisor: Dr. Betsy Donald; Trista Wood (MA) Supervisor: Dr. Warren Mabee; Madelaine Jacobs (PhD) Supervisors: Dr. Brian S. Osborne and Dr. W. George Lovell; Alix Conway (MSc) Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Danby; Helene Ouellette-Kuntz (PhD) Supervisor: Dr. Mark Rosenberg; Ashley Lowcock (MSc) Supervisor: Dr. Ryan Danby; Giselle Valarezo (PhD) Supervisors: Dr. W. George Lovell and Dr. Beverley Mullings; and, Graham Pope (MSc) Supervisor: Dr. Paul Treitz. [Geography Department Newsletter](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Klaus Edenhoffer and Roger Hayter. 2013. [Restructuring on a vertiginous plateau: The evolutionary trajectories of British Columbia's forest industries 1980–2010](#). *Geoforum* 44:139–151.

Brian Egan and Jessica Place. 2013. [Minding the gaps: Property, geography, and Indigenous peoples in Canada](#). *Geoforum* 44:129–138.

Isabelle Aube Linden, Marissa Y. Mar, Gregory R. Werker, Kerry Jang, and Michael Krausz. 2012. [Research on a vulnerable neighborhood— The Vancouver downtown eastside from 2001 to 2011](#). *Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*. doi:10.1007/s11524-012-9771-x

Kenneth Iain MacDonald. 2013. [The morality of cheese: A paradox of defensive localism in a transnational cultural economy](#). *Geoforum* 44:93–102.

Donald A. McFarlane and Joyce Lundberg. 2012. [On the occurrence of the Scimitar-Toothed Cat, *Homotherium latidens* \(Carnivora: Felidae\), at Kents Cavern, England](#). *Journal of Archaeological Science*. doi.org/10.1016/j.jas.2012.10.032

Anne-Marie Séguin, Philippe Apparicio and Mylène Riva. 2012. [Identifying, mapping and modelling trajectories of poverty at the neighbourhood level: The case of Montréal, 1986–2006](#). *Applied Geography* 35(1–2):265–274.

Laura J. Shillington. 2013. [Right to food, right to the city: Household urban agriculture, and socio-natural metabolism in Managua, Nicaragua](#). *Geoforum* 44:103–111.

Mary Smulders, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Dennis E. Jelinski, Scott E. Nielsen, Gordon B. Stenhouse and Karen Laberee. 2012. [Quantifying spatial-temporal patterns in wildlife ranges using STAMP: A grizzly bear example](#). *Applied Geography* 35(1–2):124–131.

Brendan Sweeney. 2013. [The labour geographies of education: The centralization of governance and collective bargaining in Ontario, Canada](#). *Geoforum* 44:120–128.

Other “Geographical” News

Another city is possible! An interview with David Harvey: David Harvey was ranked as one of the twenty-most cited authors of books in the humanities in 2007 by the business information company Thomson Reuters, but he might be more proud of having introduced his concept of “accumulation by dispossession” throughout the academic and activist worlds. Accumulation by dispossession is a key conceptual tool for understanding the implementation of contemporary neoliberal policies. [Toward Freedom](#)

If you are 27-years-old or younger, you have never experienced a colder-than-average month: The average temperature across land and ocean surfaces during October 2012 was 14.63°C. This is 0.63°C above the 20th century average and ties with 2008 as the fifth warmest October on record. The record warmest October occurred in 2003 and the record coldest October occurred in 1912. This is the 332nd consecutive month with an above-average temperature. The last below-average month was February 1985. The last October with a below-average temperature was 1976. The Northern Hemisphere ranked as the seventh warmest October on record, while the Southern Hemisphere ranked as second warmest, behind 1997." [NOAA State of the Climate](#)

More attention to the soil can boost food production: According to FAO, in the last thirty years a quarter of all agricultural land has become less fertile as a result of erosion, silting, soil exhaustion or other forms of land degradation. If these problems were addressed in northern China, food production there could be boosted by 25%. Regional governments need to pay more attention to soil and learn from how soil restoration measures in other parts of the world have helped to increase crop yields. [ScienceDaily](#)

Swallowing rain forest, cities surge in Amazon: The Amazon has been viewed for ages as a vast quilt of rain forest interspersed by remote river outposts. But the surging population growth of cities in the jungle is turning that rural vision on its head and alarming scientists, as an array of new industrial projects transforms the Amazon into Brazil’s fastest-growing region. [New York Times](#)

Animals are dissolving in the Southern Ocean: The shells of sea snails are dissolving in a small patch of the Southern Ocean. The finding is the first evidence that marine life is already suffering as a result of man-made ocean acidification. "This is actually happening now," says Geraint Tarling of the British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge, UK. He and colleagues captured free-swimming sea snails called pteropods and found under an electron microscope that the outer layers of their hard shells bore signs of unusual corrosion. [NewScientist](#)

What colour is a glacier: It sounds like a simple question - what color is a glacier? This video, compiled from 6 field seasons around the Arctic and Antarctic, shows you just how complex that answer is, why it matters, and what I do as a researcher to help answer that question. [Vimeo](#)

Greenhouse gas concentrations reach new record: The amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere reached a new record high in 2011, according to the World Meteorological Organization. Between 1990 and 2011 there was a 30% increase in radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate – because of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other heat-trapping long-lived gases. Since the start of the industrial era in 1750, about 375 billion tonnes of carbon have been released into the atmosphere as CO₂, primarily from fossil fuel combustion. About half of this carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere, with the rest being absorbed by the oceans and terrestrial biosphere. [World Meteorological Organization](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



What happens when you refuse to sell your house to make room for a new construction project in Wenling, Zhejiang province, China? Sixty-seven-year-old Luo Baogen of Xiayangzhang village and his wife decided to stay put, refusing the government's offer to purchase their property. So the government simply went ahead and constructed a road that completely surrounds the couple's house. China Daily reports that in 2008, more than 500 local families began to vacate their homes after reaching settlement agreements with the government in Wenling, Zhejiang province. However, the Luos don't feel that the offered compensation of 260,000 yuan (\$41,700) is enough to cover the expense of building another house elsewhere in the village. In 2007, China passed a law guaranteeing private property rights, meaning the government cannot exercise eminent domain. But after a four-year standoff, the government went ahead and built the road anyway, leaving the Luo home stranded in the middle. The rooms on either side of the house were left intact to protect the house, but Luo claims the roof has leaked since the demolition. The road is not yet in use. [lo9](#)



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