

GeogNews



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Dalhousie U's Heather Castleden gets students out of the classroom, into a story: Students in the Indigenous Perspectives on Resource and Environmental Management class at Dalhousie University took part in an invaluable learning experience: travelling to Mi'kmaq communities across the province to learn from elders, knowledge-holders and others. The course, taught by geographer Heather Castleden and hosted in the School for Resource and Environmental Studies, has the week-long field school at its core. It's a journey that many of the students call "a life-changing experience," and it's one that goes both ways, as student Ziyun Wang points out. "I think communication with equal positions is crucial to solve most problems," says Wang. "That's also why we need to build a trustworthy and cooperative relationship with the Indigenous Peoples expressing our respect and willingness to learn." Many of the Indigenous elders and knowledge-holders who opened their communities to the students visited campus to attend the presentation. All had glowing praise for the students and the course itself. "Why is this course not mandatory for Dal students?" one community member asked, enthusiastically. [Dal News](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki wonders if selling off public school property a good idea? Matti Siemiatycki, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto, asks the question "Is it ever a good idea to sell off public land to developers?" He writes the stakes associated with selling public land are clearly very high, as government has only one chance to get these deals right. Once sold to a developer, the land is never coming back to public use. The public has thus been rightly skeptical of the value of such deals. Using the example of the land sale and redevelopment of North Toronto Collegiate, Matti writes "The land sale and redevelopment of North Toronto Collegiate highlights that depending on how the proceeds are spent, there can be significant community benefit from the sale of public land. The finished project has gained widespread praise from across the range of stakeholders, including some of the harshest initial critics. It is unlikely that all of the properties currently identified by the Toronto District School Board will be appropriate for sale. At the ones that are, achieving the greatest public benefit requires the initiation of meaningful community engagement on how these properties are currently being used, and what the proceeds will be spent on." [Toronto Star](#)

UNBC Geography puts courses on the block: Neil Hanlon and UNBC's geography department have come up with alternative for students having a hard time maintaining a heavy course load. Instead of having four or five courses all at once during a 13-week semester, they will have it down to one at a time. Starting in January, third-year and fourth-year human geography students, postgraduates and community members who might not otherwise attend UNBC will have the chance to take entire courses in 2 1/2-week blocks as part of a pilot project. Each course will include an average of three hours per day of instruction, which allows students more time each day to research the topics before returning to class the following day. Hanlon, a UNBC associate professor and chair of the geography department, is convinced that without the worry of having to balance their time on other other subjects, students stand a better chance of learning the course material. [Prince George Citizen](#)

UNBC Geography in Peru: Under the auspices of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Peruvian Forensic Anthropology Team (EPAF), UNBC Geography students Shane Doddridge and Jed Zimmerman, developed a map of the water sources of the Huamanquiya district, located in the province of Victor Fajardo, Ayacucho. On Nov 24th, EPAF returned the map to the community. [Equipo Peruano de Antropología Forense](#)

Dalhousie U's Nathaniel Lewis and making bike sharing work in Halifax: At the end of a busy, hectic term, many undergraduate students could be forgiven for being excited by the possibility of turning their final projects into fire kindling. Not the students in Nathaniel Lewis's Introduction to Research Methods class who have the opportunity to be involved in an ongoing project for the university and Halifax, but they also have the chance to see their final projects actually used in a professional capacity. Nathaniel, a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Postdoctoral Fellow, began thinking about how he could use the bike share program as part of the research methods class. The final report will include overviews of existing literature on the various benefits and barriers of a biking and bike share, an analysis of quantitative research, as well as a section of expert opinions and best practices. It will be handed over to the Office of Sustainability, with hopes that it can be utilized in the future — hopefully with some of the students having a role in pursuing its implementation. [Dal News](#)

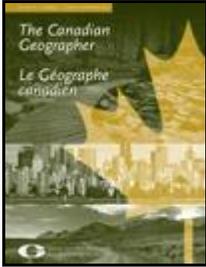
UNBC Geographers seek justice in Guatemala - CBC highlights the case of Indigenous people from Guatemala who are in Canada this week seeking justice against a Canadian mining company for the destruction of their communities, murder, rape, and other violations. These cases started with the work of UNBC geography faculty members, Dr. Catherine Nolin and Grahame Russell, along with several UNBC undergraduate and graduate students in 2010 who refused to let these violations go unacknowledged. [CBC Player](#)

UNBC graduate João Sardinha presents Regressa Urgente / Return Urgent: João (John) Sardinha (BA Geography, UNBC '96) returned to Prince George & UNBC to present his documentary film - Regressa Urgente / Return Urgent - which is an exploration of migration, identity, and belonging. It grew from the project 'The Return of the Portuguese Second Generation to Portugal: Identity, Belonging and Transnational Lives' headed up by João who grew up in Prince George, graduated from Prince George Secondary School, and received his BA UNBC. João received his PhD from University of Sussex and is now affiliated with Centro de Estudos das Migrações e Relações Interculturais (Centre for the Study of Migrations and Intercultural Relations). [Canadians in Portugal](#)

Note: The following corrects information and links presented in GeogNews No. 204.

"Ongoing Collaborative Map Research between Carleton's GCRC and Algoma U's SRSC: In June 2011, the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC) of Algoma University was invited to enter into a collaborative effort to create a Residential Schools Interactive Map as part of a larger SSHRC supported project with the Carleton's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) to create the cybercartographic Atlas of the Lake Huron Treaty. The Residential Schools Interactive Map is being built as a "Healing and Reconciliation through Education" resource as we work together to address the impacts of Canada's Residential Schools. The Map includes information and resources on Residential Schools in the United States where similar policies were employed and where addressing the impacts is also just beginning; and, it offers a portal into a world of internet-based resources that can be used for information sharing and education. The Residential Schools map is beginning to form into a space with contacts and opportunities for networking on the Schools and related issues. The Residential Schools Interactive Map can be accessed via the [Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre website](#) or in the broader Atlas context via the [Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre website](#) .

New in [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Valorie A. Crooks and Heather Castleden. 2012. [All we really needed to know about tenure-track faculty positions we did not learn in graduate school](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien 56:393–397.

Nadine Schuurman. 2012. [Walking through life with a series of happy coincidences: Cookies at every step](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien 56:391–392.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Lisa Ann Ohberg. 2012. [What's stopping us? identifying barriers to the local food movement using Ontario, Canada as a case study](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Sarah Wakefield

Zarar Siddiqi. 2012. [Dynamic Ridesharing: Understanding the role of gender and technology](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Ron Buliung

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

David Dixon, Sarah Boon and Uldis Silins. 2012. [Watershed-scale controls on snow accumulation in a small montane watershed, southwestern Alberta, Canada](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.9667

Alison Mountz, Kate Coddington, R. Tina Catania and Jenna M. Loyd. 2012. [Conceptualizing detention Mobility, containment, bordering, and exclusion](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi:10.1177/0309132512460903

Kate Sherren and C. Verstraten. Online first. [What can photo-elicitation tell us about how Maritime farmers perceive wetlands as climate changes?](#) Wetlands. DOI: 10.1007/s13157-012-0352-2

Lisa White and Bram F. Noble. 2012. [Strategic environmental assessment for sustainability: A review of a decade of academic research](#). Environmental Impact Assessment Review. doi.org/10.1016/j.eiar.2012.10.003

Ge Yu, Dave Sauchyn and Yongfei Li. 2013. [Drought changes and the mechanism analysis for the North American Prairie](#). Journal of Arid Land 5(1):1-14.

Other “Geographical” News

Getting ready for winter: Mapping the Canadian Arctic and global ski resorts: To help prepare for the winter ahead, Google has added more detail and imagery for a variety of chilly destinations, making them more comprehensive and accurate than ever. Starting today, you can virtually experience the Canadian Arctic through new panoramic Street View images of Cambridge Bay and detailed maps created with the help of local community members. And if you’re planning a winter getaway, you can preview the slopes of more than 90 ski and snow resorts around the world, adding to dozens that are already available via Street View today. [Google Maps](#)

Off the tenured track: How and why some profs elect to leave the security of a tenured position: For many scientists in the United States, where tenure is most common, the decision comes with much more angst. Leaving a position that they worked for decades to attain, and that is often coveted as the pinnacle of academic achievement, is a huge step. It can also leave colleagues mystified, jealous, hurt and sometimes thinking the worst — imagining research misconduct or even a scandalous affair with a student. The truth is that some tenure-leavers sought to improve the balance between work and family life, or wanted a better environment for research. Most emphasized that their colleagues did not drive them away: on the contrary, talented, passionate departmental comrades were treasured. But the evidence is clear: 'giving up' hard-won tenure is indeed the right move for some. [Naturejobs.com](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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