



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Carleton U's Fraser Taylor and CGRC receive 3M Award for Environmental Innovation: For D. R. Fraser Taylor, a map is more than just a faded poster hanging on a classroom wall — it is a key tool in environmental education that offers a potential wealth of understanding. But since traditional maps can present only a limited amount of information, Taylor decided to come up with a new way of designing and using maps, called cybercartography. The approach blends digital online maps with location-specific cultural information and interactive tools, such as audio recordings and photographs, to enhance the cartographic information, creating what Taylor calls “living atlases.” So far, he’s produced nine of them, ranging from Antarctica to Latin America, but three of these — the Kitikmeot Place Name Atlas, the Arctic Bay Atlas and the Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy Project — have earned Taylor and his team at Carleton University’s Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) the 2012 3M Award for Environmental Innovation. Presented by The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and 3M Canada, the annual award recognizes innovative individuals who work to protect, restore and preserve the environment in ways that are beneficial to Canada and Canadians. The three winning atlases, all of which focus on northern Canada, are meant to preserve and share indigenous knowledge while presenting new ways to look at our northern environment. For example, the Inuit Sea Ice Use and Occupancy Project presents extensive information on traditional uses of sea ice in Inuit culture. [Royal Canadian Geographical Society](#)

Dalhousie U's James Boxall receives 2012 Geographic Literacy Award: James Boxall just can't turn off his geographer's eyes. When he looks around, everything becomes instantly mapped, plotted and diagrammed. That's fitting for a man who, as a child, spent hours poring over his father's Royal Navy air navigator maps and charts. “Learning about space and place was integral to my life,” says Boxall, director of the Geographical Information Sciences Centre at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, and winner of this year's Geographic Literacy Award. The award is presented annually by [Canadian Geographic Education](#) to an individual who has made significant contributions to geographic literacy in Canada. “It's a wonderful recognition,” says Boxall, who helped co-found CG Education (formerly Canadian Council for Geographic Education) in 1993. “But what it means is that I have to use this to give more back to the community. I want to use the award to try to make a change.” [Royal Canadian Geographical Society](#).

U Saskatchewan's Merle Massie on 'The Great Trek North': Merle Massie, environmental historian and postdoctoral fellow at the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan, has a feature article in this month's issue (Dec 2012-Jan 2013) of *Canada's History Magazine* (formerly *The Beaver*). Entitled "The Great Trek North," the article discusses one of the largest internal migrations in Canadian history: the south-to-north migration from the prairies to the edges of the boreal forest in Saskatchewan during the 1930s. [Canada's History Magazine](#)

U Calgary's Greg McDermid wins distinguished academic early career award: Dr. Greg McDermid was honoured with the 2012 CAFA (Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations) Distinguished Academic Early Career Award at an awards ceremony in Edmonton. The award recognizes those academic staff members who have made outstanding contributions to the wider community while in the early stages of their career. Greg is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, where he began in 2005, and is Co-Director of the Foothills Facility for Remote Sensing and GIScience. Greg is an expert in remote sensing and geographic information sciences, and has applied his knowledge and skills to a variety of fields, including vegetation mapping, ecological monitoring, and biodiversity assessment. Over the past seven years, Greg's innovative research into the use of various geospatial tools in support of wildlife ecology and environmental management, supported by NSERC and Alberta Innovates Technology futures among others, has comprised numerous interdisciplinary collaborative projects and involved over 50 students, research assistants, post-docs and visiting scientists. Last year, Greg's exceptional work earned him the 2011 University of Calgary, Faculty of Arts Distinguished Research Award. [Foothills Facility for Remote Sensing & GIScience](#)

Atlases at Carleton U's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre: The Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) is an official Research Centre in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. GCRC research focuses on the application of geographic information processing and management to the analysis of socioeconomic issues of interest to society at a variety of scales from the local to the international and the presentation of the results in new, innovative cartographic forms. Cybercartography is a new multimedia, multisensory and interactive online cartography and its main products are cybercartographic Atlases using location a key organizing principle. These atlases create narratives from a variety of different perspectives and include both quantitative and qualitative information. These include stories, art, literature and music as well as socio-economic and environmental information. GCRC research includes cybercartography, northern research, multisensory cartography, archiving and preservation, open source technologies and interoperability, the management of geographic information and Global Map. [Atlases](#)

U Saskatchewan's Cherie Westbrook on ecohydrological importance of beavers: Cherie Westbrook, an associate professor in the University of Saskatchewan's department of geography and planning, reports that 85% of all watercourses in the United States — and a comparable, though unquantified, percentage in Canada — are headwater streams and, therefore, small enough to be dammed by beavers. "We hadn't understood how large an area a dam could affect in terms of hydrology," says Westbrook. "It's considerably larger than we thought back in the 1980s." In unconfined terrain, such as a wide valley bottom, water that seeps into the soil around a beaver pond can travel up to 2 km underground, raising the water table throughout the zone. At one of Westbrook's study sites, in the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains west of Calgary, the water table typically drops between 1 and 1.5 m each summer — except where beavers are active. There, the annual decrease is a mere 5 cm. [Canadian Geographic](#)

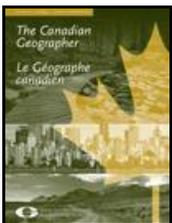
U Calgary's MGIS graduate Will McInnes reveals power of remote sensing: Will McInnes is a recent graduate of the University of Calgary's Masters in Geographic Information Systems (MGIS) program in the Department of Geography, and author of an MGIS thesis project that successfully tested a multi-temporal remotely-sensed data set in the mapping of native vs. non-native grasslands over several different Albertan prairie subregions. An expansion of previous work done by Brent Smith (MSc graduate student and Range Biologist at CFB Suffield), Will's work showed how the diverse phenologies of these two grassland types and the use of existing multi-date satellite imagery could enable more accurate separation of these types for classification maps in grassland areas of the province. [Foothills Facility for Remote Sensing & GIScience](#)

Carleton U's Derek Smith helps to fight deforestation in Panama: Derek Smith, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, recently won an award at the annual meeting of the Panamanian Association for the Advancement of Science for work he and his colleagues have done over the last year in western Panama in studying indigenous forest use. Smith and his teams poster 'Participatory mapping as a tool for investigating patterns in the use of natural resources and promoting forest conservation in the Comarca Ngabe-Bugle, won first prize. [FASS News](#)

U Guleph students visit Ottawa to learn about environmental governance: Eleven geography undergraduate students made an excursion to Ottawa to learn about environmental governance in practice at the national level. The visit was led by the University's Kinross Chair in Environmental Governance, George Greene. They met with 3 Members of Parliament experienced in environmental matters - Linda Duncan, Elizabeth May and David McGuinty. They also met with the Executive Director of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, with the President of the Mining Association of Canada to discuss its Toward Sustainable Mining Initiative; and, with team members of Stratos Inc. a sustainability management consulting company. [Guelph Geography News](#)

U Western's PhD candidate Ed Krynak recipient of the Ontario Trillium Scholarship: Ed Krynak, Geography PhD Candidate, who was one of the 7 Western recipients of the Ontario Trillium Scholarship. Trillium scholars are nominated by their graduate program due to their scholarly achievements and strong research potential. As a part of The Yates Lab, affiliated with the University of Calgary, Krynak works to identify benthic macroinvertebrate indicators and associated sampling protocols appropriate for monitoring common stressors within the Grand River Watershed. Funding for this research project comes from the Networks of Centres of Excellence of Canada – Canadian Water Network: The Grand River Watershed Consortium. [Western News](#)

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



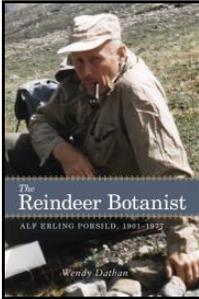
Melanie Bedore. 2012. [Geographies of capital formation and rescaling: A historical-geographical approach to the food desert problem](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00454.x

Sikee Liu and Nicholas Blomley. 2012. [Making news and making space: Framing Vancouver's Downtown Eastside](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00453.x

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Maureen E. Attard. 2012. [Evaluation of aDcps for suspended sediment transport monitoring, Fraser River, British Columbia](#). Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Jeremy G. Venditti.

New Book: Wendy Dathan. 2012. [The Reindeer Botanist: Alf Erling Porsild, 1901-1977](#). University of Calgary Press.



This book is the first biography of one of Canada's most remarkable botanists. Alf Erling Porsild (1901-1977) grew up on the Arctic Station in West Greenland and later served as curator of botany at the National Museum of Canada. He collected thousands of specimens, greatly enlarging the National Herbarium and making it a superb research centre. For nearly twenty years, Porsild studied reindeer activities in Alaska and the Northwest Territories as part of the Reindeer Project designed to encourage grazing animal husbandry among aboriginal peoples. He published extensively, and his meticulous research and observations have particular relevance today with the growing concern over global warming in the Arctic.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Bernard O. Bauer, Robin G. D. Davidson-Arnott, Ian J. Walker, Patrick A. Hesp and Jeff Ollerhead. 2012. [Wind direction and complex sediment transport response across a beach-dune system](#). *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 37:1661-1677.

Evan L. J. Booth, James M. Byrne and Dan L. Johnson. 2012. [Climatic changes in western North America, 1950-2005](#). *International Journal of Climatology* 32:2283-2300.

Frédéric Bouchard, Reinhard Pienitz, Joseph D. Ortiz, Pierre Francus and Isabelle Laurion. 2012. [Palaeolimnological conditions inferred from fossil diatom assemblages and derivative spectral properties of sediments in thermokarst ponds of subarctic Quebec, Canada](#). *Boreas*. DOI:10.1111/bor.12000

Irene Delgado-Fernandez, Robin Davidson-Arnott, Bernard O. Bauer, Ian J. Walker, Jeff Ollerhead and Hosahng Rhew. 2012. [Assessing aeolian beach-surface dynamics using a remote sensing approach](#). *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms* 37:1651-1660.

Jake Wall, George Wittemyer, Brian Klinkenberg, Valerie LeMay and Iain Douglas-Hamilton. 2013. [Characterizing properties and drivers of long distance movements by elephants \(*Loxodonta africana*\) in the Gourma, Mali](#). *Biological Conservation* 157:60-68.

S.M. Guenther, T. Gomi and R. Dan Moore. 2012. [Stream and bed temperature variability in a coastal headwater catchment: influences of surface-subsurface interactions and partial-retention forest harvesting](#). *Hydrological Processes*. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9673

Other “Geographical” News

Canada not alone in terms of gender disparities in research: When the federal government unveiled the inaugural recipients of its prestigious new Canada Excellence Research Chairs, it knew there'd be controversy: all 19 of the chosen chair holders were men. In anticipation of the fallout, three leading female academics to examine the program's selection process to probe what had happened. The three-member panel found there was no active attempt to shut out women but identified several factors that they thought might have worked against female candidates. [University Affairs](#)

Cave structure tells tale of 13,000 winters: Scientists have found a stalagmite in an Oregon cave that tells the story of thousands of winters in the Pacific Northwest. The researchers showed that the Pacific Northwest of recent prehistory saw rapid shifts between dry and warm, and wet and cold periods, similar to the currently observed Pacific Decadal Oscillation of decades. [Discovery News](#)

Amazon deforestation at record low: The destruction of the Amazon rainforest is at its lowest since Brazil began monitoring 24 years ago. The government hopes to reduce deforestation to 3,925 sq km by 2020. From July 2011 to July 2012, Brazil lost more than 4,600 sq km of rainforest. But compared to the previous 12 months, figures show the rate of deforestation fell 27%. [BBC News](#)

Russian earthquakes have potential to trigger tsunamis that pose risk to Pacific Basin: Research has shown that the Kamchatka Peninsula and Kuril Islands are a seismic and volcanic hotbed, with a potential to trigger tsunamis that pose a risk to the rest of the Pacific Basin. [Science Daily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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