



GeogNews

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Wilfrid Laurier U's Jody Decker receives Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal: The Royal Canadian Geographic Society was selected as a partner organization by the Diamond Jubilee Medal program at Rideau Hall to advise on meritorious members of the Society who have advanced the cause of geographic literacy, and in some cases made exceptional individual contributions to the field of geography and to exploration. Dr. Jody Decker, Governor and Fellow of the Society, Director of Grants and Research Program of the Society, was selected to receive this honour from the Canadian Crown in fitting recognition of her important contribution to the Society and for its mission of "making Canada better known to Canadians and the world". The Queen Elizabeth 11 Diamond Jubilee Medal was established as a way for Canada to honour Her Majesty The Queen for her devoted 60 years of service to our country. To celebrate this event, 60,000 Canadians of all ages and from all walks of life are being honoured for their contributions or distinguished service to their fellow citizens, to their community and to their country. [Dr. Jody Decker](#)

McMaster U's Niko Yiannakoulias suggests commuter traffic poses greater dangers to children in poor neighbourhoods: A new McMaster study suggests children are at greater risk of being hit by vehicles driving through their neighbourhood than from drivers who live nearby, posing particular dangers in poorer, downtown areas where traffic levels tend to be highest. The research points to the issue of high traffic in low-income residential neighbourhoods, where drivers are more likely to take shortcuts to avoid congested main roads. "Our findings suggest these drivers pay less attention in areas they are unfamiliar with or don't have a connection to," says Niko Yiannakoulias, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography & Earth Sciences and lead author of the study. "Much of the traffic volume is displaced from one neighbourhood to another, which has the potential to sometimes transfer the risk of harm from the suburbs to downtown," he says. For the study, researchers used journey-to-work data collected as part of the Canadian Census to estimate volumes of local and non-local traffic throughout the city of Toronto. They then analyzed data on child pedestrian injuries in various neighbourhoods as related to drivers who lived in the area or elsewhere. "Motor vehicle commuters impose a burden on these neighbourhoods," says Yiannakoulias. "The traffic levels are disproportionately high and local residents generally don't benefit from people driving through their neighbourhood." [McMaster Daily News](#)

Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies MSc student Pierre Dubeau studies wetlands and livelihoods in Nile Basin: Pierre Dubeau is conducting his Masters research on the role and importance of key wetlands in the Ethiopian Highlands, which are part of the Nile Basin. In this project, he is engaging with wetland ecologists at Addis Ababa University, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and local community members to map wetland vegetation and seasonal dynamics in relation to the agricultural land use needs of the local communities. His project is supervised by Doug King, co-director of Carleton's Geomatics and Landscape Ecology, and supported by the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) through IWMI. Radar and visible-near infrared satellite images of the wetlands were acquired using this support under the Wetland Theme of the JAXA's Advanced Land Observing System (ALOS) Kyoto Carbon Initiative. Since 2009, Pierre has returned to Ethiopia every year to carry out field research to gain an understanding of the wetland ecology and the socio-economic importance of the wetlands. [Nile Basin project](#)

U Guelph's Geography Alice Hovorka takes new look at 'field' course: Geography professor Alice Hovorka worked with the Centre for Open Learning and Educational Support to design a third-year geography course that re-imagines the location of the "field" being studied. The course "Gender and the Environment" emphasizes issues such as gender representation and roles closer to home. In terms of geography, Hovorka and her students look at how gender affects the way both men and women use their immediate environments and spaces. In place of an exotic locale, students use local spaces as their study field. The course explores just how and to what extent socially prescribed gender roles dictate a variety of factors – how men and women are to behave in public, what places or roles they occupy and even what they're supposed to look like. [atGuelph](#)

Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies's Derek Mueller's research on ice islands profiled: Derek Mueller's focusses on massive icebergs, termed ice islands, that are now adrift in the Arctic Ocean. As the climate warms, these ice hazards have been breaking off of ice shelves and floating glacier tongues and could potentially become an issue for navigation in Arctic waters. Recent years have produced a wave of ice islands. Researchers tracking the giant formations have tabulated roughly 1,000 square kilometres that have broken free from Greenland and Canada's Arctic islands. At a time when new research suggests the Greenland ice sheet is melting five times faster than in the 1990s – and roughly a quarter of that is in the form of icebergs, according to the Swiss Federal Research Institute – a frozen area the size of Hong Kong is wandering south, breaking into hundreds and thousands of smaller bits, some too small to be seen by ship radar, as they drift. Mueller and his colleagues presented on this research at the ArticNet annual science meetings, held in December in Vancouver. [Globe and Mail](#) | [CNN](#) | [Climate Central](#) | [Ottawa Life](#)

Carleton Geography and Environmental Studies PhD candidate presents at Natural Resource Management webinar: Chris Huggins, a 4th year PhD candidate in DGES, gave a presentation as part of a webinar entitled "Managing Natural Resources for Post-Conflict Peacebuilding ", alongside Carl Bruch, Senior Attorney at the Environmental Law Institute (ELI). The webinar discussed the role natural resources play in a period of post-conflict transition to peace and explored lessons learned from case studies around Africa. Chris presented several case studies from the Great Lakes Region of Africa that demonstrate lessons learned around post-conflict natural resource management. These information-rich case studies include the reintegration of refugees in Burundi, mediating land disputes in the DRC, the unintended socio-economic impacts of environmental policies in Rwanda, and a successful participatory method implemented in Uganda. This presentation was linked in part to his ongoing doctoral research on agricultural reform in Rwanda. The webinar was presented by FRAME, a peer-to-peer network of Natural Resource Management practitioners, facilitating knowledge transfer and relationships building, enabling members to grow best practices around development challenges (see <http://www.frameweb.org/>). The full audio-visual presentation is available [here](#). [gLoeb Xpress](#)

Laurier geographers use backyard rinks to track climate change: Generations of Canadians have grown up on backyard skating rinks, dreaming of becoming the next Wayne Gretzky or Joannie Rochette. But climate change appears to be threatening this time-honored Canadian tradition, and three Laurier researchers want to document what's happening to our outdoor skating season. Associate Professor Robert McLeman, Assistant Professor Colin Robertson and Master of Science student Haydn Lawrence from Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies have launched <http://www.rinkwatch.org/>, an easy-to-use website where "backyard skating meets environmental science." The researchers are inviting Canadians with a backyard or neighbourhood rink to report skating conditions over the winter to provide valuable data about the impact of climate change. "Our hope is that Canadians from coast to coast will help us track changes in skating conditions, not just this year, but for many years to come," said McLeman. "This data will help us determine the impact of climate change on winter in terms of length of season and average temperatures. We want to see what is actually happening." [WLU Headlines](#)

Spotlight on Memorial U geography graduate Melanie Irvine: Since graduating last year with a Master's of Science, Melanie Irvine has found employment as a project geologist for the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador. In this position, Melanie studies how coastal areas are changing and the impact this has on people and infrastructure. Her main project is a long-term coastal monitoring program to determine rates of shoreline erosion, changes in beach profiles, and an identification of areas at risk to coastal flooding, slope movement and coastal erosion. "This project involves a combination of fieldwork, data analysis, research and writing," noted Melanie. "My background in geography has helped me integrate aspects of the physical and social sciences in my job responsibilities, and to understand the connections between the environment and people, which is important in my position as a project geologist. My training has enabled me explore the relationships between the different components of this world, such as climate, hydrology, biology, people, culture and geology when exploring an issue." [MUN Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Pierre Beaudreau, Peter A. Johnson and Renee E. Sieber. 2012. [Strategic choices in developing a Geospatial Web 2.0 application for rural economic development](#). Journal of Rural and Community Development 7:95-105.

Nathan Bennett, Raynard Harvey Lemelin, Rhonda Koster and Isabel Budke. 2012. [A capital assets framework for appraising and building capacity for tourism development in aboriginal protected area gateway communities](#). Tourism Management 33:752-766.

Stacey E. Byers and Gail L. Chmura. 2012. [Observations on shallow subsurface hydrology at Bay of Fundy macrotidal salt marshes](#). Journal of Coastal Research. doi.org/10.2112/JCOASTRES-D-12-00167.1

Ian B. Darke, Jordan B.R. Eamer, Hawley E.R. Beaugrand and Ian J. Walker. 2012. [Monitoring considerations for a dynamic dune restoration project: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve, British Columbia, Canada](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3380

Linyao Dong, Jun Shimada, Congsheng Fu and Makoto Kagabu. 2013. [Comparison of analytical solutions to evaluate aquifer response to arbitrary stream stage](#). Journal of Hydrologic Engineering. doi: 10.1061/(ASCE)HE.1943-5584.0000779

Ronald I. Dorna, Steven J. Gordon, Casey D. Allen, Niccole Cerveney, John C. Dixon, Kaelin M. Groom, Kevin Hall, Emma Harrison, Lisa Mol, Thomas R. Paradise, Paul Sumner, Tyler Thompson and Alice V. Turkington. 2012. [The role of fieldwork in rock decay research: Case studies from the fringe.](#) Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2012.12.012

Audrey Kobayashi, Victoria Lawson and Rickie Sanders. 2013. [A commentary on the whitening of the public university: the context for diversifying geography.](#) The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2012.735943

James A. MacEachern and Michael C. Roberts. 2013. [Ichnological evidence of jökulhlaup deposit recolonization from the Touchet Beds, Mabton, WA, USA.](#) Quaternary Research 79:37-48.

Steven D. Mamet and G. Peter Kershaw. 2013. [Age-dependency, climate, and environmental controls of recent tree growth trends at subarctic and alpine treelines.](#) Dendrochronologia. doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2012.08.002

Ellen Randall, Valorie A Crooks and Laurie J Goldsmith. 2012. [In search of attachment: a qualitative study of chronically ill women transitioning between family physicians in rural Ontario, Canada.](#) BMC Family Practice 2012, 13:125 doi:10.1186/1471-2296-13-125

Bill Reimer, Judith Kulig, Dana Edge, Nancy Lightfoot and Ivan Townshend. 2012. [The Lost Creek Fire: managing social relations under disaster conditions.](#) Disasters. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-7717.2012.01298.x

Lance W. Robinson, Nathan Bennett, Leslie A. King and Grant Murray. ["We want our children to grow up to see these animals:" values and protected areas governance in Canada, Ghana and Tanzania.](#) Human Ecology 40:571–581.

Ashley C.A. Rudy, Scott F. Lamoureux, Paul Treitz and Adam Collingwood. 2012. [Identifying permafrost slope disturbance using multi-temporal optical satellite images and change detection techniques.](#) Cold Regions Science and Technology. doi.org/10.1016/j.coldregions.2012.12.008

Undiné-Celeste Thompson, Jean-François Marsan, Bastien Fournier-Peyresblanques, Chantal Forgues, Anita Ogaa and Jochen A.G. Jaeger. 2012. [Using compliance analysis for PPP to bridge the gap between SEA and EIA: Lessons from the Turcot Interchange reconstruction in Montréal, Québec.](#) Environmental Impact Assessment Review. doi.org/10.1016/j.eiar.2012.10.001

Johanna Wolf, Ilana Alice and Trevor Bell. 2012. [Values, climate change, and implications for adaptation: Evidence from two communities in Labrador, Canada.](#) Global Environmental Change. doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2012.11.007

Other "Geographical" News

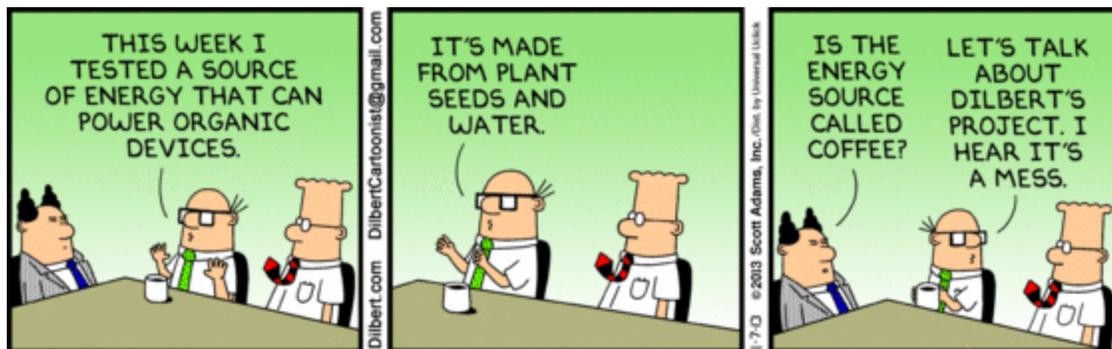
Land use planning tools for local adaptation to climate change: This document describes planning tools being used across Canada to help communities prepare for climate change, increase adaptive capacity and build resilience. It is directed to individuals and groups interested in climate change adaptation at the local level, including planners and other local government staff, elected officials, community organizations, local residents and business leaders. [Planning Tools](#)

How to tell your supervisor you want a divorce: For a graduate student, a PhD dissertation is your first major independent scholarly work, supported in its production by a supervisor. As with any relationship, the one between doctoral student and supervisor can experience difficulties establishing what works well for both parties. What seemed like a good idea at first may turn out not to be the best fit. And in rare cases the relationship can unravel. What do you do then? [University Affairs](#)

How to write cover letters that stand out: The basic fact that cover letters are the only chances we get to sell our biggest accomplishments, unique personalities and divine fits for particular jobs often seems lost on many students. Anyone seeking work should make every effort to attend a cover letter workshop. For those who can't, here are seven cover letter tips. [Macleans on campus](#)

Mountains are only minor contributors to erosion and climate regulation: For years, geologists believed that mountains, due to their steep slopes and high rates of erosion, were large contributors to the "carbon draw down" effect. But a new study suggests that mountains do not play a significant role in this activity, turning a geological paradigm on its head. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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