



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Two University of Waterloo Geography Professor honoured with medal: A commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's accession to the Throne as Queen of Canada. This medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, honours both Her Majesty's service to Canada as well as significant contributions and achievements by Canadians. Two members of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo have been recognized in this way: Dr. André Roy and Dr. Philip Howarth. Both were elected by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society to receive the medal for their contributions to the field of geography and for assisting the Society in its mission "to make Canada better known to Canadians and the world."

Dr. Roy is Dean of the Faculty of Environment at University of Waterloo. Before coming to Waterloo, he was Professor of Geography at the Université de Montréal. He acted as Head of his Department for seven years and as Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Arts and Science for two years. He is a member of the Board of Governors of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society and is currently the Chair of the Awards Committee of the Society. He is also past President of the Canadian Association of Geographers.

Dr. Howarth is a professor emeritus in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. He was a faculty member in the department from 1984 to 2005 and served as chair for eight years. He was a member of the Board of Governors of The Royal Canadian Geographical Society from 2003 to 2009. During this time he was chair of the Society's Speakers Program.

McMaster's School of Geography & Earth Sciences Ed Reinhardt swims with the Maya: A professor in McMaster's School of Geography & Earth Sciences and an expert in micropaleontology, Reinhardt is featured in a stunning new documentary filmed near the Riviera shoreline, "Exploring the Underwater World: Researching Caves in the Yucatán Peninsula." The 23-minute film profiles an international team of divers in Quintana Roo as they measure, survey and gather sediment samples in the world's longest underwater cave, Sistema Ox Bel Ha. Reinhardt first learned of the area eight years ago, when he recognized a new opportunity for advanced study in his field. "I previously did a lot of research in the Mediterranean, until I watched a presentation on the cave systems in Mexico back in 2005. I saw lots of potential to study microfossils," he explains. "There was virtually nobody doing it." One of the team's ongoing objectives is to study how the salinity of underground drinking water may have impacted the collapse of the Classic Maya – still one of the great mysteries of the world circa 800-900 AD. [McMaster Daily News](#)

UNBC geographers experiment with block teaching: Five courses in human geography – with a difference – are on offer this semester at the University of Northern British Columbia. After years of advocacy and months of careful preparation, the five upper-level courses are part of a pilot project in block teaching that got under way when students returned to campus after the Christmas break. The first block course, the third-year Geography of International Development, was running from Jan. 3 to Jan. 23. The class meets every day for three hours, Monday through Friday. This makes it difficult for students to mix block courses with the traditional semester-long courses. “It’s all in or all out,” said Neil Hanlon, chair of the geography program and one of the professors teaching in the block program. The pilot project needed a minimum of eight students but attracted a dozen. “There was a lot of interest but some students couldn’t clear a semester because they needed courses elsewhere that were only offered this semester,” said Dr. Hanlon. In the end, “we found a recruiting model that worked by pointing out that if a student wanted to do a minor in geography, it could be done in one semester.”

[University Affairs](#)

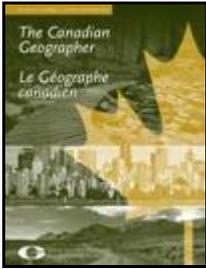
U Guelph’s Barry Smith spotlighted in the new initiative called “We Teach Ontario”: A University of Guelph geography professor appears in a provincial promotional campaign beginning today that highlights connections between teaching and research. Barry Smit is one of five faculty spotlighted in the new initiative called “We Teach Ontario” by the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. It celebrates how professors use research to enrich their students’ learning and strengthen the province. Smit’s work is highlighted on a [web page](#) and in a video about his research and how he engages students in his studies, both in and outside the classroom. His section is called “I Teach Resilience.” Asked how he felt about being selected for the campaign, Smit joked, “The redness on the cheeks wasn’t from the sun -- I was blushing from being chosen.” He added: “I assume the producers sought to have a range of disciplines covered. I hope I was able to give some indication about what scholars in my field do in their teaching and research. “With so many people seeming to see universities as job training facilities, there was a chance to say something about their roles as generators and disseminators of knowledge.” In his video, Smit discusses how his research underpins his teaching and how he involves students. He and his graduate students often travel remote locations to study directly the impact of climate change. He uses case studies, photos and data from fieldwork in his undergraduate courses. “Otherwise, my students would not have access to this real-world context.”

[U Guelph Campus Bulletin](#)

Scientific American features Laurier geographers ice-rink research project: Here’s one for hockey fans. In 2012, scientists in Montreal warned there will be fewer outdoor skating days in the future. Their predictions are based on the results of data taken from weather stations across Canada over the last 50 years. In some regions, they warn there may one day be no more backyard rinks at all. Remember the story of how Wayne Gretzky learned to play hockey on the backyard rink his father made for him in Brantford, Ontario? The scientists’ report says some day that will no longer be possible – at least, not in Brantford. This prompted a group of geographers at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, to create RinkWatch. They want outdoor rink lovers across North America and elsewhere to tell report on their rinks. Pin the location of your rink on the researchers’ map, and then each winter record every day that you are able to skate on it. The researchers will gather up all the information from all the backyard rinks and use it to track the changes in climate. [Scientific American – Citizen Science](#)

U Waterloo names Geoff McBoyle as interim provost: Geoff McBoyle has agreed to serve as interim Vice-President, Academic & Provost at the University of Waterloo. McBoyle was a faculty member in the geography and environmental management department, and served as dean of what was then called the Faculty of Environmental Studies from 1997 to 2004.

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Gang Meng, G. Brent Hall, Mary E. Thompson and Patrick Seliske. 2013. [Spatial and environmental impacts on adverse birth outcomes in Ontario](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2012.00477.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Peter E. Ashmore and Colin D. Rennie. 2013. [Gravel-bed rivers: from particles to patterns](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms 39:217–220

Alexander Brenning and Yulia R. Gel. 2013. [Climate change, cryosphere, and atmospheric chemistry](#). Encyclopedia of Environmetrics. DOI: 10.1002/9780470057339.vnn125

Sandra Breux and Mario Bédard. 2013. [The urban project and its impact on sense of place: methodological propositions](#). Geography Compass 7:75-84.

Timothy T. Creyts, Garry K.C. Clarke and Michael Church. 2013. [Glaciofluvial sediment redistribution across basal overdeepenings and the relation to glaciohydraulic supercooling](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI: 10.1002/jgrf.20033

Jody F. Decker and Robin M. Slawson. 2012. [An evaluation of behavioral health compliance and microbial risk factors on student populations within a high-density campus](#). Journal of American College Health 60:584-595.

Thora Martina Herrmann, Michael A.D. Ferguson, Gleb Raygorodetsky and Monica Mulrennan. 2012. [Recognition and Support of ICCAS in Canada. Case study for: Recognising and Supporting Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#). Global Overview and National Case Studies. Edited by Ashish Kothari, with Colleen Corrigan, Harry Jonas, Aurélie Neumann, and Holly Shrumm ICCA Consortium, IUCN/TILCEPA, Kalpavriksh, and Natural Justice. CBD Secretariat Technical Series No. 64

Jaconette Mirck and Warren E. Mabee. 2013. [Applying lessons from the United States in developing Canada's forest inventory: a review](#). Journal of Forestry 111:67-74.

Zhaoqin Li and Xulin Guo. 2013. [A suitable NDVI product for monitoring spatiotemporal variations of LAI in semiarid mixed grassland](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m12-055

Joanna Petrasek MacDonald, Sherilee L. Harper, Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Victoria L. Edge and Rigolet Inuit Community Government. 2013. [A necessary voice: Climate change and lived experiences of youth in Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Canada](#). *Global Environmental Change* 23:360–371.

David J. Sauchyn and Barrie R. Bonsal. 2013. [Climate change and North American Great Plains' drought](#). *Encyclopedia of Environmetrics*. DOI: 10.1002/9780470057339.vnn123

J. Donald McClenagan. 2013. [Streamlined erosional residuals and drumlins in central British Columbia, Canada](#). *Geomorphology*. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.01.015

Simon Springer. 2013. [Anarchism and geography: A brief genealogy of anarchist geographies](#). *Geography Compass* 7:46-60.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Robert Brown. 2013. [Response of alpine treeline ecotones to 20th century climate change: A comparative analysis from Kananaskis, Alberta](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Ze'ev Gedalof.

Other “Geographical” News

Growing concern that many people may be forced to migrate due to climate changes:

Environmental changes have always affected migration patterns, especially for those living in regions prone to recurrent drought or flooding. With the onset of global climate change, there is growing concern that many more people may be forced to migrate in the face of catastrophic environmental changes. [International Migration Institute](#)

Three volcanoes erupt in Kamchatka Peninsula: Three volcanoes in Russia's Kamchatka continue to send steam and ash into the air while lava flows down their slopes. The volcanoes Shiveluch, Kizimen and Plosky Talbachek are erupting in different parts of the peninsula simultaneously, causing dozens of local earthquakes, as the vibrations accompanying the eruptions of the giants continue to increase. [RT](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

The evolution of white fur and an animal sex scandal: Up north — in Canada and other places where snowy winters are reliable (and reliably heavy) — you find more animals whose fur comes in various shades of white. This is true even for species that are brown or black further south. The difference is obvious. But how does it happen? Carl Zimmer presents two possible paths to paleness — random mutation, and fortuitous cross-species mating. [National Geographic](#)



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