



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 218, January 28, 2013
Compiled by Dan Smith caq@geog.uvic.ca

University of the Fraser Valley's Lenore Newman imagines a Canadian prairie brimming with quinoa: Could a South American grain soon be blooming on Canada's prairies? Quinoa, the grain with the unpronounceable name (Kin-wah) and the subtle nutty flavour, has tripled in value over the five years as people around the globe enjoy this high protein and low fat alternative to better-known grains. This is bringing economic prosperity to growers in Bolivia and Peru, but making it difficult for residents of the Andes to afford their traditional grain. Quinoa is a very robust crop, tolerating poor soils and extremes of temperature, and it grows well on the Canadian prairie. An extensive 2005 Alberta government report called quinoa a "Cinderella grain" that could, if prices continued to rise, prove highly profitable to Canadian farmers. Once Canadian farmers perfect their techniques for growing quinoa, they can easily meet world supply, allowing prices to decline. Quinoa could be a needed good news story for Canada's agricultural industry. These good news stories however, will not happen without a healthy agricultural research climate. [Globe and Mail](#)

UBC Geographer Brett Eaton wins J. Ross Mackay Award: The J. Ross Mackay Award is presented annually by the [Canadian Geomorphology Research Group](#) (CGRG) in recognition of a significant achievement by a young geomorphologist within Canada. The purpose of the award is to foster the development of geomorphology in Canada and to provide recognition of young scientists in this field. This year's winner is Dr. [Brett Eaton](#), Department of Geography, University of British Columbia. Dr. Eaton's nomination is based on a body of work in fluvial geomorphology addressing channel bank strength and morphodynamics. His research integrates experiments, field measurements, modelling and prediction, and applies the insights gained toward understanding the effect of environmental change on rivers. Dr. Eaton received his Ph.D. in Geography in 2004 from the University of British Columbia and was appointed an Assistant Professor there in the same year. His numerous accomplishments include being awarded in 2005 the Wiley Award for Best Paper in Earth Surface Processes and Landscapes, and in 2010 the UBC Killam Teaching Prize. [CGRG Award Winners](#)

UBC's Tim Oke and Andreas Christen play significant roles with the International Association for Urban Climate (IAUC): Dr. Oke was recognized as founding member of the organization, while Dr. Christen has been elected to serve as a member of the Board. [Urban Climate News](#)

Memorial U's Alistair Bath awarded President's Distinguished Teaching Award: Dr. Alistair Bath has been nominated three times in his career for the prestigious President's Distinguished Teaching Award by his undergraduate students and this year he was successful. He was also nominated for the President's Award for Graduate Supervision this year. Although Dr. Bath did not win that award, he was presented with the Dean of Arts Graduate Supervision Award this year. Alistair enjoys working with students and integrating his resource management experiences into the classroom. It seems the students too enjoy his real world examples and ability to engage them with his international experience. [MUN Geography News](#)

UVic's Stephen Cross pioneers a "new" kind of aquaculture that mimics BC's coastal ecosystem: Thousands of years ago in China, people realized that when they kept shrimp in their carp ponds, the ponds stayed cleaner and the carp were healthier. This ancient technique of growing one species from another—known as polyculture—is the inspiration for a new kind of multi-species aquaculture evolving on BC's west coast. Dr. Stephen Cross, a marine ecologist in the University of Victoria's geography department, is developing an ecologically sustainable aquaculture system that brings together several native species, mimicking the natural ecosystem of BC's coastal waters. His Sustainable Ecological Aquaculture (SEAfood) System is under development in Kyuquot Sound, off Vancouver Island's northwest coast. Cross is creating an environment where fish, shellfish, bottom-dwellers and seaweed live together as they do in the wild, in a way that benefits every member of the system. "It all starts with sablefish, or other local, commercially valued fish," says Cross. "We feed the fish and place other native species around and beneath the fish enclosures to intercept the organic and inorganic wastes they produce and convert them into additional crops." [UVic knowEdge](#)

Geography and planning top list of what brightest students study: In a recent Globe and Mail report, Brent Herbert-Copley, vice-president of Research Capacity at the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) outlines the rapid growth of scholarships and fellowships awarded to those studying our environment. According to Herbert-Copley, "SSHRC funds only about 20 per cent of applicants, or 5 per cent of all graduate students enrolled in the social sciences and humanities at Canadian universities. So by all accounts, these are among the best and brightest in their fields, representing opinion leaders of tomorrow." The report features a list of the fastest growing disciplines. Geography was ranked third, and Urban and regional studies came in fifth place. [Globe and Mail](#)

U Western's Dr. Gordon McBean on CBC Radio 'The Current': As temperatures rise, will costs follow? A decade ago, the insurance industry's biggest payouts to homeowners were for fire or theft. But for the past five years or so, damage payouts related to heavy rain and high winds are more common, just one very concrete example of the consequences of rising temperatures. For more, check out the interview with Dave Phillips from Environment Canada, Western Geography Professor, Dr. Gordon McBean and Sarah Brown, CEO of NWT Association of Communities. [Listen to The Current](#)

Trent U Geography News: Geography highlights for the Winter Term include [President Steven Franklin's](#) upcoming guest lecture on the evolution of remote sensing in GEOG 3110H Foundations of Geographic Thought, [Trent University Geography Society's](#) annual Reach for the Peak event in March and registration for the popular [Wilderness Resources](#) field course in Algonquin Park (GEOG 3333H).

Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers: The Department of Geography at the University of Lethbridge is hosting the [55th Annual Meeting of the WDCAG](#), 7-9 March 2013. [Abstract submission deadline extended to Friday, February 1, 2013.](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

M.-O. Braul, L.A. Mysak, H.D. Matthews and C.T. Simmons. 2013. [Assessing the impact of late Pleistocene megafaunal extinctions on global vegetation and climate](#). *Climate of the Past Discussion* 9:435-465.

Michael Church. 2013. [Refocusing geomorphology: Field work in four acts](#). *Geomorphology*. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.01.014

Kira Michelle Hoffman and Dan J. Smith. 2013. [Late Holocene glacial activity at Bromley Glacier, Cambria Icefield, northern British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada](#). *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. DOI: 10.1139/cjes-2012-0151

Terence Lai, Suzana Dragičević and Margaret Schmidt. 2013. [Integration of multicriteria evaluation and cellular automata methods for landslide simulation modelling](#). *Geomatics, Natural Hazards and Risk*. DOI:10.1080/19475705.2012.746243

N. Ouellette, R. Bourbeau and C.G. Camarda. 2012. [Regional disparities in Canadian adult and old-age mortality: A comparative study based on smoothed mortality ratio surfaces and age at death distributions](#). *Canadian Studies in Population* 39:79-106.

Li Shen, Yuhong He and Xulin Guo. 2013. [Exploration of loggerhead shrike habitats in Grassland National Park of Canada based on in situ measurements and satellite-derived adjusted transformed soil-adjusted vegetation index \(ATSAVI\)](#). *Remote Sensing* 5:432-453.

Brent Taylor, Rob C. de Loë and Henning Bjornlund. 2013. [Evaluating knowledge production in collaborative water governance](#). 2012. *Water Alternatives* 6.

S. Teitelbaum and Ryan Bullock. 2012. [Are community forestry principles at work in Ontario's County, Municipal, and Conservation Authority forests?](#) *The Forestry Chronicle* 88:697-707/

Other "Geographical" News

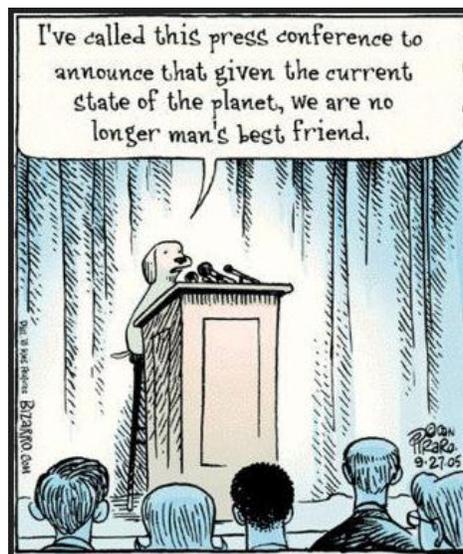
Groundwater depletion linked to climate change: Simon Fraser University earth scientist Diana Allen says climate change may be exacerbating many countries' experience of water stress. "Increasing food requirements to feed our current world's growing population and prolonged droughts in many regions of the world are already increasing dependence on groundwater for agriculture," says Allen. "Climate-change-related stresses on fresh surface water, such as glacier-fed rivers, will likely exacerbate that situation. [ScienceDaily](#)

Setting an online example in educating women: The United States is leading a revolution in higher education. With the advent of massive open online courses, or MOOCs, U.S. universities will be increasingly exporting hundreds of college-level classes every year to the rest of the world. The implications of this are huge. [Universities News](#)

Cities affect temperatures for 1,000s of miles: What happens to all that heat when it eventually gets out of the buildings, cars and other fossil fuel burning sources? Does it add anything to the temperature outside? Some climate modelers now think it does. Despite the fact that heating energy in big cities is sparsely dispersed over the planet as a whole, amounting to only about 0.3 percent of the total energy coming from warmer regions to cooler regions in winter via weather and ocean currents, this human-made heat could be enough to affect the jet stream and other big atmospheric circulation systems. This means big heated cities could be altering the weather thousands of miles away in the winter. [Discovery News](#)

Climate change action now helps win elections (Any lessons for Canadian politicians?): Politicians who oppose taking action on climate change or discount the whole matter could be risking their careers. Public opinion in the United States has shifted in favor of doing something about climate change, and politicians who want to get elected need to take note of it, [Discovery News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)

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