



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 219, January 31, 2013
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York U's Bruce Erickson on how the Idle No More movement brings Canadian history into focus: Bruce Erickson, an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at York University, writes that the "Idle No More comes at a ...time when the terms of the relationship between First Nations and the Canadian state are being redefined. Indigenous groups, from the Assembly of First Nations chiefs down to the grassroots supporters of Idle No More and Chief Spence, are reminding the government that this is, in fact, an alliance. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 that ushered in the mandate to negotiate with aboriginal people for use of the land they occupied was born of Pontiac's efforts. The proclamation, which over the years has been ignored, bent and deliberately misunderstood throughout the country, was a recognition that the peace of the colony depended upon securing consent for its presence. Although criticized for having no specific demands, the Idle No More movement asks us to remember our history. It asks us to understand that treaties were not signed out of the goodness of the heart, but out of a sense of partnership and the need to compromise. Chief Spence's hunger strike, temporary blockades of vital transportation routes, and round dances in our streets and public spaces are different versions of Pontiac's message: cutting aboriginal people out of the decision-making process around land use is an unacceptable change to the already strained alliance that this country was built on." [Toronto Star](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser on Feeding Nine Billion: Dr. Evan Fraser of the University of Guelph wrote the cover story of the December 2012 Walrus magazine on the topic of "Feeding Nine Billion." The text is available [on-line](#). In addition, he did an animated YouTube video that provides a condensed version of the article and can be seen on [YouTube](#)

UBC's Simon Donner receives the 2012 President's Award for Public Education: Simon Donner, assistant professor in the Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia, has been awarded the 2012 President's Award for Public Education through Media. The award consists of a research stipend presented to a faculty member who has demonstrated outstanding service to the University and the community by sharing research expertise via the news media. It recognizes contributions such as print and broadcast media interviews and expert commentary.

UBC's Olav Slaymaker addresses theme of "Global environmental change in mountain environments": Olav Slaymaker attended the the 2012 Swiss Geoscience Meeting in Bern, Switzerland addressed the theme of "Global environmental change in mountain environments". In May 2013, Professor Slaymaker will be one of three international invitees addressing the theme of the conference "Mountain protected areas in a changing world" on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Krkonose National Park, the first National Park in Poland. His lecture title is "Mountain environments in the Anthropocene Epoch". Source: RCGS

Memorial U's Evan Edinger provides new evidence on Caribbean coral reef decline: Dr. Evan Edinger, an associate geography professor at Memorial, is a key researcher in a new coral reef study. Seven coral reef scientists contributed to the methodology and to the field data collection and analysis. Dr. Edinger's speciality within the project was measuring internal bioerosion, that is, the effect of animals (like sponges) that break down the reef by excavating holes inside coral skeletons. The new evidence reveals that many Caribbean coral reefs have either stopped growing or are on the threshold of starting to erode. "The really big significance of our work is that it translates the short-term ecological changes we have seen on Caribbean coral reefs into the long-term geomorphic and geological consequences," explained Dr. Edinger. "It's like your bank account -- you would like it to be in the black every year, and even if you're in the red the odd year here and there, you'll still be okay. But if you run a deficit every year, you'll soon be bankrupt. Caribbean coral reefs have declined pretty close to the threshold value for coral cover that our analyses identify as the break-even point. And a lot of Caribbean coral reefs -- maybe half of them -- have been at or below that threshold value for the past 25-30 years. That means trouble." TODAY.MUN.CA

McMaster U's Walt Pearce upcoming presentation featured on CBC: A couple of weeks ago, CBC Newfoundland talked to Judith Adler, a sociology professor at Memorial University. She said her students were smart, but had sure missed the boat when it came to geography. In Hamilton, McMaster geography prof Walter Peace tries to be diplomatic. "We don't want to focus on the negative," he says, "but I've had similar experiences. The knowledge is limited, no doubt about that." And why? "Geography is not perceived as being important in high school," he says. And now, to make matters worse, the map is becoming an endangered species. Now you head to Google and it tells you to go 300 kilometres, take a right for seven kilometres and your destination will be on the left. Yes, you've arrived. But you don't really know how you got there. The better way, says Professor Peace, is to pull out a map. "Maps enable you to visualize things better. Maps give you context." Peace got hooked on geography in Grade 13 – thank you, Mr. Fulton – at Hamilton Collegiate Institute, which became Sanford Avenue School. (Still beautiful and about to be erased from all maps by the school board's wrecking crew.) Peace loves maps so much that he's going to talk about them this Saturday, Feb. 2, part of the free lecture series hosted each year by the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art. The illustrated talk is at 8 p.m. in Room 1A1, Ewart Angus wing, McMaster University Medical Centre. [McMaster Daily News](#) | [CBC Hamilton](#)

U Calgary's Christopher Hugenholtz raises alarm about risks of drones in hands of public: As the popularity of remote-controlled aircraft and drones takes off as the technology becomes more affordable, one Calgary researcher is concerned amateur aviators are flying headlong into trouble. Christopher Hugenholtz, who uses aerial drones in his research, said he's concerned about the chances of a hobbyist damaging property or hurting someone after losing control of an unmanned aircraft. "The amount of damage or potential injury could be sizable," said Hugenholtz, an assistant professor at the University of Calgary. "Even the smallest ones — things you can buy at the store — can cause death if they fall from the sky." Regulations tightly restrict where and how remote-controlled aircraft and drones can be flown, but Hugenholtz said the rules are outstripped by how easy the machines are to acquire and get airborne. [Calgary Herald](#)

Mount Royal U's Lynn Moorman awarded TECTERRA grant: Lynn Moorman, assistant professor in Earth Sciences at Mount Royal University was recently awarded a TECTERRA grant to develop a geographic application on SMART technology platforms for use in Alberta elementary schools. The Calgary Science School is a partner in the project, as is the Society whose contribution will be in the area of marketing and promotion and support for a nation-wide roll-out. The partners have organized a professional development day devoted to exploring GIS and developing specific activities for the giant RCGS/Parks Canada floor map that will be in Calgary in April. Source: RCGS

Saint Mary's U's David Gauthier a member of the new Community Conservation Research Network: David Gauthier, is a member of the new Community Conservation Research Network, an international project in place-based environmental management launched last year at Saint Mary's University. In assembling partners for this project, lead investigator Dr. Tony Charles gathered a diverse group. The Saint Mary's team includes Dr. Charles, along with Dr. Gauthier, Dr. Cathy Conrad and Dr. Trudy Sable. For more information, visit [SMU News Release](#)

Memorial U Geography puts graduate spotlight on Kelley Power: Kelley Power completed her BSc (Hons) in Geography in October 2000 and is now the Communications Advisor for Aurora Energy Ltd., a uranium exploration and development company. Kelley's background in Geography has been instrumental in her professional success. "Resource development projects are complex, incorporating social, environmental, political, technical, and economic elements. "In this context, Geography, with its interdisciplinary nature, has helped me explore and understand the interconnectedness between the facets of our project, enabling me to more accurately represent them in public communications." [MUN Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Julian Cleary. 2013. [Life cycle assessments of wine and spirit packaging at the product and the municipal scale: A Toronto, Canada case study](#). Journal of Cleaner Production. doi.org/10.1016/j.jclepro.2013.01.009.

Alemu Gonsamo, Jing M. Chen and Petra D'Odorico. 2012. [Deriving land surface phenology indicators from CO2 eddy covariance measurements](#). Ecological Indicators 29:203–207.

Niem Tu Huynh and Bob Sharpe. 2013. [An assessment instrument to measure geospatial thinking expertise](#). Journal of Geography 112:3-17.

David J. Lieske, Bruce Pollard, Mark Gloutney, Randy Milton, Kevin Connor, Randy Dibblee Glen Parsons and David Howerter. 2012. [The importance of agricultural landscapes as key nesting habitats for the American Black Duck in Maritime Canada](#). Waterbirds 35:525-534.

Peter Pantazopoulos, Jennifer M. Sawyer, Mary E. Turyk, Miriam Diamond, Satyendra P. Bhavsar, Donna Mergler, Susan Schantz, Nimal Ratnayake and David O. Carpenter. 2013. [Fatty acids in Great Lakes lake trout and whitefish](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research. doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2012.12.012

Jesse C. Vermaire, Michael F.J. Pisaric, Joshua R. Thienpont, Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi, Steven V. Kokelj and John P. Smol. 2013. [Arctic climate warming and sea ice declines lead to increased storm surge activity](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI: 10.1002/grl.50191

Other “Geographical” News

Provincial skills deficit looming in British Columbia by 2016: A severe skills shortage will hit BC in 2016 and continue to grow, unless action is taken now to improve access to all types of post-secondary education—university, college and trades. A BC Labour Market Profile reveals that in 2016 the number of jobs requiring university, college or trades credentials will exceed the supply of BC graduates, a skills deficit that will continue to grow through to 2020. [UVic Media Release](#)

Your warming world: The heat is on for the planet as a whole, but what has been happening where you live? Click a place on the map to find out, or enter a location in the search box in the top right-hand corner. The initial map shows average temperatures over the past 20 years; use the drop-down menu to see maps for earlier periods. [New Scientist](#)

Study highlights impact of environmental change on older people: Recent natural disasters illustrate vulnerability of older people: majority of deaths from the Great East Japan Earthquake (2011) and Hurricane Katrina (2005) occurred among older people. Researchers at the University of York and Simon Fraser University are calling for better awareness among policy makers and the public of the impact climate change and deteriorating environmental quality will have on an ageing population. [ScienceDaily](#)

Working alone won't get you good grades: A new study shows that students who work together and interact online are more likely to be successful in their classes. The major finding was that a higher number of online interactions was usually an indicator of a higher score in the class. High achievers also were more likely to form strong connections with other students and to exchange information in more complex ways. High achievers tended to form cliques, shutting out low-performing students from their interactions. Students who found themselves shut out were not only more likely to have lower grades; they were also more likely to drop out of the class entirely. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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