

GeogNews



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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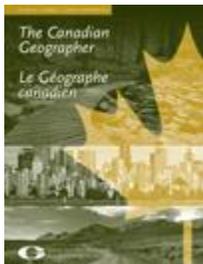
U Guelph's Barry Smit to receive Order of Ontario: University of Guelph geography professor Barry Smit has been named to the Order of Ontario, considered the province's most prestigious honour. "It's a bit humbling -- we all do our jobs. But it certainly is delightful to be recognized in this way," Smit said. "I hope that all my colleagues and graduate students over the years see this as recognition for them also. I have been blessed with wonderful people to work with and such a supportive environment in my department." The Order of Ontario recognizes people who have enriched the lives of others by attaining the highest standards of excellence and achievement in their field. Smit's citation calls him "one of the world's leading authorities on climate change impacts and human adaptation." Maureen Mancuso, provost and vice-president (academic), said: "It's an honour for Barry personally and for the entire University to have one of our faculty members recognized with this award. We're delighted that he has received this prestigious acknowledgment of his career achievements." Smit was among the first researchers to analyze the effects of climate change on economies and societies. He has examined societal vulnerability and adaptation to climate change across Canada and in developed and developing countries, ranging from Vietnam to Vanuatu and from Chile to China. "I have had the opportunity to meet amazing people in countries and communities around the world," he said. "Like many others, I would prefer to see more progress on dealing with the climate change issue in a reasoned way, especially in Canada. Yet I am encouraged by the increasing recognition of the reality of climate change, and I believe that gradually we will adopt more sustainable ways of living. I'm looking forward to see what the younger generations do." [UGuleph News Release](#)

U Saskatchewan's Ryan Brook to track moose crossings: A research project at the University of Saskatchewan will try to determine why moose feel moved to cross rural highways. The study starts this month and will track the movements of 50 moose over a four-year period. Twenty-five of the creatures along Highway 11 between Saskatoon and Regina will be collared with a built-in satellite phone that sends data back to researchers. The stretch of road is considered a hot spot for collisions between vehicles and moose. The Environment Ministry asked researchers to study how moose use their habitat and to identify high-risk collision areas. It's hoped the data collected will help develop a long-term moose management strategy. "For two full years, we get very detailed locations on exactly where that moose is every day, all day and night," said Ryan Brook, project director with the Saskatoon university's College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Brook is asking hunters to hold off on shooting moose involved in the project. [Macleans on campus](#)

UBC Geographer: The January 2013 newsletter of the UBC Department of Geography is now available. Features include: a discussion of the UBC Geography collaboration with The University of Auckland, New Zealand; the involvement of the department in the Sustainability Office Certification Pilot Program; and news of Chili Fest 2013. [UBC Geographer January 2013](#).

UBC's Simon Donner on U.S. belief in climate change that shifts with weather: A University of British Columbia study of American attitudes toward climate change finds that local weather – temperature, in particular – is a major influence on public and media opinions on the reality of global warming. The study finds a strong connection between U.S. weather trends and public and media attitudes towards climate science over the past 20 years – with skepticism about global warming increasing during cold snaps and concern about climate change growing during hot spells. “Our findings help to explain some of the significant fluctuations and inconsistencies in U.S. public opinion on climate change,” says UBC Geography Prof. Simon Donner who conducted the study with former student Jeremy McDaniels (now at Oxford University). The researchers used 1990-2010 data from U.S. public opinion polls and media coverage by major U.S. newspapers, including The New York Times, Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today. They evaluated the relationship between average national temperatures and opinion polls on climate change, along with the quantity and nature of media editorials and opinion pieces related to climate change. [UBC Media Release](#) | [ScienceDaily](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Denise Fay Brown. 2013. [Tourists as colonizers in Quintana Roo, Mexico](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12008

Randy W. Dirszowsky, Sarah A. Finkelstein and Anthony M. Davis. 2013. [Pollen evidence for major shifts in forest composition since the mid-nineteenth-century in the vicinity of Sudbury, Ontario](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12007

Laurence Leduc-Primeau, Gilles Sénécal et Nathalie Vachon. 2013. [La représentation de l'espace public par la photographie : Une étude de cas dans la région de Montréal \(Québec, Canada\)](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12009

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

S. Chilima, Jill A.E. Gunn, Bram F. Noble and Robert J. Patrick. 2013. [Institutional considerations in watershed cumulative effects assessment and management](#). Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal. DOI:10.1080/14615517.2012.760227Jania

Kenneth Hewitt. 2013. [Environmental disasters in social context: toward a preventive and precautionary approach](#). *Natural Hazards* 66:3-14.

Nathaniel M Lewis, Jacqueline C. Gahagan and Carlye Stein. [Preferences for rapid point-of-care HIV testing in Nova Scotia, Canada](#). *Sexual Health*. doi.org/10.1071/SH12100.

Chris T. Perry, Gary N. Murphy, Paul S. Kench, Scott G. Smithers, Evan N. Edinger, Robert S. Steneck and Peter J. Mumby. 2013. [Caribbean-wide decline in carbonate production threatens coral reef growth](#). *Nature Communications*. doi:10.1038/ncomms2409

Trevor J. Porter, Michael F.J. Pisaric, Robert D. Field, Steven V. Kokelj, Thomas W.D. Edwards, Peter deMontigny, Richard Healy and Allegra N. LeGrande. 2013. [Spring-summer temperatures since AD 1780 reconstructed from stable oxygen isotope ratios in white spruce tree-rings from the Mackenzie Delta, northwestern Canada](#). *Climate Dynamics*. DOI 10.1007/s00382-013-1674-3

J.M. Pritchard, A. Papaioannou, C. Tomowich, L.M. Giangregorio, S.A. Atkinson, K.A. Beattie, J.D. Adachi, J. DeBeer, M. Winemaker, V. Avram and H.P. Schwarcz. 2013. [Bone mineralization is elevated and less heterogeneous in adults with type 2 diabetes and osteoarthritis compared to controls with osteoarthritis alone](#). *Bone*. doi.org/10.1016/j.bone.2013.01.032

Christopher C. Wellen and Renee E. Sieber. 2013. [Toward an inclusive semantic interoperability: the case of Cree hydrographic features](#). *International Journal of Geographical Information Science* 27:168-191.

Chaoyang Wu, et al. 2013. [Interannual variability of net ecosystem productivity in forests is explained by carbon flux phenology in autumn](#). *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. DOI: 10.1111/geb.12044

Other “Geographical” News

Avoiding a Cartography Catastrophe: Since the mid-nineteenth century, maps have helped elucidate the deadly mysteries of diseases like cholera and yellow fever. Yet today's global mapping of infectious diseases is considerably unreliable and may do little to inform the control of potential outbreaks, according to a new systematic mapping review of all clinically important infectious diseases known to humans. [ScienceDaily](#)

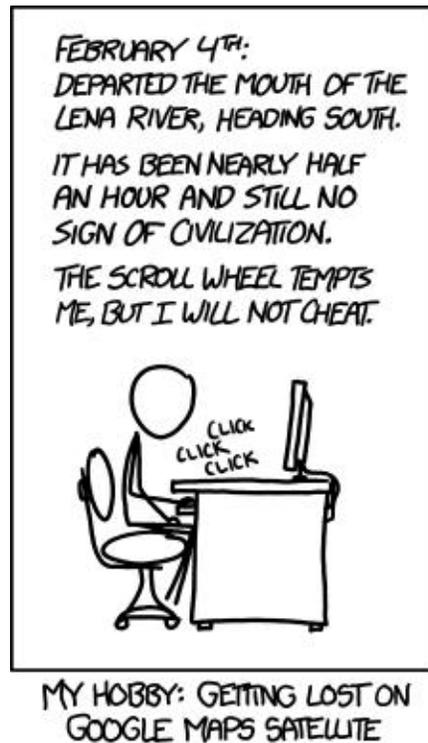
Increases in extreme rainfall linked to global warming: A worldwide review of global rainfall data has found that the intensity of the most extreme rainfall events is increasing across the globe as temperatures rise. Researchers evaluated the association between extreme rainfall and atmospheric temperatures at more than 8000 weather gauging stations around the world. [Journal of Climate](#)

Know when your numbers are significant. Researchers, reviewers and publishers must grasp basic statistics: The incidence of papers that have basic statistical mistakes is alarming. I see figures with error bars that do not say what they describe. So, as an increasingly wary reviewer, I'm going to spell out again the basics that every experimental biologist should know. [The Forestry Chronicle](#)

Booed for keeping conference speakers on time: Some people do not know or use proper etiquette at scientific meetings. If you are a speaker and are told how much time you have to talk, assume that this does not include time for questions and answers. If you have a 10-15 minutes talk, allow for 2-3 minutes for questions. That is the polite thing to do if you desire to have discussion of your paper afterward. If you speak for the entire time, do not expect session chairs to do you the honour of allowing

questions and answers. You have already caused the meeting to run behind and have either taken time away from the other speakers or have taken time away from the audience for having coffee or lunch. Neither of these groups are usually very forgiving. [Eloquent Science](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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