



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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U Victoria's Chris Darimont and Groundswell: When Jessie Housty, an elected member of the Heiltsuk First Nation tribal council, thinks about the possibility of oil tankers off the north coast of B.C., she fears the destruction of her way of life. [Groundswell](#), which uses surfing to show the coast around Bella Bella and the Great Bear Rainforest, looks at issues around the proposed pipeline and the tanker traffic it would bring to B.C. waters. It was produced by Raincoast Conservation Foundation, Patagonia and Woodshed Films. The film shows a growing movement against the pipeline, said Chris Darimont, UVic assistant geography professor and Hakai-Raincoast Conservation Scholar. "It beautifully and profoundly captures the spirit of this unspoiled coast and the passion of the Heiltsuk First Nation people who are committed to protecting their lands and oceans." [Times Colonist](#)

Concordia graduate students develop watchdog tool that rates compliance between urban planning goals and EIAs of development projects: A team of graduate students from Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment have developed a watchdog tool that rates the level of compliance between urban planning goals and the environmental impact assessments of development projects. The researchers use this tool to evaluate early proposals for the redevelopment of the Turcot highway interchange. They found that the proposal adopted in 2009 was inadequate for long-term sustainability. Lead author Undiné-Celeste Thompson, explains that, "government agencies often produce statements about their plans, policies, and programs to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. So we began by examining such statements to create a list of environmental goals that were relevant to the Turcot redevelopment." They then compared the proposal for the Turcot offered by the Quebec Ministry of Transport (MTQ) with two alternative proposals. "We assigned each proposal a score for each goal, so that we could measure which proposal best met the government's stated objectives, and measure whether a particular proposal would support long-term sustainability goals." Ultimately, the new analysis method could be used for a wide range of projects. "This is a powerful tool for comparative analysis, because it is straightforward enough that both experts and members of the general public can use it," says Thompson. "It will be particularly useful to non-governmental entities that wish to lobby against a particular project or propose alternative solutions." [Concordia Now News & Events](#)

U Winnipeg's Jino Distasio takes on VP role: Jino Distasio takes on the new role of associate vice-president, research and innovation, at the University of Winnipeg. Distasio was director of the University of Winnipeg's high-profile Institute of Urban Studies and a member of the department of geography in the faculty of science. Under his leadership during the past decade, the institute has grown significantly and developed a reputation as one of Canada's leading centres of urban research. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Queen's U's John Holmes supported in auto policy research partnership: Dr. John Holmes is Co-PI with Charlotte Yates (Dean of Social Sciences and Labour Studies Professor, McMaster University) on a new auto policy research partnership based at McMaster. The project will receive \$2.1 million over five years. [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

Royal Military College's Lubomyr Luciuk appointed as a part-time Member of the National Parole Board of Canada: Dr. Lubomyr Luciuk (Hons BSc /MA - Geography, Queen's, 1976/1979 and SSHRCC Canada Research Fellow, 1988-1990) has been appointed as a part-time Member of the National Parole Board of Canada. A professor in the Department of Politics and Economics at the Royal Military College of Canada, in Kingston, he is also a Fellow of the Chair of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Toronto. Dr. Luciuk has written and edited numerous books, papers, and opinion-editorials on a wide range of topics, notably in the fields of political geography, refugee studies, Ukraine, and Canadian ethnic & immigration history. [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

UVic Faculty of Social Sciences features Denise Cloutier. [Denise Cloutier](#) is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography and the Centre on Aging at the University of Victoria. Denise is a social gerontologist and health/social geographer with a primary interest in 'healthy aging' for older adults. Broadly speaking, her research focuses on the provision of care ranging from health and social services to formal, voluntary, and informal sector delivery systems. Her work has focused on aging in rural and small town environments and explores the social determinants of health and the impacts of health sector restructuring on vulnerable older women and men (e.g., socially isolated individuals, palliative clients, and stroke survivors). She favours mixed methods research studies that incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods. Her research has been funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. As part of the CIHR-funded Café Scientifique series, Denise is focused on demonstrating how families can better prepare for care transitions and how to improve the health care system to benefit the quality of life of our older loved ones. [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)

Concordia U's Pierre Gauthier speaks about Old Montreal: Pierre Gauthier, associate professor of urban planning at Concordia University, comments about downtown Montreal highlights. "In the 1980s, people feared that Ste. Catherine St. would decline. But the urban planning was quite inspired in the 1990s. Now people live downtown. Fifty per cent of the population of greater Montreal works downtown. Many city centres have lost those attributes, but Montreal has resisted that trend." Pierre suggest that the Blue Bonnets is a site to watch, saying that "The city wants to make this district a model of sustainable development and transportation-oriented development (TOD). I'm working with my students right now on this district. What we are pushing for is a neighbourhood that will be very diversified, comparable to (Montreal's older neighbourhoods). ... We are exploring formulas for creating a neighbourhood that will be unique." [Montreal Gazette](#)

Geomatters from Department of Geography at U Winnipeg: The most recent newsletter of coming from the U Winnipeg Department of Geography's continues with the 60th anniversary celebrations, and focuses on the development of the Department facilities from a one-room lab in the basement of Manitoba Hall to the state-of-the-art facilities currently being enjoy. Other features include a focus on alumni Ray Pedersen, providing an answer to the question so many are asking - *Winnipeg is how many smoots to Brandon?*; provides reflections on the Churchill Field Course and identifies the 2012 Geography Award Winners. The department also announces that in September, as part of Homecoming, Dr. Bruce Mitchell will give a special talk on the history of water resource management in Canada. [Geomatters Spring 2013](#).

Memorial U Geography introduces postdoctoral fellow Heather Hall: Dr. Heather Hall joined the Department of Geography's as a postdoctoral fellow last in September, after receiving a one-year fellowship from the Harris Centre. She came to Memorial straight from Queen's University, where she received her doctorate. Heather recently received an Arts Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2014-2015 so she will be staying on with the department for an additional year. Heather reports that she "recently completed my PhD dissertation, "Stuck Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Politics of Regional Development Initiatives in Northern Ontario", in the Department of Geography at Queen's University. My research was focused on understanding the political strategizing and contestation of regional development initiatives in Northern Ontario. This region has had a long history of federal and provincial regional development initiatives responding to economic challenges and a deep sense of territorial grievance and discontent. Empirically, my research provides a rich history of these initiatives in Northern Ontario since the 1960s. Theoretically, it contributes to debates on the conceptualization of regions and regional development including the politicization of boundaries and the paradox of regional development institutions. [MUN Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Andrew Bliss, Regine Hock and Graham Cogley. 2013. [A new inventory of mountain glaciers and ice caps for the Antarctic periphery](#). Annals of Glaciology 54(63):191-199.

Xie Changwei and William A. Gough. 2013. [A simple thaw-freeze algorithm for a multi-layered soil using the Stefan Equation](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1770

Jordan B.R. Eamer and Ian J. Walker. 2013. [Quantifying spatial and temporal trends in beach-dune volumetric changes using spatial statistics](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.03.005

Brian Egan. 2013. [Towards shared ownership: property, geography, and treaty making in British Columbia](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography 95:33-50.

Congsheng Fu, Jianyao Chen, Huabo Jiang and Linyao Dong. 2013. [Threshold behavior in a fissured granitic catchment in Southern China: \(2\) modeling and uncertainty analysis](#). Water Resources Research. DOI:10.1002/wrcr.20193

Roberta Hawkins. 2013. Gender, climate science and technology in climate change. In: [An Encyclopedia of Science and History](#). Editors: Brian Black, David Hassenzahl, Jennie C. Stephens, and Gary Weisel. ABC-Clio Publishers. Santa Barbara, CA.

Anders Knudby, Stacy Jupiter, Chris Roelfsema, Mitchell Lyons and Stuart Phinn. 2013. [Mapping coral reef resilience indicators using field and remotely sensed data](#). Remote Sensing 5:1311-1334.

William C. Mahaney and Volli Kalm. 2013. [Middle-late Holocene paleoclimate and weathering history in the Norra Storfjället Mountains, Sweden: Deglacial record and soil stratigraphy applied to Neoglaciation in lower latitudes](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography. DOI:10.1111/geoa.12008

J.H. Sherwood, N. Kettridge, D.K. Thompson, P.J. Morris, U. Silins and J.M. Waddington. 2013. [Effect of drainage and wildfire on peat hydrophysical properties](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9820

Other “Geographical” News

Hike Mount Everest from your desk: Having increasingly taken Street View off-road in recent times, Google’s new Maps update takes the interactive project to dizzying new heights. Up for viewing are four of the world’s tallest (and most dangerous) peaks, including the Everest Base Camp in the Himalayas (17,598 feet), Mount Elbrus in Russia (18,510 feet), Aconcagua in Argentina (22,841 feet) and even a volcano, the dormant Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (19,341 feet). [DNews](#)

Where universities have really failed: Earlier this month, student Mercedes Mueller sent a provocative open letter to Canadian university presidents, accusing them of having failed students by not paying enough attention to their “career ambitions.” Students come to university to get a job, she explains, and thus deserve to have “degrees worth more than the paper they are printed on.” The good news is that Mueller is, in fact, wrong. The bad news is that more and more people seem to think that she’s right. Despite this Universities have treated students like her badly. The real betrayal is not that universities have failed to make good on their promise to get their grads good jobs. The real betrayal is that universities, instead of explaining the profound value of what they have to offer, have been making the promise—implicitly or explicitly—that the basic point of university is to get people jobs. [Macleans.ca](#)

Ten times more hurricane surges in future: By examining the frequency of extreme storm surges in the past, previous research has shown that there was an increasing tendency for storm hurricane surges when the climate was warmer. New research shows that with global warming there will be a tenfold increase in frequency if the climate becomes two degrees Celcius warmer. [ScienceDaily](#)

Northern exposure: Google Maps gathers a street-level view of Iqaluit: This week, Iqaluit residents are being treated to an unusual sight: A team of next-generation map makers wandering around town with giant towering cameras strapped to their backs. They’re Google’s newest tools for gathering footage in remote and extreme environments where vehicles can’t go, documenting Nunavut’s icy capital firsthand –and giving the people of Iqaluit a unique chance to have a say in how the world sees and navigates their home. [Globe and Mail](#)

Scientists question closure of Canada’s freshwater research facility: The Harper government is refusing to permit fully funded freshwater research to take place this summer at the remote Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario. A group of researchers from Trent University in Peterborough, Ont., was told this week they are barred from the site, despite starting their work last summer and spending thousands of dollars on an approved trip to one of the ELA lakes as recently as last month. [Macleans.ca](#)



Twitter feeds from Canadian geography departments

[@UVic Geog](#) - Department of Geography, University of Victoria

[@UBCgeog](#) - Department of Geography, University of British Columbia

[@UFVGeography](#) – Department of Geography, University of Fraser Valley (*new)

[@UNBCGeography](#) - Geography Program, University of Northern British Columbia

[@UWGeography](#) - Department of Geography, University of Winnipeg

[@SGESmedia](#) - School of Geography and Earth Sciences, McMaster University

[@GPEConcordia](#) - Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University

Some not so “Geographical” News



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