



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

Carleton University's Fraser Taylor's atlas of Canada's high Arctic reads out Inuit names: Fraser Taylor's atlas of Canada's high Arctic reads out the names of the towns to you. The real names. Cape Strathcona is Arvaaqtuuq. Peter Richards Island is Qikiqtatannak. It is, the eminent Carleton University geographer explains, a decolonization of the Nunavut map and a repatriation of the Inuit names. Taylor, who coined the term cybercartography, doesn't stop with simple renaming. The Arctic Bay Atlas, the latest of his life's work to remap the land according to the people who live on it, includes oral histories, photographs, slide shows, artists' depictions and videos. "This is a complete turnaround from the computer specialists controlling the data," he told the Toronto Star. "These atlases are living atlases. If they are controlled by the community, they will never go out of (date)." One section of the Arctic project uses "multi-sensory" layers to elaborate on the different kinds and importance of sea ice to the Inuit. [Toronto Star](#)

Memorial U's Arn Keeling on living with zombie mines: Mention the words "zombie mine" and you risk conjuring images of grotesque undead figures lurking in dark abandoned tunnels, more the stuff of movie or video game fantasies than anything to do with mining in the real world. And yet, the idea behind the zombie – that of a malevolent force expressed through the afterlife – is a useful metaphor for thinking about the social and environmental issues surrounding abandoned mines. Our research project, [Abandoned Mines in Northern Canada](#), has suggested to Memorial University of Newfoundland's John Sandlos (History) and [Arn Keeling](#) (Geography) that mines can have a zombie-like 'afterlife' in two ways: through the redevelopment of a formerly abandoned mine to remove remaining ore deposits as prices improve on global markets, or (the focus of this blog contribution) through long-term environmental impacts such as toxic tailings, acid mine drainage, or landscape change. [Seeing the Woods Blog](#)

Université Laval's Michel Allard points to thawing permafrost as problem for Iqaluit airport: Thawing permafrost is a growing problem for the Iqaluit airport. Permafrost researcher [Michel Allard](#), Département de géographie at Université Laval, began studying permafrost in Iqaluit in 2010. He produced the map which shows the surface geology in Iqaluit, and it pays special attention to the airport. "The airport is built on a network of ice wedges and also, over the years, some small ponds and lakes have been covered, and the land has been reshaped quite a lot," said Allard. Allard studied old aerial photographs to find where waterways were buried under the airport. He says the waterways are in the exact same spots where weaknesses are found now. "The layer that thaws every summer now gets deeper because of climate warming, so it affects the buried ice masses in the ground, and when they melt the ground collapses on top." Allard and his team will return next month with specialized drilling equipment to take ice core samples at the airport to back up their data. [CBC News](#)

Award Honours at Queen's University of Geography: [Melissa Lafrenière](#) was awarded the Julian Szeicz Award for Excellence in Teaching at the annual Globe. [Max Boreux](#) was awarded the Geography DSC Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance. [Queen's Geography Newsletter](#)

York U Geography Alumni Association releases March 2013 issue of *Contour Lines*: Included are messages from alumni president Lisa Oliveira and department chair Lucia Lo; a feature on the alumni AGM last November, a commentary by Professor Emeritus Ted Spence on the the Spadina subway extension through York University, highlights featuring new faculty appointments Min-Jung Kwak, and Tristan Strum. Following this Tyrone Burke (BA 2007, MA 2010) reviews the adventure of cycling through Switzerland and a special feature reveals the undergraduate geography award winners from the Awards Day celebration. And much more. Read the latest issue of [Contour Lines](#)

Trent U Geography projects highlighted at Haliburton Celebration of Research event: Geography students presented findings from their community-based research projects at Haliburton's Celebration of Research event on Saturday 23 March. The event was hosted by the U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research and featured 10 projects from GEOG 4030H Community-Based Research in Geography and GEOG-NURS 3820H Health Geography, ranging from food security to trails impact studies.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Klaus Edenhoffer and Roger Hayter. 2013. [Organizational restructuring in British Columbia's forest industries 1980–2010: The survival of a dinosaur](#). Applied Geography. doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2013.02.010

Terha Sportel. 2013. [Agency within a socially regulated labour market: A study of 'unorganised' agricultural labour in Kerala](#). Geoforum 47: 42-52.

Eric Vaz; Any Buckland and Kevin Worthington 2013. [A regional spatial-retrofitting approach to geovisualise regional urban growth: An application to the Golden Horseshoe in Canada](#). Ryerson University: Geography Publications and Research Paper 46.

Other “Geographical” News

On Iqaluit streets, Google faces new challenges in first day of mapping: Google's first day of mapping the streets of Nunavut's capital kicked off with a firsthand look at the unique challenges of geography in the Far North. Google usually uses a special vehicle to collect such data, but because of Iqaluit's weather and remoteness, the mapping team is doing the job on foot – often walking down the middle of streets, when traffic is light enough. Mapping the streetscape of a city in the Far North poses a host of challenges Google map makers rarely see in any other parts of the North. For example, some of the roads the team will map this week don't exist in the summer. There are also few markers designating the split between private and public roads. In other cases, the Street View collection teams have to decide how far to go along a particular road or trail before turning around – a trail scheduled for mapping this week that begins in nearby Frobisher Bay runs for some 150 kilometres. [Globe and Mail](#)

How to write your dissertation: Once you have your outline sorted and you've got a pile of research notes together, it's time to knuckle down and start writing. You need not necessarily start at the beginning – in fact, introductions are often easier to write at the end when you know how your argument has developed. [theguardian](http://theguardian.com)

Federal budget stays the course, while provinces begin to pull back: Cuts in provincial government spending on postsecondary education have left universities from coast to coast struggling to curb widening budget deficits and putting in place layoffs, salary freezes and other cost-reduction measures. In Alberta a surprise seven-percent reduction in operating grants by the provincial government to postsecondary education left universities struggling to curb widening budget deficits and putting in place layoffs, salary freezes and other cost-reduction measures. British Columbia delivered a balanced budget in February that included a \$46-million cut in postsecondary education spending over three years. As a result, the University of Victoria asked all departments to cut four percent from their budgets, effective April 1. Saskatchewan's budget, released March 20, included a two-percent increase in operating grants to universities and colleges and a three-percent increase to technical institutes. The budget set aside funds for a new education savings plan and increased support for a scholarship program and a graduate retention program. [University Affairs](http://universityaffairs.ca)

Climate change rewrites world wine list: It's circa 2050 and shoppers are stopping off at Ikea to buy fine wine made in Sweden. A Nordic fantasy? Not according to climate experts who say the Earth's warming phase is already driving a wave of change through the world of wine. As new frontiers for grape growing open up, the viability of some traditional production areas is under threat from scorching temperatures and prolonged droughts. [DNews](http://dnews.com)

The New Cartographers: As maps have changed, so have mapmakers. No longer static images, maps have become active interfaces for information exchange, continuously determining where we are in relation to distant satellites and suggesting where we ought to go. Today, the global geoservices industry collects, shares, and analyzes data on an unprecedented scale. It's valued at as much as \$270 billion per year and employs 500,000 people in the United States, according to a recent report from Google. The rapid transformation, which Spielman equates with a "renaissance" in the field, has overturned traditional ideas of what a geographer does. [Science Careers](http://sciencecareers.com)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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