



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U British Columbia's David Ley Awarded the 2013 Massey Medal:** David Ley has been awarded the 2013 Massey Medal from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Established in 1959 by the Massey Foundation, the Massey Medal is awarded annually by the Society. Its purpose is to recognize outstanding career achievement in the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada. This is a significant honour, and a well deserved recognition of David's contributions to geography in Canada and the world. [UBC Geography Department News](#)

**Memorial U Geography Grads shine at the annual Aldrich Interdisciplinary Conference held in St John's:** Two Memorial geography graduate students were award winners at the annual Aldrich Interdisciplinary Conference held in St John's in April this year. The theme of the conference was 'Research, Teaching and Learning, Public Engagement'. The Geography Department was very well represented at the conference. Beth Cowan, an MSc student, presented her work on seabed mapping off Eastern Baffin Island; Carly Sponarsky, a PhD student, presented a paper on experiential education based on her work on human-coyote interactions in Cape Breton; Rudy Riedlsperger is completing his MSc and will be starting a PhD in the fall, and he presented his work on hazard mapping in the Canadian Arctic; and Shane Belbin, who has just completed his Honours in Geography presented the results of his project on temperature sensitivity and plant performance on the Great Northern Peninsula of Newfoundland. Carly Sponarski and Rudy Riedlsperger were award winners at the conference. Carly was joint winner of the prize for best presentation while Rudy was joint winner of the award for Public Engagement. [Memorial Geography News](#)

**Trent U's geographer President Steven E. Franklin announces intention to conclude service:** Dr. Steven E. Franklin informed the Board of Governors of Trent University of his intention to conclude his service as the institution's president and vice-chancellor on June 30, 2014. Following a one-year administrative leave, Dr. Franklin will return to Trent in July 2015 to pursue his teaching and research work in environmental remote sensing within the Departments of Geography and Environmental Resource Science/Studies. Dr. Franklin joined Trent in 2009 following earlier academic and administrative appointments at the University of Calgary and the University of Saskatchewan. [Universities News](#)

**Mount Allison student provides local elementary school with lessons on the environment:** Mount Allison University student Emily Hogan graduates this spring with an honours degree in geography as well as an educational program and a children's book, *Hemlock Holmes: Tree Detective* under her belt. She also has practical experience working as an assistant teacher with the classes that taught her program in Sackville. Working with the Mount Allison Dendrochronology (MAD) Lab and Sackville's Salem Elementary School, Hogan produced the *Hemlock Holmes: Tree Detective* kit, which has been used by Grade 2 students for the past two years. Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings. The kit includes a briefcase with a magnifying glass, measuring tape, ruler, and a tree cookie — a slice from a branch — all things that make a kid happy. It also contains a textbook and an outdoor activity workbook. The program worksheets were published in the Toronto-based Green Teacher Magazine this spring, making Hogan's work accessible to teachers across the country. The project was launched when geography and environment professor Dr. Colin Laroque invited Hogan, who is from Vancouver, to do research in his lab — the MAD Lab — for the summer. Hogan wanted to try something different from the traditional research project. "I have always been interested in education and I love working with children. I said 'I would like to do this book, a detective story that would teach kids about environmental science,' and he liked the idea," says Hogan. [Mount Allison News](#)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

David M. Atkinson and Paul Treitz. 2013. [Modeling biophysical variables across an Arctic latitudinal gradient using high spatial resolution remote sensing data](#). Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research 45(2):161-178.

Geoffrey B. Hill, Susan A. Baldwin and Bjorn Vinnerås. 2013. [Evaluation of Solvita compost stability and maturity tests for assessment of quality of end-products from mixed latrine style compost toilets](#). Waste Management. doi.org/10.1016/j.wasman.2013.03.021

David J. Lieske, Tracey Wade and Lori Ann Roness. 2013. [Climate change awareness and strategies for communicating the risk of coastal flooding: a Canadian Maritime case example](#). Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science. doi.org/10.1016/j.ecss.2013.04.017

Steven D. Mamet and G. Peter Kershaw. 2013. [Environmental influences on winter desiccation of \*Picea glauca\* foliage at treeline, and implications for treeline dynamics in northern Manitoba](#). Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research 45(2):219-228.

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### Other "Geographical" News

**Canadians, Mexicans and fish — how U.S. geography shapes our worldview:** Do Americans have a worldview? And is there a central organizing principle that explains it? To frame the question in Tolkienesque terms: Might there be one explanation that rules them all? I think there is. [Dallas News](#)

**Wildfires that leave soils cool:** It is difficult to predict the effects of a fire on soil. And contrary to conventional wisdom, researchers have found that sometimes the fiercest, hottest flames can leave behind the least degraded soils. So, just because a fire is hot doesn't mean it will completely destroy the soil, according to Cathelijne Stoof, a graduate student at Holland's Wageningen University. She discovered that places where the fire burned most intensely had the coolest soils, and the places where the fire generated the least heat had the hottest soils. The idea is counter-intuitive. [DNews](#)

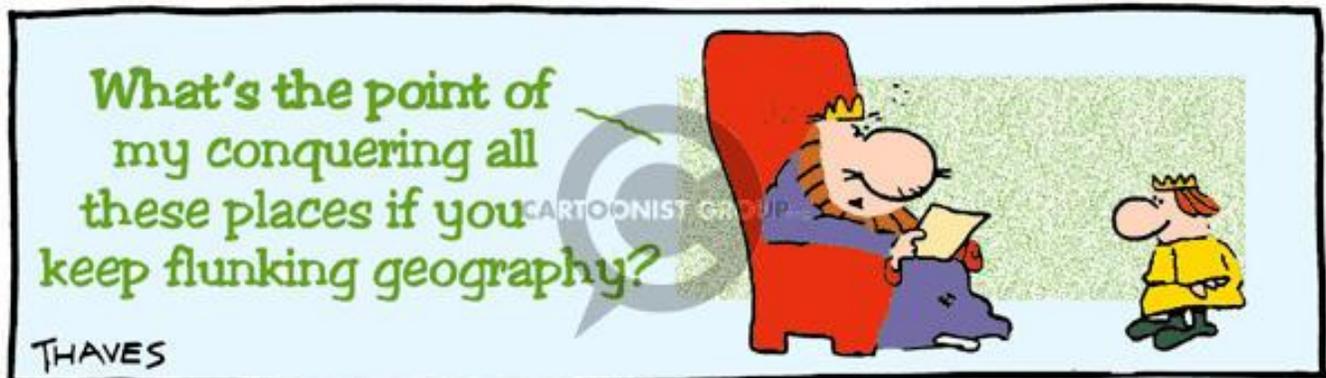
**Timelapse GIFs reveal 30 years of earth's changes:** The Earth has undergone a lot of geographical change in the last 28 years, but that kind of gradual transformation can be hard to articulate, let alone document. Fortunately, Google has created a series of [interactive time-lapse images](#) that clearly bridge that gap. Combining annual Landsat satellite image composites with Google Earth Engine software, the images show year-by-year progress or deterioration of key geographical areas. Viewers can watch booming cities like Dubai sprout out of the desert and into the Persian Gulf, see the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest or watch the retreat of the Columbia Glacier in Alaska. Google collaborated with the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA and TIME magazine to create the project. The CREATE Lab at Carnegie Mellon University helped build the final website that made the images animated and interactive. As well, Google has conveniently created GIF files out of the images. Other animations included in the project are the drying up of Lake Urmia in Iran and the exponential urban sprawl of Las Vegas, among others. All are equally impressive, but judging by the most number of comments, the retreating Columbia Glacier appears to be the most alarming. [DNews](#)

**Public speaking for academics – 10 tips:** Experts on public speaking share some rules of engagement from vocabulary and technology to handling difficult questions – and your own nerves. It's not a sign of weakness to get nervous before speaking on stage, but what's the best way to keep them under control? [The Guardian](#)

**Carbon Dioxide at NOAA's Mauna Loa Observatory reaches new milestone: Tops 400 parts per million:** On May 9, the daily mean concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of Mauna Loa, Hawaii, surpassed 400 parts per million (ppm) for the first time since measurements began in 1958. Independent measurements made by both NOAA and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography have been approaching this level during the past week. It marks an important milestone because Mauna Loa, as the oldest continuous carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) measurement station in the world, is the primary global benchmark site for monitoring the increase of this potent heat-trapping gas. [ScienceDaily](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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