



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 243, May 23, 2013**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**Wilfrid Laurier U geographer Bill Quinton part of \$5 million Changing Cold Regions Network:**

Laurier researchers Bill Quinton is among participants in the \$5 million Changing Cold Regions Network recently announced by NSERC. The Changing Cold Regions Network (CCRN) will study the relationships between changing climate, ecosystems, and water in the permafrost regions of the Subarctic, the Boreal Forest, the Western Cordillera, and the Prairies. Bill Quinton, Canada Research Chair in Cold Regions Hydrology and associate professor in Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, will lead two of the research theme areas. Quinton's research will focus on improving our understanding of and ability to predict how unprecedented climate warming and industrial expansion is affecting regional hydrological systems in northwestern Canada. Much of this will link closely to Baltzer's research because of the close coupling of hydrological and ecological systems. This will also complement ongoing research in the Laurier-Government of the Northwest Territories Partnership Agreement. [WLU Headlines](#)

**Recent Mount Allison University honours environmental science graduate Stu Murray answers the question: *What do you like most about the environmental science program at Mount Allison?***

My experience here has been amazing. Experiential learning is a critical component of environmental science. These experiences have altered my view on what education really means. An example of this was the class, Community adaptation to climate change, which was co-created by Dr. Mike Fox and Georgia Klein. It provided an opportunity to apply the knowledge we have gained at Mount Allison to help Sackville and surrounding communities adapt to climate change and become more sustainable. We were able to go into middle and high school classes to help educate them on climate change and sustainability. I personally worked on a project to help the town of Sackville re-integrate wet/dry waste separation in multi-unit apartment buildings. Another class that comes to mind is the Jasper field course with Dr. Colin Laroque. We spent his previous classes (Intro to Physical geography and geomorphology) learning about physical land features, then the class flew to Jasper to gain first-hand experience on what we had learned. We saw huge glaciers from the Columbia Ice Field, climbed rock glaciers, crossed pro-glacial streams, and hiked in the mountains. We broke into groups and chose a project to study based on what appealed to us most. This led to a deeper kind of knowledge and understanding than can be gained from a book. [Mount Allison News](#)

**Graeme Wynn's McLean Lectures in Canadian Studies:** In March 2013, Graeme Wynn, Professor of Geography and McLean Chair of Canadian Studies at the University of British Columbia, delivered three lectures under the title, "Navigating a Wasting World: Perspectives on Environmentalism and Sustainability in Canada". They are now available at the following link: [YouTube](#)

**Memorial U geography major Matthew van Oostadam student awarded summer internship to Tanzania:** Geography Major, Matthew van Oostadam, has been awarded an internship in Tanzania for the Summer of 2013. The internship is coordinated through the Marine Institute at Memorial University and their Global Graduate Placement Program (GGPP). The programme is funded the Government of Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Canadian International Development Agency. It is designed to provide Canadian post-secondary graduates with global work experience while assisting them in the transition from school to work. The international placements are typically six months in duration. Overseas host organizations provide supervision, work space, and assist with arranging accommodations for participants. Matthew will be based in Tanga, a seaport city in northern Tanzania. His internship will involve institutional capacity building in support of agricultural and community development (while working with the Ministry of Agricultural Training Institute). [Memorial Geography News](#)

**U Waterloo Geography Ph.D. candidate Janine Baijnath joins NASA research team:** Janine Baijnath, who completed her [MSc in Geography](#) at University of Waterloo and is now doing her [PhD](#) is attending the NASA Ames Academy this summer as a [visiting research scholar](#). Janine's research interests focus on improving the predictions of storm tracks and precipitation accumulation from numerical weather prediction models. This is performed by utilizing satellite observations and model forecast data to assess the atmospheric dynamics and circulation response to various land and atmospheric parameters. The CBC has aired her story a number of times on the National, News Network, Local News Toronto. [CBC News](#)

**U Calgary's Geoffrey Hay offered expertise at TEDx Calgary Energy: Full Spectrum:** On Saturday, May 11, the University of Calgary sponsored [TEDx Calgary's Energy: Full Spectrum](#). More than 300 participants learned from energy experts on topics ranging from the natural laws that govern our universe, to the energy that drives a creative mind. Among the dynamic group of speakers was Geoffrey Hay, associate professor, Department of Geography and Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy Research Fellow. [UToday](#)

**Western U geographers participate in public forum on creating healthy active communities:** Jason Gilliland, Director of the Urban Development Program and the Human Environments Analysis Laboratory (HEAL) in Western's Geography Department, was a keynote speaker at a public forum on "Creating Healthy Active Communities—The Power of Partnerships". The forum, co-sponsored by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and The Healthy Communities Partnership of Middlesex-London, brought together local stakeholders and key policymakers to discuss strategies on how supportive environments and policy can promote active communities for all ages. [Western Geography News](#) | [BlackbornNews.com](#)

**Memorial U geography major Sarah Halliday awarded fellowship in advancement:** Geography major Sarah Halliday was recently named one of only two nationwide recipients of the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Fellows in Advancement for 2013-14. "I first became interested in advancement, specifically fundraising, through my involvement with Rotaract, a group consisting of young professionals who complete service and fundraising projects to help the betterment of humanity," explained Sarah. "Through my involvement I see the generosity of many who help make our efforts a success." Sarah credits Geography for some of her success. "Geography has helped me in so many aspects of my life. The discipline is all encompassing and provides a holistic outlook on things. Most importantly it taught me how to think critically." She added, "This diverse education gives me an understanding of the cultural and social issues existing in different regions; tools I hope to bring to the field of advancement at MUN." [Memorial Geography News](#)

### **McMaster U's Allison Williams research aimed at improving employee-caregiver relationship:**

Starting next year, the Canadian Institute of Health Research at McMaster University will spend five years unearthing solutions and providing a platform to eventually lobby to the federal government on how workplaces can better accommodate employees with caregiver responsibilities. Professor Allison Williams, who will lead the research, said the challenge is to get the federal government to implement best practices once the research is completed. Her investigations will include an international analysis of best practices for caregiver-employee policies, carrying out an evaluation of a workplace intervention program and developing a web-based decision-making tool to help employers determine the right options for their employees. "Employees are working on the clock and the caregiving role becomes diminished. So how can we implement policy federally to encourage employers to accommodate workplace caregivers?" she said. "We need to try and accommodate a wide array of circumstances." Williams will start the project in April 2014, but has already conducted research in the health-care system and found a number of variations. For example, some workplaces give leniency to employees who are higher up, leaving less flexibility for the middle to lower paid employees. Some companies have deeper pockets and can afford to give their employees time off, whereas a mom-and-pop operation can't afford that luxury and can't cope with the irregularity, Williams said. [Thespec.com](http://thespec.com)

---

### **Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers**

Nathan James Bennett and Raynald Harvey Lemelin. 2013. [Situating the eco-social economy: conservation initiatives and environmental organizations as catalysts for social and economic development](#). Community Development Journal. DOI:10.1093/cdj/bst0

Piotr Cieniala and Marwan A. Hassan. 2013. [Linking spatial patterns of bed surface texture, bed mobility, and channel hydraulics in a mountain stream to potential spawning substrate for small resident trout](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.04.041

K. Wayne Forsythe, Adrian Gawedzki, Peter S. Rodriguez, Kim N. Irvine and Mary F. Perrelli. 2013. [Geospatial estimation of mercury contamination in Buffalo River sediments](#). Soil and Sediment Contamination. An International Journal 22:521-531.

Alex S. Gardner, Geir Moholdt, J. Graham Cogley, Bert Wouters, Anthony A. Arendt, John Wahr, Etienne Berthier, Regine Hock, W. Tad Pfeffer, Georg Kaser, Stefan R. M. Ligtenberg, Tobias Bolch, Martin J. Sharp, Jon Ove Hagen, Michiel R. van den Broeke and Frank Paul. 2013. [A reconciled estimate of glacier contributions to sea level rise: 2003 to 2009](#). Science 340:852-857.

Bryan S.R. Grimwood and Nancy C. Doubleday 2013. [Illuminating traces: Enactments of responsibility in practices of Arctic river tourists and inhabitants](#). Journal of Ecotourism. DOI:10.1080/14724049.2013.797427.

Bryan S.R. Grimwood and Nancy C. Doubleday. 2013. [From river trails to adaptive co-management: Learning and relating with Inuit inhabitants of the Thelon River, Canada](#). Indigenous Policy Journal, 23(4).

Keith R. Holmes, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Nicholas C. Coops and Michael A. Wulder. 2013. [Biodiversity indicators show climate change will alter vegetation in parks and protected areas](#). Diversity 5:352-373.

Joanna Petrusek Macdonald, Sherilee L. Harper; Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Victoria L. Edge and Rigolet Inuit Community Government. 2013. [A necessary voice: Climate change and lived experiences of youth in Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Canada](#). Global Environmental Change 23:360-371.

Cheng Quan, Shuan Han, Torsten Utescher, Chunhua Zhang and Yu-Sheng Liue. 2013. [Validation of temperature-precipitationbased Aridity Index: Paleoclimatic implications](#). Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology. doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2013.05.008

---

## Other “Geographical” News

**What is researcher wellbeing and how can we manage and nurture it?** If wellbeing is the state of being relatively healthy, happy and sane, it's no surprise that early career researchers find it hard to maintain. Pressure to achieve can be immense and it's all too easy to lock yourself away when working on a thesis or other research project – hunching over a computer from dawn till dusk, never seeing the light of day, overloading yourself with caffeine and tobacco, surviving on ready meals, forgetting to exercise, and generally becoming an anti-social bore. Staying a productive, sane and sociable researcher is no mean feat, but you don't have to go it alone. [The Guardian](#)

**Amazon River exhales virtually all carbon taken up by rainforest:** Until recently, people believed much of the rain forest's carbon floated down the Amazon River and ended up deep in the ocean. A study published this week proves that woody plant matter is almost completely digested by bacteria living in the Amazon River, and that this tough stuff plays a major part in fueling the river's breath. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Quest for scholastic solvency; The case for seeing universities as an economic asset, rather than just an expense:** In the past dozen years, Canadian universities have made space for a 50% increase in full-time enrolment. Why the increase? Because the labour market has demanded it; because, as a country, we need the continued advantage of a well-educated population. But that while universities have opened their doors wider, ensuring greater opportunities for more people, per student funding has dropped to a historic low. [AUCC Media Room](#)

**The town that is literally living under a rock:** People choose to live in some pretty baffling places, like those towns sitting at the base of volcanos or the precariously placed monasteries in the Himalayan mountains. Here's one that looks like it might have been hit by a meteor and residents just decided to carry on as usual. Welcome to the town of Setenil de las Bodegas in Spain, where around 3,000 inhabitants are living quite literally, under a rock. [Messy Nussy](#)

**The new geography of teen mothers:** The first map plots the overall teen birth rate from ages 15 to 19. The "teen birth belt," so to speak, in the Sun Belt runs from New Mexico through Texas and Oklahoma to Arkansas and Mississippi, which all have teen birth rates in excess of 50 births per 1,000 teenage women. The lowest rates are in the Northeast where rates of less than 20 births per 1,000 teenage women. [The Atlantic Cities](#)

**Caribou numbers crash 95% on Canada's Baffin Island:** Results from a caribou survey on south Baffin Island confirm that the animals have largely disappeared from the region. The data suggest the population may have declined by more than 95 per cent in the last two decades. Researchers estimate the entire South Baffin population to now be at around 1,000 to 2,000 animals. Estimates from the early 1990s ranged from about 60,000 to 180,000. [AlaskaDispatch](#)

---

## Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)  
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>