



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 247, June 6, 2013**  
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**U Alberta Honours grad Alan Shapiro fords stream between water science and policy:** Alan Shapiro found water at the University of Alberta. It happened four years ago and it set Shapiro on a course of studies that culminates this week in a bachelor of science degree with honours. Shapiro says the discovery was quite by happenstance after his first year at the U of A. “I was looking for a summer job on campus and got one in the hydrology lab in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.” Exposure to the science of water movement, water cycles and watersheds gave Shapiro a thirst for more, and water became the focus of his science education. And just when Shapiro wanted to expand his thinking to include water issues, he discovered another U of A learning experience. “I’m a scientist, but do I know how the science fits society and impacts society?” Shapiro found the answers in human geography, a course in which the science of water meets human interaction. “My thesis was the history of water policy in Alberta and Canada,” said Shapiro. Like a river, that U of A learning experience carried Shapiro to a realization—and a career path. “I’m frustrated with policy,” said Shapiro. “Science is a set of truths and there’s a big disconnect between that and policy. I see myself as a scientist trying to bridge the disconnect between science and policy; I speak both languages.” Shapiro credits the U of A’s “holistic” multidisciplinary approach to water research and his professors with shaping his future. [UAlberta News](#)

**Carleton U’s Derek Mueller supported by Canada Foundation for Innovation:** The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) has announced that six Carleton researchers will benefit from the Leaders Opportunity Fund. The funded researchers include Geography Professor Derek Mueller who will use the support to construct a Water and Ice Research Laboratory. The Laboratory is a new facility at Carleton University that examines the impacts of climate change and other environmental issues on aquatic and cryospheric systems. The research makes use of innovative field approaches, laboratory equipment and geospatial computing. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**U Calgary PhD candidate Victoria Lukasik awarded 2013 SSHRC doctoral scholarship:** Victoria Lukasik, a PhD student in the Department of Geography has been awarded a scholarship towards her PhD studies. Victoria’s research focuses on the wildlife management of carnivores. [UToday](#)

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**Simon Fraser U graduating students Alyssa Serpa and Becky Till create a short film, "Mystery is Visible":** Two SFU Geography students, graduating next week, Alyssa Serpa and Becky Till (Dean's Convocation Medal Winner), approached Josh Labove last term seeking a creative outlet for taking the work of our class--Political Geography-- and have turned it in to a project that reflected their interests, passions, and exceptional ability. The objective of the film was to translate academic learning, from a Political Geography class, into a work that reached beyond the university system. "Mystery is Visible" is a film that aims to reveal the visible yet overlooked ways every day places are interwoven with the political. Our interactions with social structures and the built environment can become so familiar that we often don't notice the influence it has on our choices, actions, and relationships. We encounter this in some of the most common human spaces: schools, homes, public parks, residential streets, industrial areas, and major intersections. It is only when we attempt to defamiliarize (dissect) these spaces that we can begin to recognize how the political is present. Alyssa and Becky filmed, wrote, and scored the short film to look at the way spaces are claimed, engineered, made, and used--out of the classroom and all over Vancouver. Watch *Mystery is Visible* on [YouTube](#)

**Département de géographie-UQTR - Dévoilement des résultats d'une vaste étude sur les eaux souterraines de la Mauricie:** Des chercheurs du Département des sciences de l'environnement de l'Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) ont fait connaître aujourd'hui les résultats d'une vaste étude menée, au cours des quatre dernières années, sur les eaux souterraines du sud-ouest de la Mauricie. [blo.que.uqtr.ca](http://blo.que.uqtr.ca)

**U Calgary's Shawn Marshall receives funding to study impact of climate change in cold regions:** Four University of Calgary researchers have been awarded a total of \$418,100 over five years to explore the impact of climate change on the water cycle and ecosystems of cold regions. Shawn Marshall from the Department of Geography all received a grant for a projects linked to the Changing Cold Regions Network (CCRN). Marshall's group will use the new funding to further study the contributions of glacier meltwater to Alberta's rivers and how this runoff is likely to change in light of glacier retreat in the Canadian Rockies. "Glaciers make up a small fraction of the landscape in the Rockies but they provide extensive meltwater runoff and groundwater recharge in the late summer, after the winter snowpack has receded," says Marshall, the Canada Research Chair in Climate Change and interim director for the Arctic Institute of North America in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary. "Our group will study the timing, routing, and storage of glacier meltwater and develop models to simulate these processes for the Bow and Saskatchewan River Basins," he adds.

Marshall received additional funding for projects associated with the Canadian Network for Regional Climate and Weather Processes. As a group leader for this network, he will focus his team's efforts on developing improved representation of snow, ice and glacier processes within the Canadian regional climate model. The model we'll work on will support the same platform used by Environment Canada for the national weather forecasts," he concludes. [UToday](#)

**Brandon U's Johannes Koch receives Canada Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Award:** David Greenwood, with co-investigator Johannes Koch of the Department of Geography at Brandon University will receive \$43,682 for microscope upgrades to research global greenhouse conditions which existed 52 million years ago, as well as the timing of glacial retreats in the Canadian Rockies. [News Brandon U](#)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ryan Gibson. 2013. [Regional Profile of the Northern Peninsula Region, Newfoundland](#). Canadian Regional Development. A Critical Review of Theory, Practice and Potentials.

Sasha Kebo and Martin J. Bunch. 2013. [Canadian ENGOs in governance of water resources: information needs and monitoring practices](#). Environmental Monitoring and Assessment.

Leslie Kern and Beverly Mullings. 2013. [Urban neoliberalism, urban insecurity and urban violence: exploring the gender dimension](#). *In: Interrogating Feminist Understandings into the Urban*. Edited by Linda Peake, Martina Rieker. Routledge, Canada. 23-40.

Rob del Loe and Dan Murray. 2013. [Contextual considerations shaping the transferability of policies for drinking water source protection. A Canadian case study](#). *In: Water Governance, Policy and Knowledge Transfer: International Studies on Contextual Water Management*. Edited by Cheryl De Boer, Joanne Vinke-de Kruijf, Gül Özerol, Hans Th. A. Bressers. Routledge, Canada.

Bárbara M. Neves, Cherisse Du Preez and Evan Edinger. 2013. [Mapping coral and sponge habitats on a shelf-depth environment using multibeam sonar and ROV video observations: Learmonth Bank, Northern British Columbia, Canada](#). Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography. doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr2.2013.05.026

E. Paul-Limoges, A. Christen, N.C. Coops, T.A. Black and J.A. Trofymow. 2013. [Estimation of aerodynamic roughness of a harvested Douglas-fir forest using airborne LiDAR](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 136:225–233.

Andrew Rees, Michael English, Chris Derksen, Peter Toose and Arvids Sili. 2013. [Observations of late winter Canadian tundra snow cover properties](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9931

Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi and Michael F.J. Pisaric. 2013. [Varying influence of climate and aspect as controls of montane forest fire regimes during the late Holocene, south-eastern British Columbia, Canada](#). Journal of Biogeography. DOI:10.1111/jbi.12143

Cristina Temenos and Eugene McCann. 2013. [Geographies of policy mobilities](#). Geography Compass. DOI:10.1111/gec3.12063

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### Other “Geographical” News

**USGS webinar modernizing water time-series data collection & processing:** This webinar can help water resource managers, hydrologists, and scientists keep pace with the water monitoring industry revolution. Watch it today to discover proven practices for efficiently meeting stakeholder expectations for real-time, accurate water data. [Watch here](#).

**Irish chronicles reveal links between cold weather and volcanic eruptions:** Medieval chronicles have given researchers a glimpse into the past to assess how historical volcanic eruptions affected the weather in Ireland up to 1500 years ago. Researchers have successfully linked the climatic aftermath of volcanic eruptions to extreme cold weather events in Ireland over a 1200-year period from 431 to 1649. [ScienceDaily](#)

### **Waterloo announces RBC Blue Water Project support for unique water management program:**

The University of Waterloo announced today a \$1.75 million commitment from RBC Foundation to support development of a new graduate study program in Integrated Water Management. The RBC donation will support more than 120 scholarships for master's and PhD students, in addition to sponsoring high-profile program fellows and an annual student symposium. Students completing water degree programs will work collaboratively with other departments and disciplines. Students who successfully complete the program will receive an adjunct qualification to their degree. [Waterloo News](#)

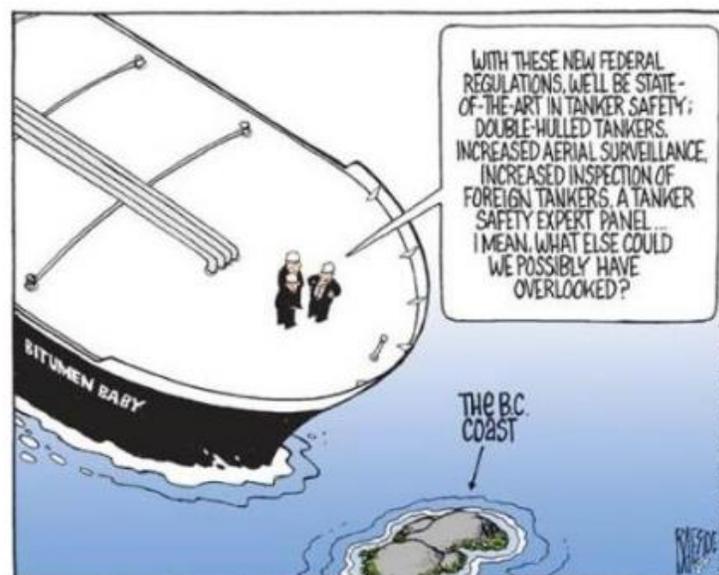
**Is Caffeine Making Us Crazy?** Caffeine is one of the oldest and most common drugs around. Whether it's coffee, tea, energy drinks, or chocolate -- most of us turn to it for an extra boost. But could that extra jolt be less than benign? [DNews](#)

**Next time you fly, look down:** Traveling by plane from one city or country to another is a common method for people to discover the world in a fast and hassle-free way. In fact, it has become so common that most passengers don't gaze out of the window to take a look at the world beneath them. A website called Hidden Journeys aims to change this, with online guides to flight paths that allow passengers to learn about the parts of the Earth they fly over". [JakartaGlobe](#)

**Universities shouldn't fire scholars just for being mean:** Another week, another professor has sparked a virtual brou-haha on social media. Enter Geoffrey Miller, a visiting professor at New York University, who recently wrote the following tweet: *Dear obese PhD applicants: If you don't have the willpower to stop eating carbs, you won't have the willpower to do a dissertation. #truth.* As you might imagine, cyberspace went nuts. [Macleans.ca](#)

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### **Some not so "Geographical" News**



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