



GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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U Waterloo's Daniel Scott on how rising sea levels erode beaches . . . and the economy: As sea levels rise, some islands – including some island countries – will lose considerable coastal areas, says Geography and Environmental Management professor Daniel Scott, who is a Canada Research Chair in Global Change and Tourism. “Sea level rise has the potential to transform coastal tourism and the value of its massive portfolio of coastal properties,” Scott says. Even mountainous islands could lose their economic engines, such as tourist beaches and airports, prime agricultural land, and densely-populated business centres. Freshwater supply, already under intense pressure on some small islands, would also be threatened, affecting both tourism operators and locals. In a recent study of 19 Caribbean countries, Scott’s team found 29% of major resorts were at risk of flooding from a 1 metre sea level rise, and 49 to 60% were at risk of erosion due to sea level rise. [Waterloo Stories](#)

What's ahead for award-winning University of Calgary Geography Honours student? ‘Anywhere frozen!’ For most us, the very thought of a frozen summer fills the heart with dread. For Geography Honours student Jill Rajewicz, however, it's a scenario to strive for, one of both adventure and academic riches. “I’m really in love with the Canadian Arctic and I also have a longstanding dream to work on the big ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica,” explains Jill, who will be convocating on June 11. “Even in Alberta, I would love to study how climate change is affecting our own glaciers and ice fields.” Rajewicz has already gained significant experience with such icy quests, having done fieldwork for the Department of Geography in the Northwest Passage and on Ellesmere Island. Her performance on these trips earned Rajewicz the Faculty of Arts Silver Medallion in Geography, the department’s highest honour. “I would put her in the top two of undergraduate students I have come into contact with in my 13 years with this department,” says professor John Yackel, head of the Geography Department. “It’s her work ethic and her inquisitiveness and quest for knowledge. She’s shown a great depth of understanding and a real breadth of interest.” [UToday](#)

U Waterloo's Janine Baijnath shoots for the stars: Janine Baijnath’s summer internship is out of this world. The University of Waterloo geography PhD student will be working for NASA this summer after winning a prestigious Ames Academy scholarship. Baijnath, 25, is the only Canadian student chosen for the program. She had to go through a rigorous application process that included writing four essays and being shortlisted by the Canadian Space Agency before being selected by NASA. Baijnath’s independent work at NASA will be focused on improving earthquake predictions. It’s similar to her research at Waterloo, where she’s in her first year of a PhD in climate modelling and remote sensing, Baijnath said. “In California, it’s about predicting earthquakes. Here in Waterloo, it’s predicting snowfall accumulation,” said Baijnath, who works for the CBC as a meteorologist. [U Waterloo Alumni](#)

York Geographer Philip Kelly on Filipinos in Winnipeg: The Filipino community makes up a larger percentage of the population of Winnipeg (8 per cent) than any other visible minority. This concentration has led to the Filipino population becoming a significant part of city life in a way that hasn't occurred in larger centres, said Philip Kelly, director of the Centre for Asian Research at York University, in the [National Post](#).

Canadian Association for Food Studies recognizes U Waterloo and Environmental Management alumn Ellen Desjardins: The [Canadian Association for Food Studies](#) (CAFS) Public Service Award has been presented to Ellen Desjardins for 2013. The award recognizes those who have had a significant public service impact in programmes and policies affecting the food system. Desjardins, who completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management in 2011, has been active in promoting healthy and sustainable food systems both nationally and in Waterloo Region. A founding member of Food Secure Canada, Desjardins is also editor of a new journal, *Canadian Food Studies*, being launched this year in association with the Canadian Association for Food Studies and the University of Waterloo library. In Waterloo Region, she helped to found [Foodlink Waterloo Region](#), an NGO that produces a "[BuyLocal!BuyFresh!](#)" map, she served as co-Chair of the [Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable](#) from 2007 to 2012 and most recently she led the coordination of a well-orchestrated public participation process to establish a [Food Charter for Waterloo Region](#). [U Waterloo Environment](#)

University of Regina Department of Geography merges Environmental Studies Program: Geography is the study of place and how humans interact with our natural environment. It is both a social science and a natural science and includes aspects of human settlement, population, economy, topography, climate, vegetation, and water. Simply put, geography seeks to answer three basic questions: (i) Where things are; (ii) Why they are there; and (iii) How these things interact with other things. You can insert just about anything you want for a thing. [Homepage of Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#)

U Toronto Mississauga's Gurveer Bains Undergraduate Class of 2013 Valedictorian: Gurveer Bains, an undergraduate geography student at the University of Toronto- Mississauga, was recognized as the UTM Undergraduate Class of 2013 Valedictorian. Gurveer's accomplishments have previously been acknowledge with a Gordon Cressy Student Leadership Award, 2013; a UTM Principal Involvement Award, 2013; a Volunteer Recognition Award for Volunteer service in 2012-2013; a University of Toronto Excellence Award in Social Sciences and Humanities Research Fellowship, 2012; and, a Volunteer Recognition Award for Volunteer service in 2011-2012.

U Calgary PhD Candidate David Laskin offers a lesson on tracking grizzly bears from space through TED-EDL: Grizzly bears stick to a mostly vegetarian diet in sync with plant growing seasons. However, as grizzlies' habitats grow smaller, food is harder to come by. Using NASA satellites, scientists track the shifting, interrelated patterns of grizzlies and plants. David Laskin, a PhD Candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of Calgary, explains how this data can help protect the threatened bears. [TED-EDL](#)

Brock U's Meithili Mitchell receives Brock's Distinguished Graduate Student Award: The Department of Geography is delighted to announce that Meithili Mitchell was selected as this year's recipient of the Geography MA Graduate Award. Her exceptional Major Research Paper, titled *Eclipsing Renewable Energy: Ignorance, Indifference, and Inaction*, was submitted and accepted in August 2012. She worked with Professors Jeff Boggs and Tony Shaw. She is currently working for the Niagara Sustainability Institute. Meithili's most recent contribution is entitled [The War Against Wind Turbines](#). [Brock News around Campus](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Frederick Ato Armah, Isaac N. Luginaah, Joseph Taabazuing, and Justice O. Odoi. 2013. [Artisanal gold mining and surface water pollution in Ghana: Have the foreign invaders come to stay?](#) Environmental Justice. doi:10.1089/env.2013.0006.

Patricia Ballamingie and Sarah M.L. Walker. 2013. [Field of dreams: Just Food's proposal to create a community food and sustainable agriculture hub in Ottawa, Ontario.](#) Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability. 18:529-542.

Enric Batllori, Marc-André Parisien, Meg A. Krawchuk and Max A. Moritz. 2013. [Climate change-induced shifts in fire for Mediterranean ecosystems.](#) Global Ecology and Biogeography. DOI:10.1111/geb.12065

Claire Dwyer, Justin K.H. Tse and David Ley. 2013. [Immigrant integration and religious transnationalism: the case of the 'Highway to Heaven' in Richmond, BC.](#) Metropolis British Columbia Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Diversity. Working Paper Series 13-06.

David W. Edgington. 2013. [Restructuring Japan's rustbelt: The case of Muroran, Hokkaido, 1985-2010.](#) Urban Affairs Review. doi:10.1177/1078087412463537

Craig A. Emmerton , Jennifer A. Graydon , Jolie A.L. Gareis , Vincent L. St.Louis , Lance F.W. Lesack , Janelle K.A. Banack , Faye Hicks and Jennifer Nafziger. 2013. [Mercury export to the Arctic Ocean from the Mackenzie River, Canada.](#) Environmental Science & Technology. DOI:10.1021/es400715r

Stephen L. Howell, Trudy Wohleben, Mohammed Dabboor, Chris Derksen, Alexander Komarov and Larissa Pizzolato. 2013. [Recent changes in the exchange of sea ice between the Arctic Ocean and the Canadian Arctic Archipelago.](#) Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans. DOI:10.1002/jgrc.20265

Other "Geographical" News

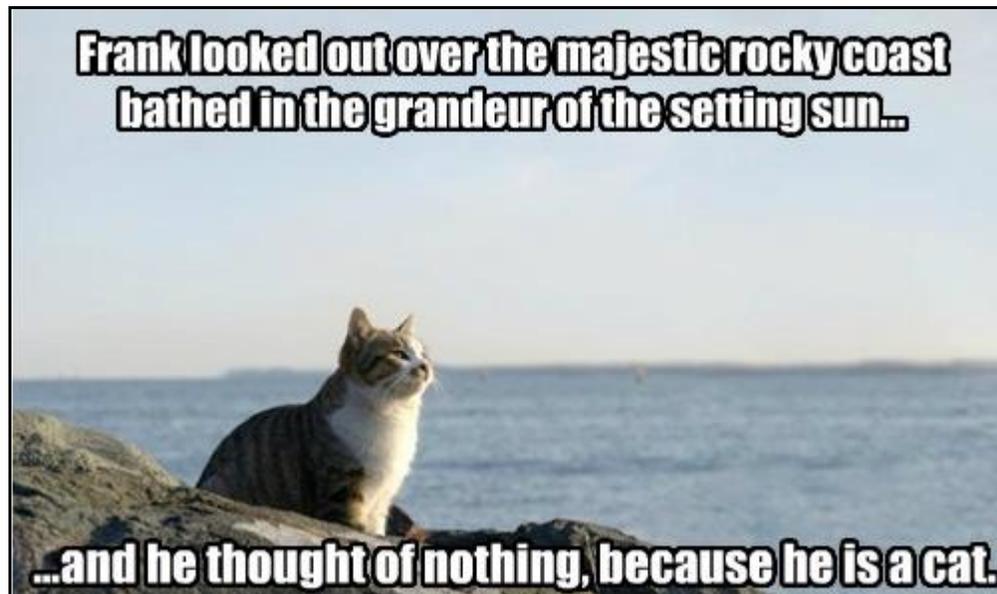
When will the next megathrust hit the west coast of North America? Understanding the size and frequency of large earthquakes along the Pacific coast of North America is of great importance, not just to scientists, but also to government planners and the general public. The only way to predict the frequency and intensity of the ground motion to analyze the geologic record. [ScienceDaily](#)

Survey indicates geography impacts pet longevity: There's no U.S. Centers for Disease Control for Pets. However, with a database of more than 800 hospitals in 43 states Banfield the Pet Hospital has discovered that overall dogs are living longer. The average lifespan in 2012 was 11 years, up about four percent since 2002. [Chicago Tribune](#)

Are languages shaped by geography? The way different languages sound may depend on the geography of the landscape on which they're spoken, new research suggests. A study of more than 550 languages around the world found that tongues spoken in high-altitude regions contain more sounds called ejective consonants, made with a burst of air, than languages closer to sea level. [DNews](#)

Ocean Alive: On June 8th, World Oceans Day, Ocean Networks Canada released a trailer for its new project called *Ocean Alive*. Ocean Alive is a TV show and transmedia project that lets viewers plunge in and discover the mysteries of the deep-ocean. Ocean Alive will tell the story of the race against time to improve the health of our ocean through research efforts and technological advances, highlighting those made by Ocean Networks Canada. [Ocean Alive](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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