

GeogNews



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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

U British Columbia's David Ley comments on rich migrant families: The Harper government signaled Thursday it will no longer put up with the Quebec government accepting thousands of deep-pocketed investor immigrants a year even though most settle in other provinces – especially British Columbia. “Quebec is taking the money of immigrant investors and using it, but the British Columbia taxpayers must pay the price for the social services provided to immigrants selected by Quebec,” he added. The breadwinners of these rich migrant families frequently end up working overseas as “astronauts,” leaving their spouse and children in Vancouver, and pay no taxes in Canada, says University of B.C. geographer David Ley. Mr. Ley, author of the 2010 book *Millionaire Migrants*, said a large percentage of program participants retire or operate marginal businesses. [National Post](#)

Algoma University's William Osei on living and working in Canada: Living and working in Canada has been a dream come true for Dr. William Osei. The Algoma University Geography and Geology Professor said he has always been fascinated with Canada and specialized in Canadian studies while completing his undergraduate degree in his native Ghana. Dr. Osei, a married father with two Canadian-born sons, moved to Canada in 1983 and completed his Ph.D. at London's University of Western Ontario in 1989 before eventually landing a full-time teaching position at Algoma University (then known as Algoma University College) in 1992. Dr. Osei's father was a prosperous cocoa farmer in Ghana, and William was educated in the British boarding school system in that West African country. Dr. Osei recalls his fascination with geography and geology began while observing the landscape in the area in and around his father's farm. “There were a lot of things I could have done, but I chose geography,” he said. [SOOTODAY.com](#)

Western U's Jamie Baxter reports that opposition to wind turbines is stronger in areas that don't have them yet: The spectre of the unknown impact of wind turbines poses concern for those in rural communities but once they are up, they're not so bad, states a study of Ontario rural communities. Recent research from Western University concludes 69 per cent of residents surveyed in an area that is home to one of Ontario's first large turbine projects support them, while that support drops to 25 per cent in a community that did not have them, said Jamie Baxter, geography professor at Western University. “The main finding is that support was reasonable . . . but fear of the unknown creates momentum in a community,” he said. Those levels of support are similar to levels found in Europe, where turbines have been established for decades. [London Free Press](#)

McGill U's Nigel Roulet involved in report warning swaths of Canada's boreal forest under threat: At least half of Canada's vast boreal forest should be strictly protected from any kind of development and the rest should be carefully managed to preserve or restore its ecological integrity, a panel of top North American researchers argues in a report released today on "the world's last great forest." The International Boreal Conservation Science Panel, which includes such leading Canadian environmental experts as McGill University geographer Nigel Roulet, is sounding the alarm about Canada's 5.8-million square kilometre expanse of northern woods and wetlands. Encompassing more than half of Canada's 9.9-million-square kilometre land mass, the boreal forest is described by the volunteer panel as "one of the world's greatest natural treasures" and - along with the Siberian boreal forest and the Amazon rainforest - as one of the last three significant stretches of forested land on Earth that has "never been touched by the large-scale footprint of human industrial expansion." [The Montreal Gazette](#)

Canadian geographer Scott McTavish using drones to survey: The word "armed" blinks red on the laptop screen as a propeller whirs to life. Soon, the drone rises steadily over a dusty landscape. But this isn't Afghanistan – it's Milton, Ont., where geographer Scott McTavish is using his autonomous aircraft to survey a gravel pit. 'It's mind-boggling how quickly this area is growing. The applications are endless.' Aerial survey specialist McTavish first turned to drones, officially named unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), in 2008, while working for a forestry company in B.C. "When we started five years ago, there weren't too many options," he says, referring to the availability of UAVs and the scaled-down, lightweight components required to keep them aloft. Now, McTavish runs a company, Accuas Inc., that specializes in aerial surveys and mapping using drones equipped with compact digital cameras. He has a fleet of 10 unmanned aircraft ranging in size from small, multi-rotor helicopters to much larger fixed-wing planes, and employs eight full-time staff in offices across the country. Business is booming. [CBC News](#)

UVic's Geography SPAR Lab suggests Strathcona Provincial Park faces future species loss: Climate change will impact more sensitive species in Strathcona Provincial Park than any other park in BC, says a new study led by the University of Victoria. The research team from UVic's Geography SPAR Lab (spatial pattern analysis research) used mapping technology to predict future environmental changes in all of BC's provincial parks. Strathcona park, established in 1911, is the oldest provincial park in BC. It will experience an increase in vegetation and a growing tree line, says the SPAR lab research team. Climate stress and a heightened tree line would negatively impact the growth of the mountain heather alpine environment—an environment that the Vancouver Island marmot thrives in. "By modeling future conditions we hope conservationists will make smart decisions about biodiversity in our provincial parks," says researcher Keith Holmes. [UVic Media Tips](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

H. Andres Araujo, Ashley Page, Andrew B. Cooper, Jeremy Venditti, Erland Maclsaac, Marwan A. Hassan and Duncan Knowler. 2013. [Modeling changes in suspended sediment from forest road surfaces in a coastal watershed of British Columbia](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.9989

Lachlan Barber. 2013. [\(Re\)Making heritage policy in Hong Kong: a relational politics of global knowledge and local innovation](#). Urban Studies. doi:10.1177/0042098013495576

Simon Dalby. 2013. [Climate change: New dimensions of environmental security](#). RUSI Journal 158:34-43.

Alberto Fonseca, Patricia Fitzpatrick and Mary Louise McAllister. 2013. [Government and voluntary policymaking for sustainability in mining towns: A longitudinal analysis of Itabira, Brazil](#). Natural Resources Forum. DOI: 10.1111/1477-8947.12024

Hugh M. French and Susan W.S. Millar. 2013. [Permafrost at the time of the Last Glacial Maximum \(LGM\) in North America](#). Boreas. DOI: 10.1111/bor.12036.

Jagvijay P.S. Gill, John J. Yackel and Torsten Geldsetzer. 2013. [Analysis of consistency in first-year sea ice classification potential of C-band SAR polarimetric parameters](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-016

Marco Helbich, Wolfgang Brunauer, Eric Vaz, Peter Nijkamp and Marco Helbich. 2013. [Spatial heterogeneity in hedonic house price models: the case of Austria](#). Urban Studies. doi:10.1177/0042098013492234

Simon Hollands, M. Karen Campbell, Jason Gilliland and Sisira Sarm. 2013. [A spatial analysis of the association between restaurant density and body mass index in Canadian adults](#). Preventive Medicine. doi.org/10.1016/j.ypmed.2013.07.002

Charles Mather. 2013. [From cod to shellfish and back again? The new resource geography and Newfoundland's fish economy](#). Applied Geography. doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2013.06.009

Danielle M. Nash, Jason A. Gilliland, Susan E. Evers, Piotr Wilk and M. Karen Campbell. 2013. [Determinants of diet quality in pregnancy: Sociodemographic, pregnancy-specific, and food environment influences](#). Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior. doi.org/10.1016/j.jneb.2013.04.268

Brian L. Sherrod, Elizabeth Barnett, Elizabeth Schermer, Harvey M. Kelsey, Jonathan Hughes, Franklin F. Foit Jr, Craig S. Weaver, Ralph Haugerud and Tim Hyatt. 2013. [Holocene tectonics and fault reactivation in the foothills of the north Cascade Mountains, Washington](#). Geosphere. doi:10.1130/GES00880.1

J.M. Slomka and C.H. Eyles. 2013. [Characterizing heterogeneity in a glaciofluvial deposit using architectural elements, Limehouse, Ontario, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. 50:911-929.

A.L. Smith, N. Klenk, S. Wood, N. Hewitt, I. Henriques, N. Yana, and D.R. Bazely. 2013. [Second generation biofuels and bioinvasions: An evaluation of invasive risks and policy responses in the United States and Canada](#). Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews 27:30–42.

Iain D Stewart. 2013. [Local climates of the city](#). Architectural Design. Special Issue: System City: Infrastructure and the Space of Flows. 83:100–105.

Fraser Taylor. 2013. [Fifty years of cartography: Some personal reflections](#). The Cartographic Journal 50:187-191.

Chaoyang Wu and Jing M. Chen. 2013. [Reconstruction of interannual variability of NEP using a process-based model \(InTEC\) with climate and atmospheric records at Fluxnet-Canada forest sites](#). International Journal of Climatology. DOI:10.1002/joc.3789

Other “Geographical” News

Canoeist discovers uncharted waterfalls in Canada: In an age in which explorers are running out of wildernesses and life has been street-mapped to the ends of the earth, it is a rare moment indeed: the discovery of uncharted waterfalls on a river in a G8 country. Adam Shoalts was canoeing along a section of the Aguin river in northern Canada when he found himself hurtling down 12 metres (40ft) into swirling white water. The tumble ruined his boat but piqued his curiosity. The waterfall could well be the largest discovered in Canada in 100 years. Shoalts went on to discover six other falls on the river. [The Guardian](#)

What is environmental geography? Geography has a long comprehensive history, at the beginning of it the research was focused on two main branches: human (urban, political, transportation, health to name a few) and physical (hydrology, climatology, glaciology to name a few). Additional, geography has had two secondary areas emerged in the academic realms in recent history, that are: regional and Geographic Information Systems, or GIS. However, as time as progress there has an emergence of a third main branch of the area of where the main two branches overlap. With this overlapping areas of research of the two main branches with regional geography and GIS has helped create a new branch. This has created the area that is referred as environmental geography, or its other name is integrated geography. To define this new branch of geography: is to describe the interactions between humans, human-built environments and natural environments with a defined scale over a tempo-spatial structure. [The Burnt City](#)

Team Canada wins silver at National Geographic World Championship: Team Canada has beaten 16 other national geography bee teams to claim the Silver Medal in the 11th biennial National Geographic World Championship. Canada’s brightest young geography stars — Jacob Burnley, Kyle Richardson and Spencer Zhao — overtook Team India in a nerve-racking tie-breaker round, in the end losing only to Team U.S.A. [RCGS Report](#)

Should you go to graduate school? As a graduate student career adviser, most students I see want to know if they should do a PhD after having completed a research-based master’s degree. I would inquire about their reasons for doing a PhD and then suggest considering the following: research their career options, values, personality and lifestyle preferences beforehand to determine if this research intensive road suits them in the short run and long run. Are they doing a PhD for career reasons or passion? How realistic are these goals? Does being pragmatic even factor into the decision? The highly independent culture of academia, the impact of a positive supervisory relationship and how to build it, and financial considerations may also impact the decision. Some may consider completing a second master’s degree instead since it may broaden their career options or satisfy their need for a shorter course-based program. [University Affairs](#)

'I'm an academic, but I do other things': Working 24/7 is not the only way to achieve success in academia. There, I've said it. A recent article described the working week of people across academia. This included the science professor who "compensates for the time he spends with his young children in the evening and at weekends by getting up before they do", and the early career researcher who "tries to take at least a half-day off a week". While many colleagues have similar working patterns and are happy (or at least not unhappy) working in this way, I am meeting increasing numbers of promising academics who reject it. Maintaining the eight days a week culture is a threat to the diversity of our academic environment. Diversity has been shown to lead to more productive and creative teams, and thus will be invaluable as we face the multiple challenges ahead for the academic sector. So why does this perception persist? And how much truth is there in it? [The Guardian](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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