



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**The Canadian Association of Geographers – [2013 Award Winners](#)**

**CAG Award for Service to Profession of Geography:** [Evelyn Peters](#). Evelyn's contributions to geography have been significant and selfless in diverse ways, and have clearly affected the direction and profile of Geography in Canada. In particular, she has pioneered research into Aboriginal people living in Canadian cities.

**CAG Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography:** [Richard Harris](#). Richard has an outstanding, original, and extensive research record that has progressively elaborated the geographies of housing and suburbanization. His record is recognized across Canada and internationally. His work is theoretically well-informed, is grounded in rigorous empirical work, and addresses key policy issues.

**CAG Award for Geography in the Service of Government or Business:** [Dan Hiebert](#). Dan's contributions to government are clearly unusually rich for an academic geographer. He has sustained involvement with government policy makers in local, provincial, federal, and international circles. He has been a leader in Canadian and also international migration research and policy.

**CAG Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography:** [Catherine Lynn Nolin](#). Catherine is a dedicated teacher who teaches lower level, upper level, and graduate courses on a wide range of topics within Human Geography, including methods courses. Moreover, Catherine has developed an original and outstanding field workbased course in Guatemala that has obviously been brilliantly successful, providing students with unique experiences that in turn have engaged the wider community of Prince George.

**The Starkey-Robinson Award:** [Nathaniel M. Lewis](#) and [Jared Peters](#). Nathaniel and Jared have made original, praiseworthy contributions to their respective fields and both have advanced theory through rigorous field-work.

**The Julian M. Szeicz Award:** [Martin Andresen](#). Martin's contributions traverse the fields of criminology and geography.

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**Climate change increases wildfire risk in Halifax:** Research by Dalhousie MES student Ellen Whitman paints a picture of increasing fire risk in the forests surrounding Halifax under climate change. The fire risk in the Acadian Forest Region is likely to decrease beyond 100 years, as the forest composition shifts to include fewer fire-prone coniferous trees – typical of colder climate conditions – but in the short term, increasingly severe fire weather and more complex forest fuels are likely to increase fire risk. The common wisdom is that increases in precipitation will decrease fire risk, but precipitation increases vary seasonally, and will mostly occur in Nova Scotia in the winter, leaving much of the fire season hotter and drier. With hurricanes passing closer to the mainland, and new tree pests and diseases introduced, maladapted coniferous trees will more easily become downed fire fuel. The report recommends tree management priorities shift in relation to space, as well as time, encouraging trees and their benefits in the inner city, but encouraging residents and the municipality to carefully manage fuel in the wildland-urban interface. [CBC News](#)

**U Toronto's Matt Farish comments on military spectacles in the Arctic:** It is no longer surprising that Mr. Harper's most prominent visits to northern Canada are in the service of military spectacles. Instead, these visits and these spectacles have become expected. Sovereignty as understood by the federal government seems to need this form of regular affirmation. But it is particularly intriguing that such affirmation is required in the north more than anywhere else in the country. Surely the apparent need for repetitive northern military activity is related to the latent belief that such activity is also more tolerable in the region. A proposal to conduct seven consecutive annual "demonstrations of sovereignty" in the streets of a major Canadian city would be startling. There is no mistaking the recent turn, under a Conservative government, to a more vigorous embrace of Canada's armed forces, with particular attention given to the realm of military symbolism. But that does not entirely explain the role of the north as an acceptable space for persistent, significant militarization. [The Globe and Mail](#)

**U Victoria undergraduate geography student Darren Smylie knows he wants to make a difference:** Darren Smylie is a third-year geography and environment student at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. He doesn't yet know which career to choose, but he knows he wants to make a difference. For the past two summers Smylie has worked at Canadian Natural Resources Limited using the latest data software to map and determine resource requirements for oil and gas reclamation sites from British Columbia to Manitoba. Reclamation coordinators require a background in ecological processes, chemistry and biology, he says. "In my studies I'm learning about how ecological systems are connected, which has helped me to understand the many different concepts of reclamation in the field." Smylie chose the oil and gas sector for summer employment because he wanted to learn more. "I feel there is a large disconnect from the public, which believes nothing is being done to support the environment. I wanted to learn first-hand what's actually happening - how industry is changing, what technologies are being introduced. I certainly didn't realize the amount of reclamation being done." As for the future, he says, "I'm quickly learning just how many jobs are created by the industry. I'm not sure if I've found the perfect fit yet, but there are lots of opportunities for people like me." [The Vancouver Sun](#)

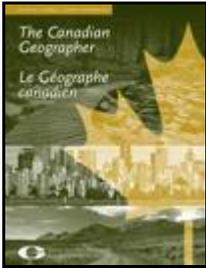
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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Ellen Whitman. 2013. Current and future wildfire risk in the peri-urban Acadian Forest Region. Master of Environmental Studies, Dalhousie University.

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## New in [The Canadian Geographers](#)



Ranu Basu. 2013. [Multiplying spaces of subalterity in education: From ideological realms to strategizing outcomes](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12029

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nesar Ahmed and Mark S. Flaherty. 2013. [Opportunities and challenges for the development of prawn farming with fish and rice in southeast Bangladesh: potential for food security and economic growth](#). Food Security. DOI:10.1007/s12571-013-0285-5

Jennifer L. Baltzer, Tyler Veness, Laura E. Chasmer, Anastasia E. Sniderhan and William L. Quinton. 2013. [Forests on thawing permafrost: fragmentation, edge effects, and net forest loss](#). Global Change Biology. DOI:10.1111/gcb.12349

Martin Black, Patrice Carbonneau, Michael Church and Jeff Warburton. 2013. [Mapping sub-pixel fluvial grain sizes with hyperspatial imagery](#). Sedimentology. DOI:10.1111/sed.12072

Brian Menounos, John J. Clague, Gerald Osborn, P. Thompson Davis, Federico Ponce, Brent Goehring, Malysa Maurer, Jorge Rabassa, Andrea Coronato and Rob Marr. 2013. [Latest Pleistocene and Holocene glacier fluctuations in southernmost Tierra del Fuego, Argentina](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 77:70–79.

Scott A. Lear, Danijela Gasevic and Nadine Schuurman. 2013. [Association of supermarket characteristics with the body mass index of their shoppers](#). Nutrition Journal 12.-

Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Sherilee L. Harper, Victoria L. Edge, Karen Landman, Karen Houle and James D. Ford. 2013. [The land enriches the soul: On climatic and environmental change, affect, and emotional health and well-being in Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Canada](#). Emotion, Space and Society 6:14-24.

Jeffrey Wilson, Jamie Spinney, Hugh Millward, Darren Scott, Anders Hayden and Peter Tyedmerse. 2013. [Blame the exurbs, not the suburbs: Exploring the distribution of greenhouse gas emissions within a city region](#). Energy Policy. doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2013.07.012

Xiaohui Yang, Erica Kovach and Xulin Guo. 2013. [Biophysical and spectral responses to various burn treatments in the northern mixed-grass prairie](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing. DOI:10.5589/m13-023

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Geographers create action plan for geographic education in Canada:** Geographers from the private sector, academia and government recently met in St. John’s, N.L. to develop an action plan to tackle issues of how geography is taught and valued in Canada. Attendees of the event, organized by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society and the Canadian Association of Geographers, say Canada’s geographic education is lagging behind other countries, which puts Canada at risk of falling behind in other sectors, including global business. But they hope to change that. Attendees spent the meeting developing a plan to boost geographic literacy among Canadian students. Their strategy includes promoting geographic education and research and improving communication amongst educators on how to teach geography. [CG Compass](#)

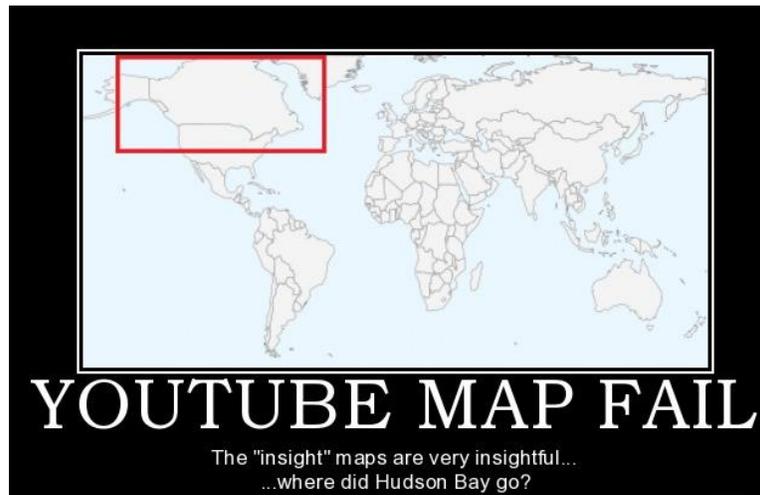
**Why laptops don’t belong in lectures:** Laptops have replaced pen and paper for many post-secondary students but a Canadian study suggests using computers during lectures could be hurting their grades and lowering their classmates’ marks. Students who participated in the experiments said they didn’t really expect their marks to suffer much from computer use in the classroom. “At the end we gave a survey to all the students and what we found was that these peers who were seated around multitaskers had no idea they were being distracted, they didn’t think the laptops were causing a distraction but based on the scores of their final test, they actually were,” she said. Seeing dozens of laptops in a classroom is now common, Sana said, as is spying some students on social networks, playing games or watching movies instead of paying attention. While Sana and Weston are not calling for a ban on laptop use in classes, they do hope students consider that goofing off on their computers can affect their peers seated around them. “A lot of students spend quite a big chunk of time in class doing things that are not related to the academic environment or aren’t directly related to the course or the lecture,” Sana said. “We’re hoping that based on these results, students will take responsibility for their actions.” [Macleans on campus](#)

**Melting ice caps could trigger tsunamis:** If melting ice caps trigger rapid sea level rise, the strain that the edges of continents could experience might set off underwater landslides, new research suggests. Submarine landslides happen on every continental margin, the underwater parts of continental plates bordering oceanic plates. These underwater avalanches, which can happen when underwater slopes get hit by earthquakes or otherwise have too much weight loaded onto them, can generate dangerous tsunamis. [DNews](#)

**23 Canadian universities make global Top 500 list:** Canada has 23 schools in the top 500 this year, up from 22 last year and 21 five years ago. Canada’s new entrant is Concordia University. Once again, four Canadian schools are in the top 100. They are the University of Toronto (28th), the University of British Columbia (40th), McGill University (58th) and McMaster University (92nd). The rankings take into account the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, the number of Highly Cited Researchers, the number of articles published in Nature and Science, the number of articles in science and social sciences citation indexes and more. [Macleans on campus](#)

**Why we can’t afford bad teachers in first year:** I arrived at the University of Guelph just shy of 10 years ago and was so excited to study that I spent much of my first week highlighting and making notes in my intro textbook. By week three, I was skipping my classes because the professor couldn’t speak enough English. He verbally stumbled through the same lecture notes that he had posted online and when asked in one early lecture to elaborate on some point, he couldn’t even find the most basic words. His response devolved into mime as he frantically fumbled with an imaginary steering wheel until he blurted it out: “he means car!” [Macleans on campus](#)

## Some not so “Geographical” News



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