



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**

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**U Manitoba's John Hanesiak takes storm-chasers on a trip down Tornado Alley:** It was a trip down Tornado Alley these Manitoba storm-chasers will never forget. The University of Manitoba offers a class in storm-chasing every summer includes the irresistible lure of a trip to Tornado Alley through the midwestern American states. The tornado this time was in South Dakota outside a town called Erwin, 60 kilometres southwest of Watertown. We asked one of the experts, John Hanesiak -- a U of M professor of environment and geography -- what happened. "With our storm now accelerating, and the updraft-rotation intensifying, we were suddenly in a precarious position with the road network being rather poor. We were caught in what is called the 'bear's cage' a (phenomenon) where the updraft and mesocyclone are strongest, where our tornado ended up forming. We were running from the storm at this point, and only a few of us managed to get photos and video of the tornado. My only personal vision of the tornado was in the rear-view mirror... The debris cloud was very dark and fairly wide at the very bottom. It filled half the rear view mirror." [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

**Dalhousie U's Nathaniel Lewis examined settlement and regulation of gay-identified men in Ottawa:** According to Nathaniel Lewis, a post-doctorate fellow at Dalhousie University, the role of the government played heavily into men's sexuality and identities with gay men who migrated to Ottawa from other cities. Interestingly, Lewis didn't seek to study how the government affects gay men, but the theme was so strong in his interviews with participants that he had to explore it. He found that employment in the civil service created an expectation of professionalism, keeping sexuality private, and a middle class lifestyle that distances gay men from some of the traditional sources of gay culture, such as service providers. These expectations lead to the feeling that, as LGB rights are protected by law and human resource policies, the battle is won and it is time to be quiet, work hard, and not make a fuss. This attitude can be seen through the long fight to have recognition of an LGBT village in Ottawa. The unspoken sentiment was that if we have the same rights as heterosexuals, why do we need more recognition? Would a village really mesh with the restrained nature of a government town? [TypeQ](#)

**U Winnipeg Geography 60th Anniversary Lecture:** As part of the celebrations in 2013 to commemorate the Department of Geography's 60th anniversary, there is a special Elizabeth Laird Lecture/CWRA (Manitoba) lecture by Dr. Bruce Mitchell. Entitled [IWRM, Implementation Challenges and Canadian Experiences](#), the lecture will be held in Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall at the UofW on Wednesday September 18th, 2013. Doors open at 5:30pm, lecture from 6:00-7:00pm with a brief question period available at the end. Registration is required for this event. Please send an email to [geography@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:geography@uwinnipeg.ca) confirming your attendance. Put "Bruce Mitchell Water Resource Lecture" in the subject line.

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**York U's Rick Bello warns warmer temperatures threaten Churchill railway:** Global warming may extend the shipping season in Churchill, but it's also melting permafrost and softening the rail bed leading to the port, researchers say. That will make it more costly to transport product to Hudson Bay by rail to load onto ships, say researchers. "You might benefit from melting sea ice but you've got to get the product to and from port," said Rick Bello, climatologist in the Department of Geography at York University. Research shows climate change is now causing peat moss that has been frozen for up to 6,000 years to melt. "Churchill was always on continuous permafrost. Now people are drilling bore holes and not finding permafrost," said Bello. It means the Hudson Bay line connecting Churchill to the rest of the province could sink in places. "It will mean higher maintenance costs, for sure. We haven't seen the upper end of what it's going to cost," he said. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

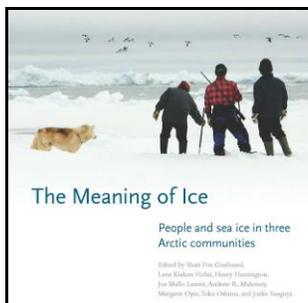
**U Saskatchewan's Ryan Walker argues government must lead regional planning:**

Saskatchewan's large city regions need strong provincial leadership on growth management and regional planning in order to take full advantage of the opportunities presented by rapid growth, and to avoid costly mistakes linked to unco-ordinated land use and infrastructure decisions across the regions. The metropolitan areas centred on Saskatoon and Regina are tied together by dense travel patterns between the cities and nearby towns, reserves and rural areas for home, work, commerce and leisure. Municipal boundaries that separate communities in such areas are increasingly ineffective for guiding large-scale land use, transportation and infrastructure development decisions that will have long-term implications for how the region grows and functions. Given the weight of public interest in having city regions that function optimally, voluntary measures for regional governance and planning are insufficient. One example is the recent breakdown of the voluntary Regina-Sherwood planning district and their competing land-use visions. [The Star Phoenix](#)

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**New Book**

Shari Fox Gearheard, Lene Kielsen Holm, Henry Huntington, Joe Mello Leavitt, Andrew R. Mahoney, Margaret Opie, Toku Oshima, and Joelle Sanguya (Eds). 2013. [The Meaning of Ice: People and Sea Ice in Three Arctic Communities](#). IPI Press. ISBN 9780982170397



*The Meaning of Ice* celebrates Arctic sea ice as it is seen and experienced by the Inuit, Iñupiat, and Inughuit, who for generations have lived with it and thrived on what it offers. With extensive details offered through their own drawings and writings, this book describes the great depth of Inuit, Iñupiat, and Inughuit knowledge of sea ice and the critical and complex role it plays in their relationships with their environment and with one another. Over forty Inuit, Iñupiat, and Inughuit from three different Arctic communities contributed stories, original artwork, hand-drawn illustrations, maps, family photos, and even recipes to this book. Professional and historical photographs, children's artwork, and innovative graphics add more to the story of *The Meaning of Ice*.

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

A. Lamarre, G. Magnan, M. Garneau and É. Boucher. 2013. [A testate amoeba-based transfer function for paleohydrological reconstruction from boreal and subarctic peatlands in northeastern Canada](#). Quaternary International 306:88–96.

Nathaniel M. Lewis. 2013. [Beyond binary places: the social and spatial dynamics of coming out in Canada](#). ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies 12:305-330.

Jerry Patchell and Roger Hayter. 2013. [Environmental and evolutionary economic geography: time for EEG2?](#) Geografiska Annaler: Series B, Human Geography 95):111–130.

Jerry Patchell and Roger Hayter. 2013. [How big business can save the climate: multinational corporations can succeed where governments have failed](#). Foreign Affairs 92:17-22.

Tyler Sylvestre, Luke Copland, Michael N. Demuth and Martin Sharp. 2013. [Spatial patterns of snow accumulation across Belcher Glacier, Devon Ice Cap, Nunavut, Canada](#). Journal of Glaciology 59(217):874-883.

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Using social media to reach out to potential students:** Social media has become such a regular part of our personal lives that we sometimes overlook its potential to attract students. Find useful tips and pointers below for reaching out to and piquing the interest of potential students. [eduGuru](#)

**Are Americans ready to rebel over climate?** It appears that one in four Americans would now support peaceful civil disobedience against organizations that are making global warming worse. But that's not all. One in eight would even be willing to take part personally in civil disobedience. The survey also found that people are most likely to discuss global warming face-to-face, rather than via social media, for instance, and are most likely to be spurred into action by friends or family. [DNews](#)

**'Citizen science' comes alive on the Bruce Peninsula:** URBAN (Urban-Rural Biomonitoring & Assessment Network) is a hands-on initiative developed by a team of McMaster researchers in collaboration with the Bay Area Restoration Council and the Royal Botanical Gardens. It was designed to involve everyday citizens like Robson in studying and preserving wildlife and natural areas in Ontario. The Sucker Creek project was the program's first venture in the Bruce Peninsula area. [McMaster Daily News](#)

**The uneven geography of consumers who will buy a green product:** More and more consumers want to buy from socially responsible companies. A big new survey from Nielsen finds that 50% of shoppers are now willing to spend more with brands "that have implemented programs to give back to society." That's a 5% increase from 2011, when Nielsen last carried out the survey. Not all consumers are the same, though. Nielsen, which interviewed 29,000 people in 58 countries, finds big differences depending on age and where people live. For example, people under 29 are 20 points more likely to reward socially responsible brands than those who are over 65. Indians are almost three times more likely to pay a premium than Estonians (75% versus 27%). [Fastcoexist](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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