



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy and the Centre for Hydrology construct the Canadian Rockies Hydrological Observatory: Near the top of Fortress Mountain a team of scientists piece together a weather station to install in an area known as Canada Ridge. The stations, being set up throughout the Rockies by the team with the University of Saskatchewan's Centre of Hydrology, will better help experts predict events such as the June floods — the worst natural disaster in Alberta's history. "The floods that occurred this spring show us you can't have too many measurements in the mountains of what's coming down," says hydrologist John Pomeroy, the centre's director and a Canada research chair in water resources and climate change. "Beyond the floods, there are water supply issues. Pomeroy, who has spoken out about the lack of warning before the floods hit, says several of the existing high-altitude weather stations showed the June flood was another rain-on-snow event, the second in the two years. In addition to anticipating floods and droughts, the weather stations could also help to manage day-to-day water supply on the prairies. [Calgary Herald](#)

Western Geography professor Gordon McBean was named among Canada's Clean 50: The award, announced annually by Delta Management Group, recognizes 50 individuals or teams, from 16 different categories, who have done the most to advance the cause of sustainability and clean capitalism in Canada over the past two years. McBean is a scientific leader on climate change, disaster risk reduction and environmental issues. He serves on a number of climate committees, including his role as chairman of the boards of the Canadian Climate Forum and the Ontario Climate Consortium to foster climate, extreme weather and air quality science and policy dialogue. For his national and international leadership, he has been awarded the Orders of Canada and Ontario, elected as president of the International Council for Science and shared in the Nobel Peace Prize as a lead author and review editor for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), among other recognitions. McBean will be among 100 past and present Clean 50 honourees meeting next week at the Clean50 Summit 3.0 on Toronto Island, to spend a day amongst peers and colleagues tackling common sustainability challenges. [Western News](#)

Western U's Michael Buzzelli and collaborators launch Canadian Environmental Health Atlas: Michael Buzzelli of the Department of Geography at Western University, with collaborators across Canada, are pleased to launch the Canadian Environmental Health Atlas. The Atlas is an online, open access visual publication that introduces the many ways in which the environment affects human health. The Atlas also highlights the importance of environmental health in health promotion and disease prevention. [Canadian Environmental Health Atlas](#)

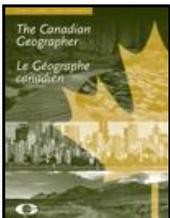
Western U's Jason Gilliland measures progress in London's Old East Village: A group of professional urban planners made a PACT with Old East London. Ten years ago, they helped draft a blueprint to revive and rejuvenate the decaying neighbourhood. The Ontario Professional Planners Institute put together a Planners Action Team and were back in London 10 years after they completed their report, to gauge the progress and look at next steps. Jason Gilliland, head of the urban development program, reports "this area is no longer a food desert. Western Fair Farmers' Market has lowered food costs and created spinoff businesses." "Sometimes it's hard to take the first step but when they see the butcher, the baker and the cheese shop are successful coming out of the market, it's only a matter time before the empty storefronts fill up. The area is becoming a food district." [IFPress](#)

McMaster's Richard Harris honoured by 'the people who know my work best': Richard Harris, a professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, has been awarded the Canadian Association of Geographers' Award for Scholarly Distinction in Geography. "This is meaningful because I am being recognized by my peers," said Harris. "These are the people who know my work best, so it really is an honour." To know Harris' work is to be familiar with nearly three decades of work. He has published six books, nearly 100 peer reviewed articles and more than 150 book reviews. Harris has also received Fulbright, Guggenheim and Canada Research fellowships and was recently elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. [McMaster Daily News](#)

U Calgary geography alumni, Douglas Hagedorn wins Perfect Pitch Competition: The startup entrepreneur behind a computer interface allowing the blind to access maps, graphs, calendars and apps, has won the Perfect Pitch Competition hosted by Innovate Calgary. The winner, selected by a community of tech fans, was Douglas Hagedorn, CEO of Invici. Taking the advice shared at the Perfect Pitch Workshop, Hagedorn worked on his pitch and wowed the judges by speaking passionately about Invici's project. "I did my master's degree at the University of Calgary in geography," Hagedorn says. "The research looked specifically for methods for people who cannot see maps because they are blind or visually impaired. Invici is an extension of that." [UToday](#)

Western U's Mike Buzzelli awarded a Fellowship with the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario: Western Geography Professor Mike Buzzelli has been awarded a Fellowship with the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO). HEQCO is an arm's-length agency of the Government of Ontario that brings evidence-based research to the continued improvement of the postsecondary education system in Ontario. As a Fellow, Mike will work with HEQCO staff to assist in achieving its goal. [HEQCO Fellows Program](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Claudia Notzke. 2013. [An exploration into political ecology and nonhuman agency: The case of the wild horse in western Canada.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12028.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Weihua Cao, James Li, Darko Joksimovic, Arnold Yuan and Doug Banting. 2013. [Probabilistic spill occurrence simulation for chemical spills management](#). Journal of Hazardous Materials. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhazmat.2013.09.027

Thembele Kepe and Danielle Tessaro. 2013. [Trading-off: Rural food security and land rights in South Africa](#). Land Use Policy 36:267–274.

Connie Ko, Gunho Sohn and Tarmo K. Remmel. 2013. [Tree genera classification with geometric features from high-density airborne LiDAR](#). Canadian Journal of Remote Sensing, DOI:10.5589/m13-024

Other “Geographical” News

British Columbia’s Sacred Headwaters defence has deep roots: In Canada, they include awe-inspiring landscapes like the boreal forests of Pimachiowin Aki straddling the Manitoba-Ontario border, Gwaii Haanas off Canada’s West Coast and the Sacred Headwaters (called Tl’abāne in the local Tahltan language and pronounced Klabona in English) in northwestern B.C. The latter is the birthplace of three of the continent’s great salmon rivers, the Stikine, Skeena and Nass. Fed by waters from the surrounding mountains and valleys, they drive toward the North Pacific Ocean with great force, shooting through gorges that rival the Grand Canyon in grandeur and cascading over breathtakingly beautiful waterfalls. Unblemished by dams, clearcuts or mines, and with an abundance of wildlife, including grizzly bears, wolves, caribou and the world’s largest population of stone sheep, the Sacred Headwaters has been called the Serengeti of the North. But while Pimachiowin Aki and Gwaii Haanas are protected under law, the Sacred Headwaters is not. [Timmins Press](#)

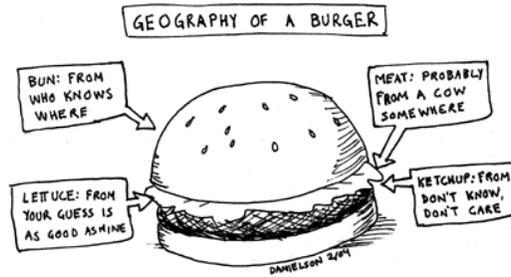
Dams provide resilience to Columbia River basin from climate change impacts: Dams have been vilified for detrimental effects to water quality and fish passage, but a new study suggests that these structures provide "ecological and engineering resilience" to climate change in the Columbia River basin. [ScienceDaily](#)

Alpine archaeology reveals high life through the ages: Archaeologists have uncovered evidence of human activity in the high slopes of the French Alps dating back over 8000 years. The 14-year study in the Parc National des Ecrins in the southern Alps is one of the most detailed archaeological investigations carried out at high altitudes. It reveals a story of human occupation and activity in one of the world's most challenging environments from the Mesolithic to the Post-Medieval period. The work included the excavation of a series of stone animal enclosures and human dwellings considered some of most complex high altitude Bronze Age structures found anywhere in the Alps. [ScienceDaily](#)

Proposed university framework causes a stir in Québec: A working group preparing a university framework for the Quebec government published a wide-ranging report that aims to rethink the foundations of the province’s universities; those foundations were rocked by student protests during the so-called Maple Spring. The proposed framework would create a National Council of Universities (CNU) whose main roles would be to help assess the quality of university activities, advise the minister on the general orientation of universities, and issue notices about new programs. The CNU would also examine salaries of rectors and high-level administrators, the proliferation of satellite campuses, the growing number of credentials, and mechanisms related to student democracy. [University Affairs](#)

New Arctic Island discovered: The Russian Navy has confirmed the presence of a new island in the Arctic, which would increase the number of islands in the Franz Josef Land archipelago to 192. [DNews](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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