



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

No. 262, October 8, 2013

Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

Anne Gilbert de l'Université d'Ottawa décerné l'Ordre des francophones d'Amérique: Anne Gilbert, professeur au Département de géographie de l'Université d'Ottawa et directrice du Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française, a reçu le 26 septembre dernier l'insigne de l'Ordre des francophones d'Amérique, décerné par le Conseil supérieur de la langue française à des personnalités s'étant consacrées au maintien et à l'épanouissement de la langue française en Amérique. La cérémonie a eu lieu à l'Assemblée nationale du Québec. De plus, elle a été nommée Personnalité de la semaine Radio-Canada/Le Droit. Ce prix et cette nomination reconnaissent sa contribution exceptionnelle à la recherche sur la francophonie en milieu minoritaire et à la connaissance de ses espaces et territoires.

U Guelph's Evan Fraser awarded Belmont Forum grant to study one of world's largest fisheries:

Three University of Guelph researchers will receive a three-year, \$750,000 grant to help study a threatened ecosystem that sustains millions of lives in Southeast Asia. Funding from the freshwater security program of the Belmont Forum in Washington, D.C., will enable Profs. Kevin McCann, Department of Integrative Biology, Neil Rooney, School of Environmental Sciences, and Evan Fraser, Department of Geography, to study the Tonlé Sap ecosystem in Cambodia, one of the world's largest inland fisheries. The seasonal flood pulse system in the Mekong River and Tonlé Sap Lake provides the primary source of fish, rice and protein for millions of Cambodians. About 150 species of fish live in Tonlé Sap, compared to about 50 in Lake Ontario. Scientists and policy-makers are concerned about the effects of hydro development throughout the Mekong basin. Starting in southern China, the river flows past Myanmar, Laos and Thailand before crossing Cambodia and Vietnam to empty into the South China Sea. [U Guelph News Release](#)

Département de géographie-UQTR nouveau professeur de géographie Christophe Kinnard:

Toute l'équipe du département des sciences de l'environnement souhaite la bienvenue à Christophe Kinnard, Géographe de formation et spécialiste en sciences de la cryosphère. Les travaux du professeur Kinnard portent sur plusieurs aspects incluant la géomorphologie périglaciaire, la variabilité du couvert de glaces de mer dans l'Arctique, la paléoclimatologie glaciaire de l'Arctique canadien et, plus récemment, sur l'hydrologie glaciaire des Andes semi-arides du Chili. Ses travaux actuels visent à mieux comprendre la contribution hydrologique des bassins enneigés et englacés en milieux montagneux, et l'évolution de cette contribution en contexte de changements climatiques. Ses recherches se basent sur des mesures micro-météorologiques, topographiques (GPS, Lidar) et de bilan de masse glacio-nival réalisées sur le terrain en contexte arctique et alpin, combinées à des outils de modélisation glacio-hydrologique et des données de télédétection. [UQTR Géographie](#)

U British Columbia's Professors Emeriti Olav Slaymaker and Michael Church nominated first Fellows of the British Society for Geomorphology: Professors Emeriti Olav Slaymaker (left) and Michael Church (right) are nominated as one of the first Fellows of the British Society for Geomorphology. Fellowship status of the Society is to honour members who achieved significant contributions to advancement of geomorphology through influential publications, reports, recommendations, and or teachings. [UBC Geography](#)

Western U geographers partner with London school to reclaim playground: Researchers from Western University's Human Environments Analysis Lab joined students at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Elementary School for a ceremonial sod turning and tree planting as they entered the final phase of a unique project to 'green' and reclaim a valuable part of their school yard. Janet Loebach, a PhD student in Geography at Western, has been leading a team working with Blessed Sacrament students to plan how they would rescue a play area considered out-of-bounds due to safety concerns, including high levels of pollutants from vehicles travelling past on Oxford Street. Loebach and the team held workshops at the school over several months to gather ideas from students, teachers and custodial staff. Eli Paddle, another PhD student in the Lab who also teaches Landscape Design at Fanshawe College, recently joined the team to support the final design development. The final plan, dubbed 'The Green Direction' by Blessed Sacrament students, includes removing asphalt and planting shade trees to help reduce the amount of heat on the schoolyard, as well as adding shrubs, grasses and mulch to help reduce exposure to airborne pollutants. The new 'naturalized' yard will also provide multiple opportunities for outdoor learning and environmental education. Once the project is completed, Loebach's team will administer air quality and heat imaging tests and conduct student and teacher surveys to determine the impact of the schoolyard greening on air quality, heat reduction and the students' use of the space. [Western Media Relations](#)

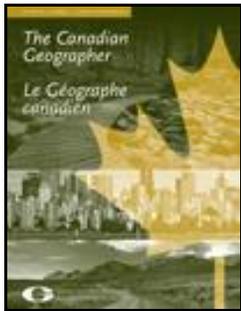
McGill U's Wayne Pollard looks to Canada's North to find clues to water (and life!) on Mars: It's generally accepted that if temperatures get cold enough, water freezes. But in Nunavut's far north, nature is challenging that convention. Wayne Pollard, a geography professor at Montreal's McGill University, studies the cold-water springs found on the territory's Axel Heiberg Island, where water flows up through frozen ground and lies in pools where one would expect to see solid ice. The springs are highly saline, which significantly lowers their freezing point, so they flow year-round. Pollard says their unique mineralogy could help solve a Mars mystery: whether water could exist on the red planet. Based out of the McGill Arctic Research Station (abbreviated MARS, appropriately) Pollard treks out for days at a time in the Arctic winter to collect data from the springs, working in temperatures that freeze tent nylon to the breaking point. [CG Compassblog](#)

Memorial Geography puts graduate spotlight on Randal Greene: Randal Greene graduated with an MSc with a focus on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in 2011. He is now back in the department, working part-time on Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee's Too Big to Ignore project as a GIS analyst and software developer, while also consulting for organizations such as the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Islands Trust, the Northeast Avalon Atlantic Coastal Action Plan and the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement. Randal's graduate research involved the application of multi-criteria decision-analysis (MCDA) to land management, a project that enabled him to draw upon his background in software development and marine navigation systems. This research involved a case study in the Humber region of Western Newfoundland and kick-started Randal's work in GIS-based conservation planning. He now focuses on delivering desktop and web-based GIS for systematic conservation planning, international fisheries profiling, park and trail mapping, and other spatial applications. His background in Geography has proven useful well beyond the initial skill set it provided. "The integrative nature of my geography education helps me get up to speed quickly in a diverse range of fields," noted Randal. "For instance, some of my projects are based primarily on qualitative research where as others employ quantitative modeling." [Memorial Geography Department News](#)

Memorial U's Kyle White, Honours Geography Student awarded Economic Development Legacy Award:

Since December 2011, Kyle White has been working with Dr. Kelly Vodden at the Environmental Policy Institute, Grenfell Campus and the Rural Resilience research team. Their research focuses on social and economic development at the local and regional scale. Past projects have included studying land use issues in Central Newfoundland, developing community-based toolkits for development practitioners, and supporting innovation on the Northern Peninsula. Currently, Kyle is engaged with Canadian Regional Development: A Critical Review of Theory, Practice, and Potentials studying innovation and regional development in the Gander-New Wes Valley and Northern Peninsula regions. In addition to this work Kyle worked with the Harris Center on the Advancing Innovation In Newfoundland and Labrador Project. This project involved hosting workshops in Corner Brook, Plum Point, Labrador Straits, Centerville, and St. John's and developing case studies that showcase business success stories. [Memorial Geography Department News](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Gloria C. DeSantis. 2013. [Policy advocacy experiences of Saskatchewan nonprofit organizations: Caught between rocks and hard places with multiple constituents?](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12043.x

Laurie Guimond, Anne Gilbert and Myriam Simard. 2013. [Faire sa place et être de la place : La rencontre timide des nouveaux ruraux et des populations plus anciennes au Québec.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12051.x

Stefan W. Kienzle and Markus Mueller. 2013. [Mapping Alberta's surface water resources for the period 1971–2000.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12050.x

Julia M. L. Laforge and Robert McLeman. 2013. [Social capital and drought-migrant integration in 1930s Saskatchewan.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12045.x

K. Bruce Newbold and Darren Scott. 2013. [Migration, commuting distance, and urban sustainability in Ontario's Greater Golden Horseshoe: Implications of the Greenbelt and Places to Grow legislation.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12044.x

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Peter Andrew Horne. 2013. [Characterization of intertidal geomorphology based on multi-scale analysis of airborne LiDAR data](#). Unpublished Masters of Science in Applied Science. Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Riley P.M Mulligan. 2013. [Quaternary landform and sediment analysis of the Alliston area \(southern Simcoe County\), Ontario, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. School of Geography and Earth Sciences. McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Idowu Ajibade, Gordon McBean and Rachel Bezner-Kerr. 2013. [Urban flooding in Lagos, Nigeria: Patterns of vulnerability and resilience among women](#). Global Environmental Change.

Amy E. Edwards, Devendra M. Amatya, Thomas M. Williams, Daniel R. Hitchcock and April I. James. 2013. [Flow characterization in the Santee Cave system in the Chapel Branch Creek watershed, upper coastal plain of South Carolina, USA](#). Journal of Cave and Karst Studies 75:136–145.

Zhe Li, Ted Huffman, Brian McConkey and Lawrence Townley-Smith. 2013. [Monitoring and modeling spatial and temporal patterns of grassland dynamics using time-series MODIS NDVI with climate and stocking data](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 138:232-244.

Nicholas Lynch 2013. [Divine living: marketing and selling churches as lofts in Toronto, Canada](#). Housing, Theory and Society. DOI:10.1080/14036096.2013.837840

Y.E. Martin, E.A. Johnson and O. Chaikina. 2013. [Interplay between field observations and numerical modeling to understand temporal pulsing of tree root throw processes, Canadian Rockies, Canada](#). Geomorphology 200:89-105.

D. Michael Ray, Rodolphe H. Lamarche and Ian R. MacLachlan. 2013. [Restoring the 'Regional' to 'Regional Policy': A regional typology of western Canada](#). Canadian Public Policy 39: 411-429.

S.J. Scarlett and J.S. Price. 2013. [The hydrological and geochemical isolation of a freshwater bog within a saline fen in north-eastern Alberta](#). Mires and Peat 12:1–12.

Astrid V. Stronen and Paul C. Paquet. 2013. [Perspectives on the conservation of wild hybrids](#). Biological Conservation 167:390–395.

Megan Youdelis. 2013. [The competitive \(dis\)advantages of ecotourism in Northern Thailand](#). Geoforum 50:161-171.

Eiman Zargarán, Nadine Schuurman, Andrew J. Nicol, Richard Matzopoulos, Jonathan Cinnamon, Tracey Taulu, Britta Rickers, David Ross Garbutt Brown, and S. Morad Hameed 2013. [The electronic trauma health record: Design and usability of a novel tablet-based tool for trauma care and injury surveillance in low resource settings](#). Journal of the American College of Surgeons.

Other “Geographical” News

10 grammar rules you can forget: how to stop worrying and write proper: Every situation in which language is used has its own conventions. This renders the concept of what is "correct" more than a simple matter of right and wrong. What is correct in a tweet might not be in an essay; no single register of English is right for every occasion. [The Guardian](#)

Vanishing glaciers of Peru: Peru is home to 71% of the world’s tropical glaciers, which are a source of fresh water for millions, but 22% of the surface area of Peruvian glaciers has disappeared in the past 30 years alone, according to The World Bank. The Pastoruri glacier is one of the fastest receding glaciers in the Cordillera Blanca mountain range according to a 2012 paper by the University of Texas and the Huascarán National Park. [Yahoo! News](#)

New Laurier centre focused on water, cold region research: This week Laurier will officially open The Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science housing the Centre for Cold Regions and Water Science and the Laurier Institute for Water Science. The cold regions research centre started in 1988 at Laurier, while the institute was founded in 2008. Research has focused on areas such as hydrology, climate change, the effects of melting permafrost and the sustainability of aquatic ecosystems. The \$7.8-million building will feature \$5.2 million in equipment for the state-of-the-art labs. The Laurier building will house work on two water-related projects — the first is water research in the boreal ecosystem in Northwest Territories, while the second is the Southern Ontario Water Consortium that looks at the impact of urbanization on the local water supply with a focus on the Grand River watershed. [The Record.com](#)

Aerial view of the NYC Central Park: The aerial view of the NYC central park is amazing. This photo was taken by the Russian photographer Sergey Semenov which has won the best amateur award from the International Piano Awards. [Fancy Material](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG now works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [CanGeographers](#)
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>