



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 264, October 19, 2013
Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

U Northern British Columbia's Sarah de Leeuw's "Soft Shouldered" and The Highway of Tears: In her moving and evocative essay "[Soft Shouldered](#)," Prince George-based writer Sarah de Leeuw vividly describes the dark beauty of Highway 16, otherwise known as "the Highway of Tears," a 800 km stretch of road connecting the Northern BC towns of Prince George and Prince Rupert. Since the late 1960s dozens of young women, most of them hitchhikers, have disappeared from Highway 16. Many were later found murdered. Others remain missing. All but one were First Nations. To date, no arrests have been made. The last officially recognized murder on the Highway of Tears occurred in 2006, but women who live and travel along the highway are still at risk. While hitchhiking has become rare in many parts of Canada, especially for lone women, people living in the remote communities along Highway 16 often have few other options for transportation. Across Canada, violence against First Nations women remains a startling and underreported problem. According to Canadian government statistics, First Nations women are five to seven times more likely to die as a result of violence. [Prism International](#)

Laurier PhD student Hilary White discusses water research in the Arctic: A helicopter circles a lake in Wapusk National Park, southeast of Churchill, Manitoba. The helicopter lands and Hilary White, a Laurier PhD student in geography, enters the waist-high water and quickly runs hydrological tests while the rotor blades whirl. The helicopter stops only long enough for White to gather water and sediment samples. White makes the trip to northern Manitoba three times a year to take samples from approximately 40 lakes to measure the impact of climate change on the lakes. "One of the most striking observations that we have made is that several of these lakes have dried up in the summer during recent years," said White. "This may be due to climate change – less snowmelt and more evaporation, which may be having a significant impact on this freshwater landscape." "Analysis of sediment cores from these lakes will help us determine if the drying of lakes has happened before or if this is a unique consequence of recent climate warming." The region's hydrological fate under conditions of continued warming is uncertain. Identifying the impact of climate change can assist in making informed decisions on the management of water resources. "The Hudson Bay Lowlands contain thousands of shallow lakes that have rich stores of carbon and provide important wildlife habitat," said Brent Wolfe, professor, Geography and Environmental Studies and White's doctoral supervisor. "Hilary's research on their present and past hydrological conditions will provide insight into how the lakes are responding to climate change and what we can expect for the future." [WLU Headlines](#)

Carleton U DGES student awarded best remote sensing masters in Canada: Chris Czerwinski, MSc graduate in Geography at Carleton University, was awarded the best 2012 Master's thesis in Canadian remote sensing at the 34th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in Victoria, BC. Czerwinski's thesis is entitled "*Forest Change Detection and Mapping in Gatineau Park, Quebec, 1987 to 2010 using Landsat Imagery.*" The goal of Czerwinski's research was to detect both abrupt and subtle change within the forests of Gatineau Park, Québec, by integrating ground-based measurements with Landsat imagery. Thirty three 1 ha field plots were surveyed with respect to vegetation quantity and health during the growth season of 2010, and thirteen near-anniversary Landsat TM 5 images from 1987 to 2010 were assembled into a relatively calibrated image time series. Regression of 2010 Landsat derived vegetation indices against the field data helped aid interpretation of the spectral trends extracted from the image time series. Results show distinct localized spectral trajectories due to gradual forest deterioration or regrowth. Mapping the timing, location, magnitude, and duration of forest change will help inform land management policy and actions within Gatineau Park and other similar landscapes. He was co-supervised by Doug King and Scott Mitchell. [FASS News](#)

Western U's Chantelle Richmond and documentary chronicling threats to Indigenous health: London audiences will get an early look at a powerful new documentary by Western Indigenous Health researcher [Chantelle Richmond](#) and Emmy Award-winning Ojibway filmmaker James M. Fortier, in advance of a wider release this fall. The documentary is the result of a research project initiated in 2008 after discussions with Anishinabe elders along the north shore of Lake Superior revealed considerable concern about the effects of industrial development in their traditional territories on their health and wellbeing and their ability to share and practice their Indigenous knowledge with younger generations. [Gifts from the Elders](#) follows five Anishinabe youth on a summer research project with their elders, whose stories guide them on a journey back to preceding generations that lived a healthy lifestyle off of the land. Their stories chronicle the devastating impact of environmental and cultural dispossession on the culture and health of their people. Richmond, a professor in Western's Department of Geography, focuses primarily on the current health and social inequalities endured by Indigenous Canadians, and the contributions of environmental change to these realities. She is director of The Indigenous Health Lab and co-director of the Indigenous Health and Well-Being Initiative and is cross-appointed to Western's First Nations Studies program and Department of Family Medicine. [Western News](#)

Memorial U's Josh Lepawsky archives waste and indeterminacy: In August 2013 the Canadian Association of Geographer's held its annual meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Hosted by the Department of Geography at Memorial University, the conference provided an opportunity for Josh Lepawsky to organize a special session on waste broadly conceived. The session sought papers that work with waste, understood broadly, and its indeterminacy. Waste foments a lively conversation in geography, the social sciences, engineering, and the humanities. Specific topics proliferate – plastic bags and bottles, ocean waste, shipbreaking, e-waste, (in)formal economization, household recycling, landfilling, and sewage to name only a few – but a recurrent theme in what might be called waste- or discard studies is the indeterminacy of waste. The full abstracts of participants and selected videos of presenters of the session can be viewed at [Waste and indeterminacy: a curated archive](#)

Western U geographer Jason Gilliland collaborating for community impact: "It makes me do my job better, by working with community" claims Dr. Jason Gilliland of Western's Geography Department. Dr Gilliland's community revitalization work was featured in a video produced by the Pillar Nonprofit Network and recently debuted at their Collaborating for Community Impact forum in London. Collaborating for community impact means collaboration among nonprofit, business, government and academia. The video and conference showcased how Western faculty such as Dr Gilliland, and their students, benefit in a variety of ways by working in the community. [Watch the video](#)

Carleton U geography grad students win CNST awards: Three Carleton geography graduate students have won 2013-14 awards from The Canadian Northern Studies Trust (CNST): Brendan O'Neill awarded W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research (\$50,000) to pursue his research on permafrost conditions and terrain stability considerations on the Peel Plateau; Sarah Quann was presented with the W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research (\$15,000) to develop a latewood maximum density tree-ring chronology from white spruce at Inuvik; and Erica Oberndorfer was awarded a Canadian Polar Commission Scholarship (\$10,000) to characterize the cultural and ecological relationships between people and plants in Makkovik, Nunatsiavut. [Carleton Grad Student Research](#)

BSc Major in Geoscience is now offered at Vancouver Island University: A BSc Major in Geoscience is now available at VIU. The [BSc Major in Geoscience](#) is jointly offered by the Earth Science Department and the Geography Department. Students who complete the requirements for the BSc Major also have the option of satisfying the academic component of APEGBC and becoming a Professional Geoscientist (P.Geo). VIU now offers all the courses needed to satisfy the academic requirements for registration as a Professional Geoscientist in the 'Environmental Geoscience' stream, and offers all the courses, except one, required to satisfy the 'Geology' stream'. [VIU Geography](#)

Memorial U geography graduate student Beth Cowan recognized for excellence: Over the past couple of months Beth Cowan (BSc Dalhousie, 2012), a second-year MSc student in Geography at Memorial University, has been earning awards for her hard work and creativity. During the summer she learnt that she is the Memorial recipient for 2013/14 of the Geological Association of Canada Postgraduate Scholarship in Environmental Science. In August she won the Jean-Claude Dionne Award of the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group (CGRG) for the best student oral presentation at the CGRG-sponsored special session on Coastal Dynamics at the Canadian Association of Geographer's annual meeting in St. John's. Her presentation, titled *Evidence for the submerged postglacial sea-level lowstand off eastern Baffin Island, Nunavut*, focused on the preliminary results of her MSc thesis research. In early September, Beth was awarded a Postgraduate Scholarship from NSERC for 2013/14. [Memorial Geography](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Michael CoDyre. 2013. [The potential of urban agriculture in Guelph](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Evan Fraser.

Deanna E. Coop. 2013. [Community farms on public conservation lands: Exploring implications for local food](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: John A. Smithers.

Martha Geiger. 2013 [Exploring donkey welfare and positionality in Maun, Botswana](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Alice Hovorka.

Elizabeth Jane Simmons. 2013. [An evaluation of approaches to derive effluent requirements for wastewater treatment plants in Ontario](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: Yang Wanhong.

Terah Sportel. 2013. [Labour, livelihoods & political narratives: A study of social structures, globalisation and development in the coconut economy of Kerala](#). Ph.D. dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: René Véron.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Harald Bathelt and Johannes Glückler. 2013. [Institutional change in economic geography](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132513507823

A. Behjat and Aleck Ostry. 2013. [Investigating regional farms profitability in British Columbia Local Health Areas](#). Journal of Agriculture and Food Sciences 1:135-139.

Qiuming Cheng. 2014. [Sequential weights of evidence as a machine learning model for mineral deposits prediction](#). Mathematics of Planet Earth Lecture Notes in Earth System Sciences. 57-161.

Brandon Heung, Chuck E. Bulmer and Margaret G. Schmidt. 2013. [Predictive soil parent material mapping at a regional-scale: A Random Forest approach](#). Geoderma. doi.org/10.1016/j.geoderma.2013.09.016

Ahmed Khan and Ratana Chuenpagdee. 2013. [An interactive governance and fish chain approach to fisheries rebuilding: a case study of the Northern Gulf Cod in eastern Canada](#). Ambio. DOI10.1007/s13280-013-0446-y

Qin Ma, Jinfei Wang, Jiali Shang and Peng Wang. 2013. [Assessment of multi-temporal RADARSAT-2 polarimetric SAR data for crop classification in an urban/rural fringe area](#). Agro-Geoinformatics 2013. Second International Conference. 12-16 Aug. 2013. 314-319.

Ryan J. MacDonald, Sarah Boon, James M. Byrne, Mike D. Robinson and Joseph B. Rasmussen. 2013. [Potential future climate effects on mountain hydrology, stream temperature, and native salmonid life-history](#). Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences. 10.1139/cjfas-2013-0221

Ted L. McDorman. 2013. [The continental shelf beyond 200 NM: a first look at the Bay of Bengal \(Bangladesh/Myanmar\) case](#). The Regulation of Continental Shelf Development: Rethinking International. Edited by Myron H. Nordquist, John Norton Moore, Aldo Chircop and Ronán Long. Martinus Nijhoff Publishers.

Kyle A. Muirhead, Chris D. Malcolm and D.A. Duffus. 2013. [Marbled murrelets foraging with gray whales off Vancouver Island, British Columbia](#). Canadian Journal of Zoology. 10.1139/cjz-2013-0033

T.M. Munir, B. Xu, M. Perkins and M. Strack. 2013. [Responses of carbon dioxide flux and plant biomass to drought in a treed peatland in northern Alberta: a climate change perspective](#). Biogeosciences Discussions 10:14999–15031.

Graham Pope and Paul Treitz. 2013. [Leaf Area Index \(LAI\) estimation in boreal mixedwood forest of Ontario, Canada using Light Detection and Ranging \(LiDAR\) and WorldView-2 Imagery](#). Remote Sensing. 5:5040-5063.

Jamie E.L. Spinney. 2013. [Aerobic activity preferences among older Canadians: a time use perspective](#). Canadian Journal on Aging. doi.org/10.1017/S0714980813000433

Jamie E.L. Spinney and Hugh Millward. 2013. [Active living among older Canadians: a time-use perspective over three decades](#). Journal of Aging and Physical Activity.

Simon Springer. 2013. [Human geography without hierarchy](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132513508208

Warwick F. Vincent, Mickael Lemay, Michel Allard and Brent. B. Wolfe. 2013. [Adapting to permafrost change: a science framework](#). Eos, Transactions American Geophysical Union 94:373–375.

Brent G. Young and Steven H. Ferguson. 2013. [Using stable isotopes to understand changes in ringed seal foraging ecology as a response to a warming environment](#). Marine Mammal Science. DOI:10.1111/mms.12075

Other “Geographical” News

The map that puts China's incredible internet demographics in context: This map, pulled together in 2011 from the World Bank, measures countries both by the size of their online population as well as by Internet penetration, or the percentage of the actual population that goes online. China's online population is still much, much larger than India's, for one, and is larger than all of Africa's. And, according to this map, as recently as two years ago only 20-40% of China's population used the Internet. [The Atlantic](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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