



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 267, November 7, 2013**  
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**Trent Geographer John Marsh wins Lifetime Award for Conservation:** On the occasion of CPAWS' 50th anniversary celebration at the National Museum of Nature in Ottawa on October 23rd, Past President and Harkin Committee Chair Sherri Watson presented the organization's J.B. Harkin award to three outstanding individuals for their lifetime service to Canadian wilderness conservation. The award was presented to John Marsh for his work nationally on conservation. For over 50 years, John has made and continues to make strong conservation contributions at the local, regional, national and international levels, through research, scientific reports, presentations and writings. He was an early supporter and strong proponent of wilderness in Canada beginning in the 1960s, and an early voice for marine parks. His expeditions in Glacier National Park, Selkirk and Monashee Mountains, advanced conservation efforts there significantly. He helped in creating Interpretation Canada 37 years ago, and as a professor at Trent University, taught Wilderness Resource Management, led development of its master's degree in Canadian Heritage and Development Studies, and founded and directed the Canada-wide Trails Study Unit.

**Geographer Meric Gertler, the University of Toronto's new president, calls for more government funding:** Even before being formally installed in the job, Meric Gertler suggested Ontario set up a special funding formula for the University of Toronto to help cover the high cost of its research, for which it is hailed around the world. "We're saying to the government, if you're really serious about wanting different universities to play to their different strengths, this is our strength and you need to adjust the funding for us in a way that acknowledges that." Gertler, who was dean of the school's mighty 26,000-student Faculty of Arts and Science for five years, succeeds outgoing president Dr. David Naylor. The University of Toronto, which does more research than any campus in Canada, has long sought more federal money to cover the indirect costs of research, such as heating and lighting the labs, tech support and library services. Gertler warned Ontario's plan to stop schools from charging a full "flat fee" for as little as 60 per cent of a course load — expected within weeks — would cost U of T \$16 million a year in lost income that it will struggle to replace. [Toronto Star](#)

**GeoMatters - U Winnipeg Geography Newsletter:** The latest newsletter from the Department of Geography at the University of Winnipeg is now available. Features include stories on: Ian Mauro will be joining the department in January 2014; the 60th Anniversary Lecture presented by Bruce Mitchell; the GESA Executive for 2013-2014; photographs from the 60th Anniversary Alumni Party; an MSc Student Profile by Genevieve Berard; news from UW Geography Graduates & GESA; insights into the 2013-2014 Geography Undergraduate Thesis students; and, selected conference prices from the CAG meeting in St. John's, the CSRS Conference in Victoria, the PCAG conference in Esterhazy and the MGUG meeting in Winnipeg. [Geomatters](#)

**U Calgary Master's Grad Hagedorn wins Innovate Calgary contest:** 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. Showcase. The winner, selected by a community of tech fans, was Douglas Hagedorn, CEO of Invici. "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." Hagedorn says networking opportunities were one of the greatest benefits of the competition for his startup. "We are really looking for mentors and advisors who had been down this road. This is a massive project and I haven't done anything like this before in my life, so I want to rely on people who have been successful doing this to share their insight. "We are looking to grow the team, so obviously that takes funds, but we also wanted to get the word out and have people realize that we are here for people who are blind," he says. [UToday](#)

**U Victoria's Chris Darimont shares authorship on study showing grizzly bear populations at risk in British Columbia:** BC grizzly bears are being over hunted, putting the future of the population at risk, say the authors of a [new study](#). Researchers from the University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University and Raincoast Conservation Foundation show in their report that there are serious shortfalls with the management of the grizzly bear hunt in BC. Researchers found large discrepancies between the upper limit to kills set by the provincial government and the number of grizzly bears killed. "In half of BC's remaining grizzly populations, our audit detected overkills, and almost all were associated with excessive trophy hunting," says Dr. Chris Darimont, UVic geography professor, Raincoast science director and the study's co-author. "The pattern of overkills we documented surprised and alarmed us, especially for female grizzly bears, which are the reproductive powerhouses of populations." BC represents one of the last strongholds for grizzly bears, which have lost about half of their historical range in North America since European colonization. [UVic Media](#)

**Three Memorial students participate in the Harris Centre Coast of Bays Regional Workshop:** Two Geography graduate students, Chris Baird and Sharmane Allen, and post-doctoral fellow Easley Britton travelled to the south coast of the Newfoundland to participate in the Harris Centre's Coast of Bays Regional Workshop. The day-long workshop offered an excellent opportunity to meet with regional stakeholders to discuss areas of mutual interest and identify possible opportunities for research and outreach. In addition, they were given an opportunity to talk about their involvement in the Too Big to Ignore project, a global partnership for small-scale fisheries research. In addition to showcasing a beautiful area of the Province, the workshop highlighted that there some interesting challenges in this region related to commercial fisheries and aquaculture which are understudied. For Sharmane and Chris the experience strengthened their interest in doing research in the region and they are hoping their research will be beneficial to the local communities. Sharmane's research will be focusing on factors influencing the viability of the region's small-scale fisheries, while Chris' research will be looking into the effects of aquaculture escapees on recreational salmon anglers. Easley, from Ireland and currently doing research on improving small-scale fisheries governance in Europe, realised the power and potential for creating opportunities for communities and researchers to share challenges, lessons and opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic. [Memorial Geography](#)

**Western U geographers well represented at CAGONT / ELDAAG 2013:** Western Geography was well represented at the recent joint meetings in Toledo, Ohio at the Canadian Association of Geographers (Ontario Division) and the American Association of Geographers (East Lakes Division). Evan Cleave, MA Candidate, presented a paper (co-authored with Professor Godwin Arku) on "*Promoting Economic Development: examining place branding strategies and messages amongst communities in Ontario*". Madeleine Northcote, MA Candidate, discussed "*Survivalism or Entrepreneurism? Investigating livelihood strategies on Cape Town refugees*". PhD Candidate, Sarah Mason, presented a multi-authored paper (with J. Dixon, F. Mambulu, A. Rishworth, P. Mkandawire and Professor I. Luginaah) called "*Management strategies of urban biosolids: Narratives around facility siting in rural Ontario*". Professor Dan Shrubsole participated on a panel pertaining to "Geographers at Work in a Changing World: Implications within and Beyond Academia". [Western Geography](#)

**UBC Geographer – UBC Geography Newsletter:** The latest news from Department of Geography at the University of British Columbia is now available. This issue includes items on: Jamie Peck: Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada; Fellows of the British Society for Geomorphology; Dan Hiebert Wins The UTAGA Distinguished Alumni Award; Dan Cohen wins Vanier Scholarship; UBC Geography Welcomes New Graduate Students; Upcoming Final Doctoral Oral Examinations; 2013 Geogramme is Out!; and, Digital Life. [UBC Geographer](#)

**McGill U's Sébastien Breau dresses for success:** McGill geographer [Sébastien Breau](#) attended his GEOG-216 (Geography of the World Economy) class on October 30, dressed as the famous British economist John Maynard Keynes as part of the UNICEF Dare-to-Wear Campaign.



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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

H. Bjornlund, W. Xu and S. Wheeler. 2013. [An overview of water sharing and participation issues for irrigators and their communities in Alberta: Implications for water policy](#). Agricultural Water Management.

Jessica A. Craig and Dan J. Smith. 2013. [Late Holocene glacial history of Scimitar Glacier, Mt. Waddington area, British Columbia Coast Mountains, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI: 10.1139/cjes-2013-0075

Alemu Gonsamo, Jing M. Chen, David T. Price, Werner A. Kurz, Jane Liu, Céline Boisvenue, Robbie A. Hember, Chaoyang Wu and Kuo-Hsien Chang. 2013. [Improved assessment of gross and net primary productivity of Canada's landmass](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences. DOI:10.1002/2013JG002388

Kevin M. Gorey, Issac N. Luginaah, Emma Bartfay, GuangYong Zou, Sundus Haji-Jama, Eric J. Holowaty, Caroline Hamm, Sindu M. Kanjeekal, Frances C. Wright, Madhan K. Balagurusamy and

Nancy L. Richter. 2013. [Better colon cancer care for extremely poor Canadian women compared with American women](#). Health Social Work. doi: 10.1093/hsw/hlt022

Rita Yembilah and Grant Miriam. 2013. [The political ecology of territoriality: territorialities in farmer-herder relationships in Northern Ghana](#). GeoJournal, DOI 10.1007/s10708-013-9509-7

Catrina A MacKenzie, Julia Christensen and Sarah Turner. 2013. [Advocating beyond the academy: dilemmas of communicating relevant research results](#). Qualitative Research. DOI:10.1177/1468794113509261

Brian Menounos, John J. Clague, Garry K.C. Clarke, Shaun A. Marcott, Gerald Osborn, Peter U. Clark, Christina Tennant and Anthony M. Novak. 2013. [Did rock avalanche deposits modulate the late Holocene advance of Tiedemann Glacier, southern Coast Mountains, British Columbia, Canada?](#) Earth and Planetary Science Letters 384:154–164.

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Marks needed to get into university now average 85%:** The average grade of high school students entering universities in their home provinces hit 85% in 2012, according to data from 48 universities published in the 2014 Maclean’s University Rankings. The 2008 Maclean’s University Rankings, which used grade data mostly from 2007, showed an entering average of 83% across 42 universities. That’s an increase of two per cent in five years. There are surprising regional differences too. Only four of the 42 schools considered in the 2008 rankings had lower entering grades in 2012 but three of them were in Quebec: Montréal, Sherbrooke and Bishop’s. The fourth was Saint Mary’s in Halifax, N.S. And only four schools improved their average grades by more than three per cent. Again, a regional pattern emerges: three out of four are in British Columbia: UBC, UNBC and SFU. The fourth is Waterloo. Particularly eye-catching is the number of students at these schools with averages of more than 90%. At UBC the proportion with 90% or higher went from 30.8% in 2007 to 54.1% in 2012; at UNBC from 19.3% to 34.1%; at SFU it from 15.7% to 39.5% and at Waterloo from 26.5% to 44.8%. Students with B averages shouldn’t worry too much though. More than 21 universities’ entering classes comprise at least 10 per cent students who had less than 75% in high school. Six had entering classes that were more than a quarter students with less than 75%. To see the grade distribution of the entering classes at all 49 ranked schools, consult the 2014 University Rankings @ [Macleans.ca](#)

### **Preparing for hell and high water: Researchers advocate for climate adaptation science:**

Changes are already happening to Earth's climate due to the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation and large-scale agriculture. As changes get more pronounced, people everywhere will have to adjust. Climate preparedness research needs to integrate social and climate science, engineering, and other disciplines. It prepares for impacts by determining who and what are most vulnerable to changes and considering ways to adapt. "Science for adaptation starts with understanding decision-making processes and information needs, determining where the vulnerabilities are, and then moves to climate modeling. A final step tracks whether adaptation is effective". [ScienceDaily](#)

**Rare type of lava continues moving almost a year after a volcanic eruption:** Scientists have made the first ever observations of how a rare type of lava continues moving almost a year after a volcanic eruption. Obsidian lava is very thick and can barely flow, moving more like a glacier. This type of lava, rich in silica, forms a natural glass called obsidian when it cools and solidifies. This volcanic glass slowly inches forward as a thick, shattering crust of black rock that covers the oozing lava within. [ScienceDaily](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



OK, let's just preface this by say that Arden Hayes, the map genius in this Jimmy Kimmel segment, is unbelievably brilliant. He knows more about geography than 99.8 percent of us will ever. He knows all the countries. He knows all the capitals. And he knows where those countries are located. It's insane. But that's not why this clip is hilarious.

It's hilarious because Sony's product placement in this segment completely backfired. At the end of the geography quiz, Kimmel presents Arden with a Sony Tablet Xperia Z, and the audience claps on cue for the product that Sony just paid Kimmel a tidy sum to plug on the show. How does Arden react? Not only does he reject the Sony, he says he doesn't want it because he's waiting to get an iPad for Christmas. [Warming Glow](#)



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