Brock U's Daryl Dagesse studies the soil: Daryl Dagesse, an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography at Brock University, recently received a grant from the Council for Research in the Social Sciences (CRISS) to study changes in soil systems that occur in natural freeze-thaw cycles. Dr. Dagesse states “Although it may appear frozen and inert during the winter months there is actually a great deal of activity within the top few centimetres of the soil surface. Winter time freezing air temperatures result in soil pore water being drawn to the surface where it may freeze into ice, but where it may also sublimate into water vapour. This results in the freeze drying of the soil in much the same way as food suffers freezer burn. This study will investigate the freeze drying process in order to understand the role this drying effect has on the erodibility of the soil surface during the Spring thaw.”

Brock News Around Campus

Nipissing U's Kirsten Greer and April James participate in Lake Nipissing Research Conference: Nipissing University recently hosted the Lake Nipissing Research Conference, an opportunity to share ongoing research in the watershed and develop a strategic research plan for the lake. The conference grew out of, and will inform the Lake Nipissing Summit, which has been held each spring for the past three years. The conference featured a series of presentations including those by Kirsten Greer, Assistant Professor, Geography and History at Nipissing University, focused on Revisiting the Lake Nipissing Environment Map and remarks by April James, Canada Research Chair in Watershed Analysis and Modelling at Nipissing University. “Our goal is to improve our abilities, as researchers, to share and conduct research on Lake Nipissing and the larger watershed,” said Dr. James, who helped organize the conference. “The Spring Summit has been an important venue for a broad discussion of social, environmental and economic issues surrounding the lake. This conference was planned to be very research focussed. We hope to enhance communication on what research is ongoing and to prompt discussion on the development of a strategic research plan. We expect that simply getting to know what’s already going on in the watershed will facilitate new collaborations and partnerships.

Nipissing Recent News

UBC’s Bernard Momer questions Okanagan developer’s behaviour: A land developer in the Okanagan Valley could be heading to court to battle the regional district after being told his project fails to meet zoning requirements. A UBC prof is questioning the developer’s behaviour. “This [development] seems to be a little erratic in terms of, okay what exactly do you want to do? Last year, you wanted to do this, this year, you want to do that,” said Bernard Momer, an urban planning professor at UBC Okanagan.

UBC News
U Guelph geographers provide internet Christmas party entertainment: Each year at the University of Guelph Department of Geography Christmas party, they entertain each other with skits or songs. Check out the videos from this year: Faculty Staff video, PhD Silent movie, First year grads video, and second year grads vide. Geography News

Memorial U Geography welcomes economic geographer Cedric Brunelle: The Department of Geography is pleased to welcome Dr. Cedric Brunelle, an economic geographer, to Memorial University. Cedric's interest in economic geography was first inspired by his hometown of Marieville, Quebec which experienced an economic crisis in the 1990s. As Cedric observes, “Businesses were closing and unemployment was on the rise. Jobs would only be created in specific occupations, but why these particular ones? My hometown always reminds me that regional economies are in constant flux, with the possibility of rapid shifts occurring. Cedric completed a B.A. at Université de Québec à Montréal and University College London. He received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. from the Institut national de la recherche scientifique (INRS), with a focus on the spatial evolution of labour within the Canadian urban system from 1971 to 2006. Before joining Memorial, Cedric also completed a postdoctoral internship in Regional Development at Université de Québec à Rimouski, worked for the Policy, Research and Programs Division of Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions and spent time at the Spatial Analysis and Regional Economics Laboratory at INRS. “Newfoundland and Labrador is a great place to be an economic geographer” notes Cedric. “The fast development of the oil and mining industries creates a unique economic environment that sets the province as the perfect ‘test site’ for the study of businesses, labour, and regional development. I am very excited about the research opportunities that are emerging here.” Cedric plans to focus on the study of industrial organization, labour dynamics, regional development, entrepreneurship, and the resource economy. He explains, “I am interested in analyzing the long-term social and economic development of territories, the industrial restructuring of regions and the socioeconomic impacts of global industrial and technological changes. My longer term goal is to improve our understanding of the factors that ensure a resilient and sustainable economy in the province” Memorial Geography News

Are current environmental assessment processes protecting Canadians? UBC Geographer Kevin Hanna says B.C.’s system would get a “D” in his report card: Kevin Hanna, an associate professor of Geography in the Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences at UBC’s Okanagan campus, has been working with colleague Bram Noble, from the University of Saskatchewan, to evaluate the effectiveness of environmental assessment processes in Canada. “Not all of Canada’s EA systems are equal. The federal government and each of the provinces and territories have their own processes. I can’t say that B.C. has a particularly strong EA process. It certainly needs a substantial review and more than a few changes to ensure that environmental protection really is at the fore. If I were to give it a grade, it would be a D; it needs much improvement.” When as whether British Columbians be worried about the prospects of a major expansion of oil pipelines in Northern B.C., Kevin replies “Yes. But expanding an existing pipeline is a very different prospect from building a new one through an undeveloped or settled landscape. Expanding an existing route may entail fewer problems, potentially fewer impacts, and for a variety of reasons such projects tend to be less contentious with the public. And right now our capacity to respond to pipeline or tanker spills is not adequate. Industry and governments need to be transparent about accidents, less evasive or secretive when mistakes happen, and more open about their clean-up efforts or the difficulties they face when dealing with mishaps. Openness helps build trust”. UBC News

Trent U emeritus geographers Fred Helleiner and Alan Brunger still making headlines: Geography Professors Emeritus Fred Helleiner and Alan Brunger were recently featured in the Trent Hills Independent (pgs B5 & B11). Helleiner's new book For the Birds: Recollections and Rambles received a positive review. Brunger was featured in a story about his recent public lecture on Anti-Submarine Boats and the Trent-Severn Waterway for the Trent Hills Probus Club.
New in The Canadian Geographer


Guillaume Marois and Alain Bélanger. 2013. Déterminants de la migration résidentielle de la ville centre vers la banlieue dans la région métropolitaine de Montréal: Clivage linguistique et fuite des francophones. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12054.x

Markus Moos. 2013. “Generationed” space: Societal restructuring and young adults’ changing residential location patterns. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12052.x


Wei Li, Lucia Lo and Alex Oberle. 2013. The embeddedness of bank branch networks in immigrant gateways. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12062


Derek A. Smith, Kelly Vodden, Maureen Woodrow, Ahmed Khan and Bojan Fürst. 2013. The last generation? Perspectives of inshore fish harvesters from Change Islands, Newfoundland. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12053.x

Carlos Teixeira. 2013. Living on the “edge of the suburbs” of Vancouver: A case study of the housing experiences and coping strategies of recent immigrants in Surrey and Richmond. The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/j.1541-0064.2013.12055.x


Recent Theses and Dissertations

Jennifer Tina Henshaw. 2013. Influences of confluences on reach scale morphology of southern Ontario stream channel. Master of Science, Department of Geography, The University of Toronto. Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Joe Desloges

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers


Wanxia Ren, Bing Xue, Yong Geng, Lina Sun, Zhixiao Ma, Yunsong Zhang, Bruce Mitchell, and Liming Zhang. 2014. Inventorying heavy metal pollution in redeveloped brownfield and its policy contribution: Case study from Tiexi District, Shenyang, China. Land Use Policy 38:138–146.


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Other “Geographical” News

Whose name should go first? It’s time we had “The Talk”: No one looks forward to “The Talk.” It’s awkward. You’ve been dreading it, and chances are so has he or she. But if you keep avoiding it, the atmosphere at work is only going to get worse. The project may even fall apart entirely. The Talk is, of course, that important but often-postponed discussion between collaborators that outlines who will get credit for research outputs. Typically, this means whose names will appear in which order on the final research publication. Students often feel particularly vulnerable when it comes to The Talk. “There is no course on how to be a successful graduate student,” says Tim Bhatnagar, a PhD at the University of British Columbia, “only an awareness that publications are the currency of academia.” Without strong leadership from a supervisor, that awareness can heighten the tension, but it shouldn’t. Knowing how to broach the topic and discuss it openly with both students and senior academics can be the difference between a great project and a mistake you’ll vow never to repeat. There is no such thing as too early when it comes to discussing credit. There’s no academic gold standard for authorship and attribution. The amount of credit a student gets for a given project contribution can vary widely depending on the academic culture. For example, many engineers believe “last author” is the most prestigious, while most historians would take offence at seeing their name so close to the right-hand margin. If you are working with a colleague from another field, let them know the conventions in your area; building understanding will make it easier to negotiate terms that can make everyone happy. University Affairs

Vast undersea freshwater reserves discovered: Australian researchers said Thursday they had established the existence of vast freshwater reserves trapped beneath the ocean floor which could sustain future generations as current sources dwindle. Lead author Vincent Post, said that an estimated 500,000 cubic kilometers (120,000 cubic miles) of low-salinity water had been found buried beneath the seabed on continental shelves off Australia, China, North America and South Africa. DNews

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