



# GeogNews

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

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**U Waterloo Geography & Aviation student's idea takes flight with Jack Rosen Award:** The Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo came together to honour forward-thinking students at the 2014 Jack Rosen Memorial Award event. The competition called upon creative and innovative ideas that would prevent, mitigate or solve an environmental problem – ultimately paving the way to a more sustainable future. Creators of the top ten entries were invited to pitch their ideas Dragon's Den style to a panel of judges. First-year student Brieuc de Vuyst won the Grand Prize after presenting his idea to harness the take off energy of aircrafts. *Voler Vert* offers a more sustainable and environmentally friendly solution to powering the ground levels of airports like Pearson in Toronto. His plan to create turbines built low to the ground at the end of runways would save more than 25,000 kW of energy a year, also preserving bird migration. [UWaterloo Environment](#)

**U Regina's Emily Eaton on fracking and tar sands - twin threats to Saskatchewan water:** A workshop on "*Saskatchewan Oil Impacts*" was organized by oil industry researchers Emily Eaton, geography professor from Regina and political science professor Angela Carter from Waterloo. The workshop began with a presentation "From the Front Lines of Frackivism" by Elaine and Dan Thomas. The Thomas's are from Cochrane, Alberta, an area under siege from fracking. Their rural retirement home west of Calgary is surrounded by toxic flaring from fracked wells. Retired from the industry, Dan spoke of the industry's use of "speed, stealth and secrecy" to accomplish its goals. The Thomas's described how they have been largely powerless to deal with the assault by the oil industry while it has government processes and policies on its side. [No Nukes – Go Renewable Canada](#)

**Simon Fraser U's Nick Hedley and interactive tool showing PEI's eroding coastline:** A new geovisualization tool created by researchers at the University of Prince Edward Island and Simon Fraser University demonstrates the effects of erosion and sea-level rise on Prince Edward Island's coastline and the potential vulnerable areas in the future. The tool, Coastal Impact Visualization Environment, or CLIVE, is a collaborative research initiative connecting UPEI's Climate Research Lab with SFU's Spatial Interface Research Lab. CLIVE is great exemplar of a new generation of analytical geovisualization interfaces that make important scientific models engaging, interactive and navigable," said [Nick Hedley](#), director of SFU's Spatial Interface Research Lab. "CLIVE is one of the first public communication tools to enable citizens to interactively view historical evidence, current data, and predictive models of linked coastal impacts for an entire province. We hope that CLIVE will be informative for PEI's citizens and government, supporting constructive dialogue and planning to mitigate these threats." CLIVE demonstrates evidence of erosion that has already occurred and paints a troubling picture for the future of the Prince Edward Island coastline. [UPEI News](#)

**U Winnipeg's Ryan Smith wants you to build the biggest city you can, and then bleed it dry:**

University of Winnipeg geography professor Ryan Smith wants you to build the biggest city you can. And bleed it dry until every last resource is gone. In about an hour. For fun. The 29-year-old budding board game entrepreneur recently launched a Kickstarter campaign to get his board game CITY on store shelves everywhere. The money raised over the month-long campaign will go towards manufacturing and packaging the game. Smith says the concept for the game was hatched about a year ago when he and his sister came up with a cut-and-paste version of it. Smith has been refining it ever since. "I thought, 'What the heck? Let's see how far I can take this'," he said. "It took a long, long time developing the art and videos and everything. Basically, it's just been a long road to see how far I could actually take this, and it seems like pretty far if this thing goes through." He says the point of the game is for players to build the largest city possible before the resources run out. "Your goal is to consume everything as quickly as possible. You build little mines and factories and you log all the wood and farm all the fields and in that way you start collecting resources faster and faster. The game has acceleration to it. It starts kind of slow, but then everything picks up the pace. "Once the resources are gone, then that's it. Game over." Whoever has the biggest piece of the city wins. [Winnipeg Free Press](#)

**Royal Military College of Canada's Lubomyr Luciuk on Ukraine's unstoppable march toward Europe:**

This is not simply a question of geopolitics. It's cultural. Most Ukrainians want to live like other Europeans, in a society where civil liberties and human rights are respected, where democracy and the rule of law prevail. They have had enough of the corruption and nepotism of Viktor Yanukovych's regime. Overwhelmingly in 1991, they voted for Ukraine's independence. And in 2004, they came out in the millions for the Orange Revolution, protesting a fraudulent election, hoping democracy would take root in Ukraine. Their leaders betrayed them, proving to be only somewhat less debased but certainly no less venal than the man they removed, Viktor Yanukovych. Overwhelmingly in 1991, they voted for Ukraine's independence. And in 2004, they came out in the millions for the Orange Revolution, protesting a fraudulent election, hoping democracy would take root in Ukraine. Their leaders betrayed them, proving to be only somewhat less debased but certainly no less venal than the man they removed, Viktor Yanukovych. [Toronto Star](#)

**Concordia U's Damon Matthews finds seven nations responsible for more than 60% of pre-2005 global warming:**

An analysis completed under the leadership of Damon Matthews, an associate professor in the Department of Geography, Planning and Environment at Concordia University. In a straight ranking, the U.S. was then the leader, responsible for a global temperature increase of 0.15 C. That's close to 20 percent of the observed warming and matches the country's reliance on coal rather than the cleaner nuclear energy used in Europe and parts of Asia. Those numbers were also before outside impartial monitoring of China, when China was providing its own numbers for emissions. China and Russia accounted for around 8 percent each, Brazil and India 7 percent, and Germany and the U.K. around 5 percent each. Canada uses far less electricity than the U.S. per capita but is only in 10th place due to a smaller population, just after France and Indonesia. Brazil and Indonesia ranked so highly in this analysis because of carbon dioxide emissions related to deforestation. [Science 2.0](#)

**UBC's Associate Provost and geographer John Robinson answers four burning questions on sustainability at UBC:**

John Robinson is the Associate Provost, Sustainability at the University of British Columbia and is a professor with UBC's Institute for Resources, Environment & Sustainability and Department of Geography. Robinson is responsible for leading the integration of academic and operational sustainability on UBC's Vancouver campus. Robinson's research focuses on the intersection of climate change mitigation, adaptation and sustainability; sustainable buildings and urban design; the use of visualization, modelling, and citizen engagement to explore sustainable futures; creating partnerships for sustainability with the private, public, non-governmental and research sectors; and, generally, the intersection of sustainability, social and technological change, behaviour change, and community engagement processes. [McGill Reporter](#)

**Queen's U's Melanie Bedore on food insecurity:** Every day is a good day to consider initiatives that foster a more inclusive and sustainable food system. Dr. Melanie Bedore is an adjunct professor with the Queens University Department of Geography. She holds a doctorate in human geography and is a specialist in urban food systems and food access. Her doctoral work included studies on food insecurity locally and nationally through interviews and focus groups. "You qualify as food insecure if you fit the following attributes," said Bedore. "By not having enough food to eat because of lack of money; worrying that there won't be enough to eat because of lack of money; or identified as not eating the quality or variety of foods that you would like because of the lack of money." The argument is that there is enough food available in the world; the problem is distribution and excess in some areas. It's a complex topic-poverty is very real for many, not only overseas, but also in our community today. We need to provide community food shelters and be more innovative in our approach through education about food, cooking and preservation. Individuals should have access to food in an inclusive and sustainable way. [KingstonRegion.com](http://KingstonRegion.com)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nicholas Blomley. 2014. Chapter 46. Sidewalks. In: [The Routledge Handbook of Mobilities](#). Edited by Peter Adey, David Bissell, Kevin Hannam, Peter Merriman, Mimi Sheller.

Konrad Gajewski, Joan Bunbury, Mary Vetter, Nicole Kroeker and Amina H. Khan. 2014. [Paleoenvironmental Studies in Southwestern Yukon](#). Arctic.

Kenneth Hewitt. 2014. [Rock glaciers and related phenomena](#). In: Glaciers of the Karakoram Himalaya Advances in Asian Human-Environmental Research. Springer Netherlands. 267-289.

Maria Strack, Arnold Magnus Keith and Bin Xu. 2014. Growing season carbon dioxide and methane exchange at a restored peatland on the Western Boreal Plain. *Ecological Engineering* 64:231–239.

Cristina Temenos and Eugene McCann. 2014. Chapter 55. Policies. In: [The Routledge Handbook of Mobilities](#). Edited by Peter Adey, David Bissell, Kevin Hannam, Peter Merriman, Mimi Sheller.

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### Other "Geographical" News

**Possible Norse settlements in eastern Maine need to be explored:** Two of the Icelandic sagas, written in about 1250 A.D., describe the "sighting of a new land and settling of a place called Vinland." In the late 1800s the sagas were translated from Old Icelandic into Latin. European scholars first realized that the Viking explorer's description of Vinland most likely located it along the northeastern coast of North America. In 1906, the Vinland sagas were translated into English, and it became widespread knowledge that the Norse had discovered and established short-lived colonies in this place they called Vinland. Evidence is firm regarding the discovery of North America, but the details of Vinland's exact location remains a mystery even today. A researcher in the Middle Ages Division of the Danish National Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, suggests that there is a need to search northeastern coastal Maine for a settlement. Borns believes that the search needs to continue given the possibility that Reman was correct, and that eastern Maine was Vinland and that Leif Erickson explored and colonized the area for several years. In searching the coast of eastern Maine, Borns points out, it must be kept in mind that the land had submerged up to three feet since the year 1000 A.D., likely destroying much, if not all, of any Norse shoreline sites. [The Quoddy Tides](#)

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## Some not so “Geographical” News



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