



GeogNews

News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 290, February 18, 2014
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Nipissing U's April James featured at Research Matters forum: Nipissing's Dr. April James, Canada Research Chair in Watershed Analysis and Modeling, is speaking in Thunder Bay on March 4 as part of Research Matters, a joint project among Ontario's universities to build new bridges between university researchers and the broader public. James will speak as part of a panel of five researchers from different disciplines, from different universities and each with a different take on What Matters Now. April will be addressing the question "[Has Ontario reached a watershed moment?](#)". "Our watersheds are our lifelines," says April. "We all depend on our freshwater resources." The Nipissing University hydrologist researches how water moves through watersheds, from rainfall to the flow of streams, and recharges groundwater. James also looks at how all the decisions we make affect our water resources. It probably comes as no surprise that building power-generating dams and polluting rivers affect the greater watershed. But so does owning a house and making gardening or landscape decisions, she says. With increasing industrial development, James says the issues with water level and water quality become more and more important. "Our basic research on how a watershed functions has a direct line to how we control water levels, implement power generations and near-shore development, and contain contamination and pollutants," says James. "We need to understand our impact on watersheds to think about our future together". [Nipissing U News Room](#)

York U geographers monitoring carbon cycle and climate change in Arctic: York geography professors have been monitoring the carbon cycle – how carbon dioxide in the atmosphere cycles into plant matter, into ground water and into the ocean – in the Arctic for decades. "We seek to understand these processes because they are adding more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere," explains Arctic researcher [Suzanne Tank](#). "And that has a direct bearing on climate change and global warming." The scope of Tank's lab research is wide and deep, reflecting her own multidisciplinary credentials in ecology, environmental biology and aquatic biogeochemistry. [Rick Bello](#), a climatologist at York, has also been monitoring greenhouse gas emissions in the Arctic. He has been studying the spongy wet peatland of the Hudson Bay Lowlands for more than 30 years. Now the thaw is going deeper. "It's like we're taking carbon out of freezer and putting it on the counter," says Bello. [Kathy Young](#) is a hydrologist who has been studying snow cover in the High Arctic wetlands for about 20 years. One of her specialties is late-lying snow beds, ridges of snow so massive they sometimes endure for decades. Most of the High Arctic is polar desert, but there are a few oases. In recent years, Young has focused on one – Polar Bear Pass on Bathurst Island, Nunavut, where the late-lying snow beds are shrinking. But after the record-high temperatures of 2007, she was shocked to discover some had disappeared altogether. Record warm Arctic summers in 2011 and 2012 have only accelerated their deterioration. [YorkU Magazine](#)

U Guelph undergraduate superstar Áine Ganly: As an energetic student and community member, Áine Ganly is determined to challenge herself and the people around her. Like many of Guelph's geography students, Áine is passionate about the outdoors and the health of our planet. With an impressive canoeing resume including some of Quebec's best white water and a paddle across Canada's James Bay, Áine is passionate about increasing the accessibility of wilderness and experiential education programs for youth. Áine has felt honoured to speak about these issues to audiences at several events for the Deepwater Experiential Education Project (D.E.E.P). D.E.E.P is an organization that is very dear to her heart and shares her goals to increase diversity in youth wilderness programs and to promote the importance and accessibility of experiential education programs. [UGuelph Geography](#)

U Calgary PhD student Adela Kincaid on tensions over Alberta's wild horses: They galloped along hillsides freely during the days of the wild west, but an Alberta program allowing the trapping of "feral" horses has animal protection groups kicking up a storm. The province is permitting the capture of up to 200 free roaming horses in an area west and northwest of Calgary. The province, which has taken these steps in previous years, says it's allowing the capture for several reasons including public safety, as horses are getting onto area highways. But horse protection groups are calling the program a "cull" arguing that the trappers will simply take the "easiest route" — sending the horses out for slaughter. "They (trappers) just (put) them in a trailer and away they go to the meat barn . . ." says, Bob Henderson, president of the Wild Horses of Alberta Society, a preservation group that tried to stop the province from launching the trapping program this year. The tension has been an ongoing story in the province for decades, says Adela Kincaid, a PhD candidate in the University of Calgary's geography department who wrote a paper entitled: "Wild or Feral? Historical and biological consideration of free roaming horses in Alberta." She notes the horses have been living in the Alberta wilderness for about 100 years, and derive from an ancient bloodline, as well as from horses used in colonizing North America. In the 1920s, there were attempts to round up the horses, but those failed. Kincaid began studying the subject years ago after her parents saw a stallion while driving in Alberta. "It came at them and they stopped at the side of the road. They told me it looked and behaved strangely and it wasn't wearing horseshoes. I always thought there were just domestic horses around there. I didn't think there were any wild horses. That's what prompted me to become interested in them," she says. [Thespec.com](#)



The Department of Geography at Brock University is hosting the 2014 annual conference and meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, May 26-30, 2014. For more information, please refer to the [conference webpage](#) where new information is posted on this site as it becomes available.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- L. Barwin, E. Crighton, M. Shawande and L. Veronis. 2013. [Teachings around self-care and medicine gathering in Manitoulin Island, Ontario: Rebuilding capacity begins with youth](#). Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health 11:323-344.
- Betsy Donald, Amy Glasmeier, Mia Gray and Linda Lobao. 2014. [Austerity in the city: economic crisis and urban service decline?](#) Cambridge Journal Regions, Economy and Society. 7:3-15.
- Finola Hackett, Lea Berrang Ford, Eric Fèvre and Pere Simarro. 2014. [Incorporating scale dependence in disease burden estimates: the case of human African trypanosomiasis in Uganda](#). PLOS. DOI:10.1371/journal.pntd.0002704
- Bruce Mitchell, Charles Priddle, Dan Shrubsole, Barbara Veale and Dan Walters. 2014. [Integrated water resource management: lessons from conservation authorities in Ontario, Canada](#). International Journal of Water Resources Development. DOI:10.1080/07900627.2013.876328
- Michele-Lee Moore, Suzanne von der Porten, Ryan Plummer, Oliver Brandes and Julia Baird. 2014. [Water policy reform and innovation: A systematic review](#). Environmental Science & Policy. doi.org/10.1016/j.envsci.2014.01.007
- Xiaohui Li, Yunshan Lian and Jingyuan Zhao. 2013. [Internationalization strategies of Chinese pharmaceutical firms](#). International Journal of Asian Business and Information Management. DOI:10.4018/ijabim.2013100103
- Daniel H. Olsen. 2013. [A scalar comparison of motivations and expectations of experience within the religious tourism market](#). International Journal of Religious Tourism and Pilgrimage 1:42-61.
- Norma M. Rantisi. 2014. [Gendering fashion, fashioning fur: on the \(re\)production of a gendered labor market within a craft industry in transition](#). Environment and Planning D: Society and Space. doi:10.1068/d19211
- G. Sutherland, L.E. Chasmer, R.M. Petrone, N. Kljun and K.J. Devito. 2014. [Evaluating the use of spatially varying vs. bulk average 3D vegetation structural inputs to modelled evapotranspiration within heterogeneous land cover types](#). Ecohydrology. DOI:10.1002/eco.1477
- Benita Y. Tam and William A. Gough. 2013. [Psychological distress and seasonal affective disorder among urban aboriginal participants](#). Pimatisiwin: A Journal of Aboriginal and Indigenous Community Health 11:457-469.
- Kevin W. Turner, Thomas W. D. Edwards and Brent B. Wolfe. 2014. [Characterising runoff generation processes in a lake-rich thermokarst landscape \(Old Crow Flats, Yukon, Canada\) using \$\delta^{18}O\$, \$\delta^2H\$ and d-excess measurements](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1802
- Sarah E. Turner, Linda M. Fedigan, H. Damon Matthews and Masayuki Nakamichi. 2014. [Social consequences of disability in a nonhuman primate](#). Journal of Human Evolution. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2014.01.002
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Recent Theses and Dissertations

Taylor Kylen Hamilton. 2013. [Effects of topography on the spatial variation of landcover diversity and distribution in a prairie sandhill ecosystem](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta. Supervisor: Chris Hugenholtz

Georg Sutherland. 2013. [Using LiDAR-Derived information on the vegetation canopy structure to scale ET estimates beyond the tower footprint in the Western Boreal Plains, Alberta, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario.

Other “Geographical” News

Want admission to Western? Don’t Tweet this: A high school student applying for advanced entry to the very competitive program at the University of Western Ontario didn’t seem to understand that Twitter is a public forum when she announced last month that, “this ively application makes me want to projectile vomit into the head of admission’s mouth.” The recruiting manager was looking for Tweets from students with application questions when she saw the missive from DJ PU\$\$ PU\$\$, as the applicant is known on Twitter, and responded that the comment was “Duly noted.” The value of one’s reputation should be obvious but many students fail to understand that everything they post online has the potential to damage their careers, just as it damaged DJ PU\$\$ PU\$\$’ chance of getting into Ivey. Students often learn the hard way that swear words, racist jokes and sexist comments are simply unacceptable at universities and in workplaces. [Macleans.ca](#)

Why open access should be a key issue for university leaders: Our universities were built from the principles of scarcity and closure: restricted access to libraries; special knowledge that could only be passed on in the lecture theatre; closed communities of scholarship. Today we are drowning in digital information, available almost everywhere via interfaces and cheap devices that know where we are. Learning and teaching is about making sense of this bewildering open world, with all its opportunities and its increasing dangers.. [The Guardian](#)

Why can’t we see the teaching evaluations? Jemma Wolfe had been dreaming about taking a Master University’ course ever since she read about it in a brochure when she was in high school. But this story does not have a happy ending. She says the professor wasted time sorting out technical problems, only to show the class irrelevant YouTube videos. She let students ramble on, and showed up late. At least three times, hundreds of students sat in a lecture hall until a notice reading, “Sorry, can’t make it,” popped up on their class website. So Jemma decided to express her dissatisfaction on the official teacher evaluation so the professor might benefit from the feedback and the prof’s superiors would know about the problems. Wolfe thinks that data, often seen only by professors and sometimes administrators, should be shared so that students can avoid poor instructors and seek out the best. It’s not the first time it has come up. [Macleans.ca](#)

Global warming: Warning against abrupt stop to geoengineering method (if started): As a range of climate change mitigation scenarios are discussed, researchers have found that the injection of sulfate particles into the atmosphere to reflect sunlight and curb the effects of global warming could pose a severe threat if not maintained indefinitely and supported by strict reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. According to the study, global temperature increases could more than double if SRM is implemented for a multi-decadal period of time and then suddenly stopped, in relation to the temperature increases expected if SRM was not implemented at all. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

Dehydrated beer: Yes, you read that correctly, and your dreams may have just come true. Thanks to [Pat's Backcountry Beverages](#), you can enjoy a pint of pale ale or black IPA after carrying just a tiny 50ml packet of beer concentrate in your backpack. Nothing easy is worth doing, so they say, and reconstituting the beer is a bit of a process. But it will be worth the effort as you watch the sun set in the middle of nowhere while enjoying your bubbly cold one.



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