



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Carleton U's Chris Burn and the case of the 200-year-old typo: A Carleton University professor is certain a misplaced letter on a nearly 200-year-old map has resulted in a point on the Yukon coast being incorrectly labelled. Chris Burn is asking the government to change that. The question surrounds Calton Point, a spot on the territory's coast that extends towards the southeastern corner of Herschel Island. Or maybe that's Catton Point - with two Ts. Therein lies the problem. To try and decode which spelling was correct, Burn - an expert on Herschel Island with the university's geography and environmental studies department - started looking at other accounts of the area. "Once I started to look at the journals of other people who had travelled along the coast in the 19th century, some of them used one word and some of them used the other," he said. The first edition of Canada's Topographic System Map from 1962 had the two Ts found in Franklin's text. But later that same year, the Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names sided with the L on the original map. It has been that way ever since. According to Burn's research, Catton was an astronomer and one of the first members of the Astronomical Society in 1820. Catton was a teacher at St. John's College, where John Herschel was a student. Catton likely taught Herschel astronomy, Burn said. "When Franklin put Catton Point, he put it pointing at Herschel Island. He connected the two people in proximity because they had been closely associated with each other," Burn said. Lastly, Burn argues, Catton had been made a fellow of the Royal Society very shortly before Franklin himself received the same honour. [Yukon News](#)

Memorial U's Rodolphe Devillers argues marine-protected areas tend to be leftovers from extractive uses: A paper co-authored by Memorial University's Dr. Rodolphe Devillers and an international group of researchers argues that established global marine protected areas (MPAs) are too often a case of all show with no substance and do not adequately protect the most vulnerable areas of the world's oceans. "There is a big pressure internationally to expand global MPA coverage from around three per cent of the oceans to 10 per cent, resulting in a race from countries to protect large and often unused portions of their territorial waters for a minimal political cost," said Dr. Devillers. "Marine protected areas are the cornerstone of marine conservation but we are asking whether picking low hanging fruits really makes a difference in the long-term, or if smaller areas currently under threat should be protected before, or at the same time as, those larger areas that are relatively inaccessible and therefore less used by people. "We need to stop measuring conservation success in terms of square kilometres," he added. "The real measure of conservation progress, on land or in the sea, is how much biodiversity we save from threatening processes. Metrics such as square kilometres or percentages of jurisdictions are notoriously unreliable in telling us about the true purpose of protected areas." Dr. Devillers and his colleagues argue that the global pattern of MPAs appears to favour residual places – those with the least promise for commercial uses. Protection is therefore not provided to species and ecosystems that are most susceptible to threatening processes. [Today.MUN.ca](#)

U Ottawa's Jackie Dawson's research examines ice melt impact on Northwest Passage: Talking to Inuit elders in Pond Inlet or Gjoa Haven, Nunavut, is one way uOttawa Associate Professor Jackie Dawson conducts climate change research. Canada's far north is increasingly ice-free and, over the past 10 years, Dawson, of the Faculty of Art's Department of Geography and Institute for Science, Society and Policy, has travelled as far as 78.8 degrees north to research the impact on humans of sea ice melt. Dawson says the research, which also involves Associate Professor Luke Copland, a University research chair in ice dynamics and cryospheric changes in northern Canada, combines the physical science of monitoring sea ice melt with the social sciences. With help from master's student Larissa Pizzolato, a recent study led by the department, published in the January edition of the journal [Climate Change](#), examined whether sea ice melt is leading to increased shipping traffic in the Northwest Passage. Although the study concludes that evidence of a direct link is weak, shipping traffic has increased, especially since 2007, and there is evidence of the shipping season getting longer. [uOttawa Gazette](#)

U Regina's Dave Sauchyn on Alberta flood season: As residents of flood-damaged communities continue to deal with fallout from last June's disaster, the fast-approaching spring melt has many feeling nervous. It is too early to know if this will be another high-risk year in southern Alberta — and the uncertainty has flood victims fearful of another deluge. With the beginning of spring only a month away, the province is busy collecting snowpack data in the mountains. The information offers a monthly snapshot and is one of a handful of criteria used to predict the potential for flooding. According to David Sauchyn, a researcher with the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, there are many wet years ahead for Alberta and scientific evidence suggests that floods tend to be grouped together over time. But as Albertans cast a wary eye on the approaching flood season — one year after the worst disaster in the province's history — Infrastructure Minister Ric McIver said he's satisfied that communities are as adequately prepared as they can be given the circumstances. [Calgary Herald](#)

Memorial U's PhD student Carly Spornski helps design an experiential coyote education program called Sharing Space: Living with Coyotes: Coyotes and coyote management is a hot topic in Atlantic Canada. This species dispersed naturally into this region in the 1970s landed on the island portion of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador in the 1980s. Coyotes and other carnivore species ignite our imaginations and can polarize our beliefs, attitudes and preferences of acceptable management practices. The fact is that coyotes are here to stay so the question really is how do we learn to coexist with this dynamic and adaptable species? Education programs promoting understanding and safety measures when encountering animals is one of the main methods to advocate coexistence. Carly Spornski, a geography PhD student (ABD) supervised by Dr. Alistair Bath (MUN) and Dr. Jerry Vaske (CSU), and Dr. TA Loeffler, from the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at MUN, designed an experiential coyote education program called Sharing Space: Living with Coyotes. Sharing Space was created to target attitudes, risk perceptions and preventative measures that would enable people to feel more comfortable in situations where coyotes are present. The research was conducted near Cape Breton Highlands National Park of Canada (CBHNPC), where a coyote caused a human fatality in 2009. Based on previous research on human-coyote interactions in the park, they explored the effects of an experience-based coyote education program on people's (a) attitudes toward, (b) fear of, (c) likelihood of, and (d) control over coming into contact with coyotes. A pre-post-test comparison this past Fall (2013) was conducted during 20 public education sessions in local communities. The experiential education approach to wildlife safety and coexistence communication had a significant positive effect on people's attitudes and significantly decreased their sense of fear toward coyotes. The program also significantly decreased their sense of likelihood of incident and significantly increased their sense of control over coming into contact with coyotes in their yard and in the park. Effective experiential education programming helps ensure that appropriate messages are getting through to the target audiences. [MUN Geography](#)

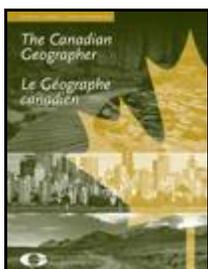
UBC's Geraldine Pratt takes "Nanay" to the Philippines: When Geraldine Pratt, Caleb Johnston and May Farrales arrived at their hotel in Manila on November 9th, there was a big banner welcoming the UBC Geography department. Indeed taking the play Nanay to the Philippines was a large UBC production. Caleb (former UBC Masters and Ph.D. student, now a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh) and Gerry had obtained a SSHRC Public Outreach grant to bring the play that they have created from Gerry's research interviews on Canada's Live-in Caregiver Program to the Philippines. The play was performed at the impressive PETA Theatre Centre in Quezon City in Manila. May Farrales, currently a Ph.D. student in the department, participated as a research assistant and worked hard to create an audience that included a range of migrant organisations, government representatives and family members of women working as domestic workers in Vancouver, among others. May and Teihard Paradela helped to co-facilitate. The director, Alex Ferguson, is currently completing a Ph.D. in Directing in the Theatre department at UBC. Vanessa Banta, was recently accepted into a Ph.D. program in Geography and is currently on faculty at UP-Diliman. [UBC Geographer](#)

McMaster U's Altaf Arain leads NSERC-funded project quantifying the response of Canadian forests to climate change, extreme weather events and management activities: A recently NSERC-funded project led by Altaf Arain, director of the McMaster Centre for Climate Change – is particularly timely, given the latest wallop of weather and the resulting severe damage to tree canopies across the country. Arain is leading a project with collaborators from local, provincial and federal conservation services, the University of Toronto and McMaster colleagues Joe Boyce and Paulin Coulibaly on a project titled Quantifying the response of Canadian forests to climate change, extreme weather events and management activities. "Forest ecosystems cover about 40 per cent of Canada's surface area and represent an important sector of our economy," says Arain, a professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, "It's more than just wood and lumber – forests have a big impact on our water resources and our environment. This research will improve our understanding of forest carbon and water cycles, sensitivity to climate change, and extreme weather events that can range from drought, to freezing and thaw in one year alone. [McMaster Daily News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Yuestas David. 2014. Using field measured parameters with the SWAT hydrological model to quantify runoff at the sub-watershed level. MSc thesis. Department of Geography, York University, Toronto, Ontario. Co-supervisors: Tarmo K. Rimmel and André Robert. [Nominated for a thesis prize].

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



David W. Edgington. 2014. [Patterns and organization of Japanese tourism in Canada: 1960–2010](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12083

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Frederick Ato Armah. 2014. [Relationship between coliform bacteria and water chemistry in groundwater within gold mining environments in Ghana](#). Water Quality, Exposure and Health. DOI:10.1007/s12403-014-0110-1
- Teresa J. Didiano, Nash E. Turley, Georg Everwand, Hanno Schaefer, Michael J. Crawley and Marc T. J. Johnson. 2014. [Experimental test of plant defense evolution in four species using long-term rabbit enclosures](#). Journal of Ecology. DOI: 10.1111/1365-2745.12227
- Gwenn E. Flowers, Luke Copland and Christian G. Schoof. 2014. [Contemporary glacier processes and global change: Recent observations from Kaskawulsh Glacier and the Donjek Range, St. Elias Mountains](#). Arctic.
- Jan Franssen, Michel Lapointe and Pierre Magnan. 2014. [Geomorphic controls on fine sediment reinfiltration into salmonid spawning gravels and the implications for spawning habitat rehabilitation](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2013.12.019
- Congsheng Fu, April L. James and Huaxia Yao. 2014. [SWAT-CS: Revision and testing of SWAT for Canadian Shield catchments](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.02.023
- Jonathan Gerber, Sarah Turner and B. Lynne Milgram. 2014. [Food provisioning and wholesale agricultural commodity chains in northern Vietnam](#). Human Organization 73:50-61.
- Alemu Gonsamo and Jing M. Chen. 2014. [Continuous observation of leaf area index at Fluxnet-Canada sites](#). Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 189–190:168–174.
- Bailiang Li and Cheryl McKenna Neuman. 2014. [A wind tunnel study of aeolian sediment transport response to unsteady winds](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2014.02.010
- Ryan J. MacDonald, Sarah Boon and James M. Byrne. 2014. [A process-based stream temperature modelling approach for mountain regions](#). Journal of Hydrology. doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2014.02.009
- Barbara J. McNicol and Romella S. Glorioso. 2014. [Second home leisure landscapes and retirement in the Canadian Rocky Mountain community of Canmore, Alberta](#). Annals of Leisure Research. DOI:10.1080/11745398.2014.885845
- Thomas A. Okey, Hussein M. Alidina, Veronica Lo and Sabine Jessen. 2014. [Effects of climate change on Canada's Pacific marine ecosystems: a summary of scientific knowledge](#). Reviews in Fish Biology and Fisheries. DOI:10.1007/s11160-014-9342-1
- Rebecca Pero and Harrison Smith. 2014. [In the "service" of migrants: the temporary resident biometrics project and the economization of migrant labor in Canada](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2013.875804
- Ali Sarhadi, Richard Kelly and Reza Modarres. 2014. [Snow water equivalent time series forecasting in Ontario, Canada, in link to large atmospheric circulations](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10184

D. Scott, R. Steiger, M. Ruty and Johnson. 2014. [The future of the Olympic Winter Games in an era of climate change](#). Current Issues in Tourism. DOI:10.1080/13683500.2014.887664

H. Yao, N.R. Samal, K.D. Joehnk, X. Fang, L.C. Bruce, D.C. Pierson, J.A. Rusak and A. James. 2014. [Comparing ice and temperature simulations by four dynamic lake models in Harp Lake: past performance and future predictions](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10180

Other “Geographical” News

Humans may have been stuck on Bering Strait for 10,000 years: The ancestors of Native Americans may have lived on and around the Bering Strait for about 10,000 years before streaming into the Americas, researchers argue. In the new Perspectives article, researchers compile existing data to support the idea, known as the Beringia standstill hypothesis. Among that evidence is genetic data showing that founding populations of Native Americans diverged from their Asian ancestors more than 25,000 years ago. In addition, land in the region of the Bering Strait teemed with grasses to support big game (for food) and woody shrubs to burn in the cold climate, supporting a hard-scrabble existence for ancient people. Given the hypothesis, archaeologists should look in regions of Alaska and the Russian Far East for traces of these ancient people's settlements, the authors argue. [DNews](#)

Big thaw projected for Antarctic sea ice: Ross Sea will reverse current trend, be largely ice free in summer by 2100: A new modeling study suggests that a recent observed increase in summer sea-ice cover in Antarctica's Ross Sea is likely short-lived, with the area projected to lose more than half its summer sea ice by 2050 and more than three quarters by 2100. These changes will significantly impact marine life in what is one of the world's most productive and unspoiled marine ecosystems. [ScienceDaily](#)

Report: students caught cheating at Saskatchewan universities: A CBC study of Canadian universities shows Saskatchewan is in the middle of the pack when it comes to academic cheating. During the 2011-2012 academic year, 74 students at the University of Regina were brought before formal panels to face charges of academic dishonesty. That same year, 63 cases were heard at the University of Saskatchewan. That places both schools behind Ottawa's Carleton University, the school with the highest number of charges, but ahead of schools like the University of British Columbia. While the proportion of cheating students is fairly low, both Saskatchewan universities say they know about the problem, and are doing their best to combat it. [Universities News](#)

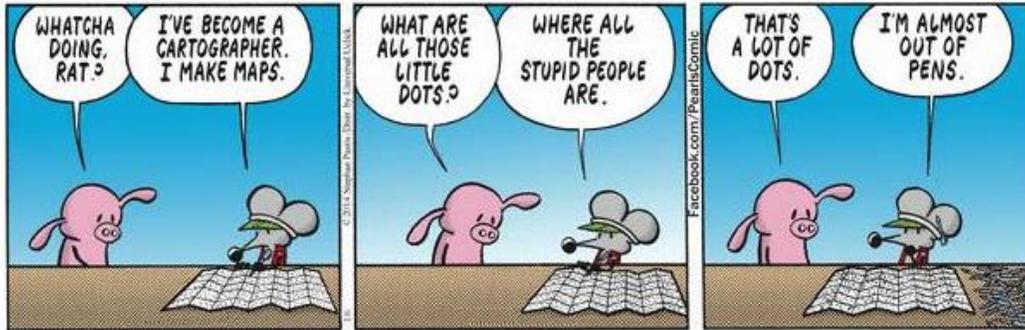


WDCAG 2014

Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

Don't miss out: The Geography Department at the University of Victoria is hosting the [Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#), March 7 and 8, 2014. CAG President [Jean Andrey](#) will address the banquet on Saturday night.

Some not so “Geographical” News



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