



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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U Waterloo's Mike Stone among recipients of Excellence in Water Stewardship Award: Canada's Premiers today announced the recipients of the [Excellence in Water Stewardship Award](#), a highlight of Canada Water Week. With one winner announced from each of the Canadian Provinces - a team, including Geography and Environmental Management researcher [Mike Stone](#), from [The Southern Rockies Watershed Project](#) (SRWP) has been selected for the province of Alberta. His research interests are broadly related to the study of land use change and its impacts on sediment transport dynamics and water quality in both natural and built environments. For the past nine years he has been a member of the SRWP research team. SRWP was established to rigorously examine the effects of wildfire on hydrology, water quality, stream health and the downstream implications of this disturbance to water treatment. His current research is designed quantify and model the impacts of contemporary forest harvesting strategies on sediment and associated nutrient transport dynamics. This research will enable land managers to select harvesting strategies to manage wildfire risks while potentially mitigating downstream propagation of sediment and associated nutrients. The Excellence in Water Stewardship Award is presented to community groups, businesses, partnerships, and institutions recognizes outstanding achievement, innovative practice and leadership in the area of water stewardship. [Waterloo Environment](#)

UNBC geographers travel to Victoria to attend CAG Western Division meeting: Jim Windsor led another successful UNBC trip to the Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (WDCAG) last weekend, to the University of Victoria. The UNBC contingent included 4 faculty members (Zoë Meletis, Catherine Nolin, Roger Wheate, and Jim Windsor), 4 graduate students, 9 undergraduate students, and 1 alumnus. Undergraduate student Blake Hawkins presented the paper "This is My Piece of Heaven: Using Content Analysis to Understand Concerns over a Proposed Women's Recovery Centre", and co-organized a salon style session called "Engaging in feminist geography", with Pamela Moss from UVic. Catherine Nolin presented a paper co-authored with UNBC student Ysler GiullianaTamblyn (MA, International Studies): "Is Resource Extraction a Curse or Bonanza for Local Communities? A Case Study: Quiruvilca, Peru". MNRES graduate students presented the following papers: Talaat Baakri (Peter Jackson) presented "Synoptic-scale Analysis for Number of Gap Winds in the Coast of British Columbia", Tony (Tejinder) Dhaliwal (Zoë Meletis) presented "Thinking outside of the blue box: Considering Sikh participation in and perceptions of recycling in Abbotsford, BC", and Cherise Chrispen (Zoë Meletis) presented "Thinking closer to home: Considering consumption-related beliefs and behaviours of North American sea turtle conservation practitioners". Cherise won the Ineke Dijks Award for the Best MA/MSc Oral Presentation. [NRESi Weekly News](#)

UNBC's Phil Owens and Ellen Petticrew back from Santa Barbara sabbatical: Phil Owens and Ellen Petticrew recently returned from their sabbatical at the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California - Santa Barbara; and yes, it was a shock to adjust to the Prince George winter. They had an enjoyable and productive time interacting with faculty and students at UCSB. The Bren School is built around a professional Master's degree in environmental science and management that is aimed to be a terminal degree, with students then moving on to careers in government, companies etc. Courses at Bren include policy, law and communication, as well as those addressing science. Similar to the environmental engineering program at UNBC, the students complete a large project based on suggestions from local communities and companies, and students then present findings back to these organizations. Faculty at Bren primarily teach into the master's program but most also have active research programs and PhD students. Ellen and Phil gave research presentations at the Bren School and at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography at UC-San Diego. They plan to develop further these collaborations with UCSB and UCSD faculty, including an application to the European Union for an EU-North America exchange on the development and application of Bayesian mixing models for tracing inorganic and organic sediment in the environment.

WDCAG 2014 was awesome: UVic student Wendy Anthony has posted a couple of slides shows of WDCAG events as news items on the conference website. Check out the SNIDCEL (Tod Inlet) Field Trip with Earl Claxton Jr. and the WDCAG Conference Highlights Slide Show at [WDCAG 2014](#)

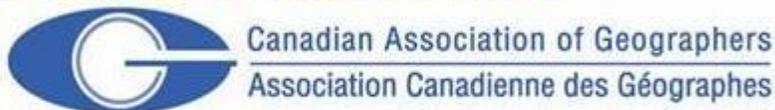
McMaster U's Altaf Arain on how climate warming leads to longer cold snaps: Climate-change skeptics -- and everyone else in Canada -- had better bundle up. Research shows extended cold snaps like we've seen this winter could be a direct result of climate change. However, news-story commenters and TV pundits have often mused about how it's possible a warming Earth could produce record lows. The sort of confusion we've seen in the public around this issue belies a misunderstanding of the difference between climate and weather, said Dr. Altaf Arain, director of the McMaster Centre for Climate Change in Hamilton, Ont. He thinks people tend to look at their local weather for evidence of climate change, when really it's the global average that shows the trend. "When people see one month of extreme cold, they say 'What happened to global warming?'" said Arain, a professor in McMaster University's School of Geography and Earth Sciences. "But if you look globally, it's -23 C in our region, but in Australia, in Europe the temperatures are much warmer than usual." He supports the Rutgers research, and adds that reduced Arctic sea ice and extended weather periods have both been studied extensively. The theory that a weakened jet stream explains longer weather patterns is the "most plausible explanation that we have," he told CTVNews.ca on Wednesday. The Earth is understood to be warming at about .1 to .2 degrees Celsius per decade, a pattern that holds true even when certain climates face cold snaps, he said. Arain pointed at droughts in California and floods in England, happening at the same time as our extreme weather. "If we look at Ontario and Eastern Canada, we will see a cooler year. But on the global scale, these lower temperatures might not have much impact. We were -20 C while other places are 10 or 20 degrees higher than usual. It will be very interesting to see our global (average) temperature for 2014." [CTV News](#)

York University Geography Alumni Association March 2014 Newsletter: The most recent issue of the alumni newsletter 'Contour Lines' contains a message from Department Chair Steven Tufts, a recounting of the many undergraduate awards offered by the department, a profile of Ross Hunter Paterson Award Stephanie Scardellato, a reflection on MA student Joseph Elrod killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul, an item that reviews the six graduate students were granted Ph.D. geography degrees in 2013, a description of events at the GAA's annual general meeting, and contributions from: PhD candidate Katie McDonald on savannah traditions and territories; and MSc Candidate Gayla Weeks on a field season spent in the Mackenzie Delta; BA Candidate Laura Paskevics exploring the Mimico lakeshore; MA Candidate Daniel Evans on English football fans and the globalization of "Their" game. And much more.... Download a copy of [Contour Lines](#) and read all the stories.

@CanGeographers Weekly

CAGList subscribers may have noticed the publication and receipt in their mailboxes of a message pointing them toward the [@CanGeographers Weekly](#) newsletter. The contents of the newsletter are compiled from Tweets sent out on the Canadian Association of Geographers twitter feed [@CanGeographers](#). For Twitter aficionados the weekly compilation provides a handy summary of postings over the past week. For anyone not Twitter-friendly, the weekly newsletter provides access to items and links related to Canadian geography, as well as other 'geographical' tweets. Note that CAGList subscribers will automatically receive [@CanGeographers Weekly](#) – so no need to subscribe. Non-CAGList subscribers are invited to subscribe directly where indicated on the newsletter. Check out the most recent issue of [@CanGeographers Weekly](#)

[Communications from the CAG Executive...](#)



[Communications du comité exécutif de l'ACG...](#)

The Canadian Association of Geographers has released the latest communication newsletter Volume 20(1) from the CAG Executive. Featured is the final President's Column from Jean Andrey and a column focused on the question "What is The Canadian Federation of Earth Sciences". [CAG Communications](#)

[CAG 2014: Upcoming Deadlines](#)

March 31, 2014 (Early-bird Registration): If you are interested in participating in CAG 2014, you must register for both Congress and CAG. Instructions on how to register are available online at: [registration](#). If you would like to avoid late fees, please register before March 31, 2014. Once you have registered online, you can sign up for the banquet and/or a field trip by completing the CAG 2014 field trip and banquet participation form (also found online at: [registration](#)).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jeffrey W. Cable, John M. Kovacs, Xianfeng Jiao and Jiali Shang. 2014. [Agricultural monitoring in northeastern Ontario, Canada, using multi-temporal polarimetric RADARSAT-2 data](#). Remote Sensing 6:2343-2371.

Alice Cohen and James McCarthy. 2014. [Reviewing rescaling. Strengthening the case for environmental considerations](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132514521483

Paul Cottle, Kevin Strawbridge and Ian McKendry. 2014. [Long-range transport of Siberian wildfire smoke to British Columbia: lidar observations and air quality impacts](#). Atmospheric Environment. doi.org/10.1016/j.atmosenv.2014.03.005

Christina Goldhar, Trevor Bell and Johanna Wolf. 2014. [Vulnerability to freshwater changes in the Inuit settlement region of Nunatsiavut, Labrador: a case study from Rigolet](#). Arctic 67.

Sookuk Park and Stanton Tuller Stanton E. 2014. [Advanced view factor analysis method for radiation exchange](#). International Journal of Biometeorology 58:161-178.

Sookuk Park, Stanton E. Tuller and Myunghee Joc. 2014. [Application of Universal Thermal Climate Index \(UTCI\) for microclimatic analysis in urban thermal environments](#). Landscape and Urban Planning 125:146–155.

Alexandra Pedersen. 2014. [Landscapes of resistance: community opposition to Canadian mining operations in Guatemala](#). Journal of Latin American Geography 13:187-214.

Michelle Stone, Kristian Larsen, Guy E.J. Faulkner, Ron N. Buliung, Kelly P. Arbour-Nicitopoulos and Jennifer Lay. 2014. [Predictors of driving among families living within 2 km from school: Exploring the role of the built environment](#). Transport Policy 33:8–16.

C.C. Treat, W.M. Wollheim, R.K. Varner, A.S. Grandy, J. Talbot and S. Frolking. 2014. [Temperature and peat type control CO₂ and CH₄ production in Alaskan permafrost peats](#). Global Change Biology. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.12572

A. Tamminga, C. Hugenholtz, B. Eaton and M. Lapointe. 2014. [Hyperspatial remote sensing of channel reach morphology and hydraulic fish habitat using an unmanned aerial vehicle \(UAV\): a first assessment in the context of river research and management](#). River Research and Applications. DOI: 10.1002/rra.2743

Qiuxiang Yi, Guli Jiapaer, Jingming Chen, Anming Bao and Fumin Wang. 2014. [Different units of measurement of carotenoids estimation in cotton using hyperspectral indices and partial least square regression](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 91:72–84.

Other “Geographical” News

Social sciences & humanities can help solve the climate crisis: The science around human-caused climate change has never been more precise or more certain – so why do we continue to drag our heels and delay making the changes needed to slow global warming? One answer speaks to the fact that an exclusive focus on advancements in climate models and technological solutions is simply not enough to achieve sustainable planet living and avoid dangerous anthropogenic climate change. We need to change the way we do things, as individuals, as businesses and as a society in general. This requires rethinking how we tackle the challenge of climate change. A first step is to pay attention to the insights given to us by the social sciences and humanities in both defining and resolving questions of sustainability. [PICS Newsletter](#)

Mountains and Mountaineering in the Pacific Northwest: This website acts as a portal for digital resources about mountains and mountaineering in Special Collections at the University of Washington. The digitized materials represent only a small part of the materials Special Collections has on mountaineering and related subjects. [U Washington Libraries](#)

30 ideas for teaching writing: The National Writing Project's 30 Ideas for Teaching Writing offers successful strategies contributed by experienced Writing Project teachers. Since NWP does not promote a single approach to teaching writing, readers will benefit from a variety of eclectic, classroom-tested techniques. [National Writing Project](#)

Saskatchewan budget commits 2% average funding increases for PSE institutions: The Saskatchewan budget for 2014, tabled this week, provides a 3.7% increase over 2013 for higher education. The increase includes a \$12.3-million increase in operating funds, with an average 2% going to universities, federated and affiliated colleges, technical institutes, and regional colleges, and a \$19.8-million direct investment going towards First Nations and Métis education. PSE institutions will also be given \$134 million towards scholarship and financial assistance programs, \$32.6 million in capital investments, and several grants for research projects. [Saskatchewan News Release](#)

Global food trade can alleviate water scarcity: International trade of food crops led to freshwater savings worth 2.4 billion US-Dollars in 2005 and had a major impact on local water stress. Trading food involves the trade of virtually embedded water used for production, and the amount of that water depends heavily on the climatic conditions in the production region. [ScienceDaily](#)

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>
