



GeogNews

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Memorial U PhD candidate Carly Sponarski working with park visitors Cape Breton Highlands National Park to reduce human-coyote interactions: In 2009 Canadian folksinger Taylor Mitchell was attacked and killed by coyotes in Cape Breton Highlands National Park. She was the second person and first adult in North America to be the victim of a fatal coyote attack. Over the last three years, PhD candidate Carly Sponarski has spent a total of 12 months living in Chéticamp, N.S., working directly with park visitors and area residents to understand their values, attitudes and behaviour regarding human-coyote interactions and to reduce any potential future attacks. Ms. Sponarski led 20 sessions with local residents where participants were given informational brochures to distribute to their communities. Growing up in Western Canada, Ms. Sponarski grew up as an animal lover, idolizing Jane Goodall and Diane Fossey. Initially her education was in biology but she began realizing that animal-based conservation “can only go so far.” “Conserving or preserving a species really comes down to human choices and to achieve conservation we need to work with people.” It was an “aha” moment for Ms. Sponarski that resulted in her contacting Dr. Alistair Bath, Department of Geography and coming to Memorial to work with him on human dimensions in wildlife resource management. “Working with humans is the key to creating optimal management protocols. Human dimensions uses applied aspects of geography. It delves into the academic side of theory but it also has this outreach side where you can get your hands dirty and get out of the ivory tower,” said Ms. Sponarski. “I have seen the power of this approach in Cape Breton.” Today.MUN.ca

WDCAG Newsletter - Spring 2014 edition published: The Spring 2014 edition of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographer Newsletter is now published and available for viewing. In this edition you will find news from many of the WDCAG division departments and a report from the recent division meeting in Victoria. [WDCAG Spring 2014](#)

U Regina’s Joseph Piwowar to lead strategic planning process: The University of Regina has launched the planning and consultation process for the University’s next five-year strategic plan, to be released in fall 2014. Leading the strategic planning process will be Dr. Joseph Piwowar, Head of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department at the University of Regina and Canada Research Chair in Geomatics and Sustainability. Dr. Piwowar will chair a fourteen-member facilitation team representing a broad cross section of key groups at the University including faculty members, students, staff and alumni. The process will begin with facilitated consultation sessions on campus to help gain input from as many students, staff, faculty and alumni as possible. [U Regina Current News](#)

Carleton's Fraser Taylor to present "I Map Therefore I Am: Recent Developments in Cartography in the Age of Location": Carleton University's Fraser Taylor, recent recipient of the a Killam prize, distinguished research professor and director of the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, will be giving a presentation at the Main Branch of the Ottawa Public Library, Wednesday, April 23, 2014. His presentation, organized by the Ottawa Public Library and the Ottawa Society for the Arts and Sciences, is entitled *I Map therefore I Am: Recent Developments in Cartography in the Age of Location*. The impact of location on all aspects of societal activities is now so great that a strong case can be made that we are entering the "age of location." Cartography is an old discipline, but as a result of technological change it is becoming increasingly central to the new challenges facing society. New forms of maps and mapping are emerging, such as cybercartography, in response to these new challenges. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

U Victoria MSc student Chris Krasowski on solar energy map artnership between UVic and City of Victoria: Chris Krasowski, a graduate student in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria spoke with Jo-Ann Roberts on CBC Radio's "All Points West" program about the [partnership](#) between the City of Victoria and UVic to develop a solar energy map. [All Points West](#)

UBC PhD Oliver Belcher recipient heads to postdoctoral work at the edge of the Arctic circle: Even from as far away as Lapland, UBC inspires. In fact, according to Oliver Belcher who will receive his doctoral degree in May 2013, "There is no better setting to conduct graduate studies than Vancouver, and the UBC geography department generally attracts smart, charismatic and careful young scholars." Dr. Belcher's PhD research focussed on US and Canadian counter-insurgency warfare in Afghanistan. He analyzed the influences that result in corrupt police forces, villages that are razed to the ground and displaced populations. Having earned a Master's degree at the University of Kentucky, Dr. Belcher chose UBC for his PhD studies. He credits his advisor, Dr. Derek Gregory, for success in completing his program, explaining "he has a real gift of making his advisees feel the importance of their respective projects." Newly appointed to the position of Postdoctoral Researcher, Biopolitics of Sustainable Development in the Barents Region Project at the Arctic Center of the University of Lapland, he is now focusing on the relation between climate change and security. Dr. Belcher has taken time to think about the changing nature of the PhD, and he points out that there is now more pressure on students to publish while they are still conducting doctoral research, in order to be able to complete for the smaller number of academic positions available. His concerns are that there is less time available for "the pursuit of deep knowledge, in the traditional sense of the university, which is having detrimental effects both on education in general and the quality of research in particular." [UBC News](#)

Western U's Marylynn Steckley finalists in SSHRC Storytellers competition: [Marylynn Steckley](#), a PhD candidate in the Department of Geography at Western University, was one of 25 finalists in the SSHRC Storytellers competition. The finalists receive a cash prize, registration and accommodation at the Congress 2014 of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Brock University, and an invitation to participate in an exclusive research communications workshop at Congress. Watch Marylynn's video [\[Here\]](#)



The most up-to-date CAG 2014 program is available. A final draft of the program (sessions only) is now ready (April 11, 2014). Check [\[Here\]](#). Please continue [checking site](#) for up-to-date program information.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathan J. Bennett, Philip Dearden, Grant Murray and Alin Kadfak. 2014. [The capacity to adapt?: communities in a changing climate, environment, and economy on the northern Andaman coast of Thailand](#). Ecology and Society 19:5.

Sébastien Caquard. 2014. Cartography III. [A post-representational perspective on cognitive cartography](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi: 10.1177/0309132514527039

Naoru Koizumi, Rajesh Ganesan, Monica Gentili, Chun-Hung Chen, Nigel Waters, Debasree DasGupta, Dennis Nicholas, Amit Patel, Divya Srinivasan, and Keith Melancon. 2014. [Redesigning organ allocation boundaries for liver transplantation in the United States](#). In: Proceedings of the International Conference on Health Care Systems Engineering, pp. 15-27. Springer International Publishing, 2014.

Germana Manca, David F. Attaway and Nigel Waters. 2014. [Program assessment and the EU's agrienvironmental Measure 214: An investigation of the spatial dynamics of agrienvironmental policies in Sardinia, Italy](#). Applied Geography 50:24-30.

Shanel M. Raney and M. Catherine Eimers. 2014. [A comparison of nutrient export at two agricultural catchments: insight into the effect of increasing urban land cover in southern Ontario](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10215

Danielle Southern, Jasmine Poole, Alka Patel, Nigel Waters, Louise Pilote, Russell Hull and William. Ghali. 2014. [Health system capacity and infrastructure for adopting innovations to care for patients with venous thromboembolic disease](#). Open Medicine 8(2).

Other "Geographical" News

Will doing a master's get you a better job? Well, maybe... In the UK an interest in a particular subject area is one of the most commonly cited reason students pursue master's courses. But as funding cuts mean students are increasingly footing the bill for postgrad study, whether or not such qualifications will boost their salary is a timely question to ask, he adds. Overall, statistics suggest that people with master's qualifications are more likely to find work than those with undergraduate degrees – and they're likely to earn a slightly higher wage. [The Guardian](#)

Trent U featured in video from Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement's & "At Wood's Edge" Event:

Trent University has been [featured in a video](#) produced by the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) chronicling their "At Wood's Edge" event that took place on campus in March 2014. Trent students, faculty, staff and visitors were invited to see a giant, interactive map of Canada's vast boreal forest. The unique 8-metre by 11-metre mega map is the centerpiece of the Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement (CBFA) Secretariat's year-long On the Move campaign, a program which educates school children and the public about the importance of the boreal forest. The CBFA has partnered with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS) to create the giant floor map as part of The Boreal Project: A Uniquely Canadian Enterprise. The map beautifully illustrates in precise detail the boreal forest, caribou habitat and forestry industries. [Trent Daily News](#)

Are students really boozing in Western's libraries? There are a few must-have tools every student needs to survive final exams: a 2B pencil, a sturdy eraser and a bottle of Bacardi rum. Wait, that can't be right? Are students really boozing their way to straight B's? *The London Free Press* wrote about a new security regime in Western University's libraries this week and explained that the ID and bag checks are in place because of a "secret boozing" circuit in Western's largest library, D.B. Weldon, during exams. [Macleans.ca](http://www.macleans.ca)

Some not so "Geographical" News



Corrections

Errors crept into two items in the No. 299 issue of GeogNews. Apologies are extended and corrected presentations below.

U Ottawa's Barry Wellar comments on how a long, cruel, Canadian winter is driving some people into a snow rage: Many of us have lamented over the long winter we're now emerging from. But residents of St. John's are suffering from snow rage because finding a patch of clear pavement to walk on this winter has been so difficult, they're staging protests. The city of St. John's is promising a review of its snow clearing practices... but only in time for next winter. Cities across Canada have adopted different punishments to get people to clear their sidewalks of snow. The city of Regina set up an incentive program that hands out an award to a resident who has done exceptional work shoveling snow. Kathy Mohr is the winner of this year's [Snow Buster](#) program. She says she started clearing her neighbour's sidewalks, in addition to her own, when her neighbour got sick. Listen to Barry on CBC's [The Current](#). Click on the "listen" button for the entire story, with Barry's section in the last 8-10 minutes.

U Waterloo geographers Peter Johnson and Derek Robinson receive Ontario Research Fund/CFI Awards: As part of the province of Ontario's Research Fund—Research Infrastructure program, two members of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management have been awarded funding for their work: Peter Johnson, who is conducting research on location-based applications for mobile devices, and Derek Robinson, who is using unmanned aerial vehicles and simulator models to study land management techniques and the impact on agriculture in Ontario. [UW Environment News](#)



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