



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

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**UBC's Okanagan campus geography student Andrew Barton creates Northern Gateway pipeline thought map:** The Northern Gateway Pipeline could be a social and economic game-changer for British Columbia, and it's already the subject of a lively debate. That's why Andrew Barton, a fourth-year geography student with UBC's Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences, devised an interactive map for people to add their own photos and experiences along the proposed pipeline route. "I wanted to do something positive for the environment and the places that I love," says Barton. With the help of a \$6,500 Irving K. Barber School of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Award, Barton reviewed the hearing transcripts and spent three weeks travelling the proposed pipeline route, taking copious notes and photos to build the foundation of his interactive map, now ready for public use. Using GeoLive technology, developed by UBC Okanagan campus geography associate professor Jon Corbett and graduate student Nick Blackwell, Barton's [interactive Place and Pipelines map project](#) includes photos, excerpts from the hearings, and various links. It also offers users the chance to add their own photos and thoughts, whether they are for or against the project. "This allows the content of the map to grow, based on input from people other than me, which enables a broader and deeper narrative," says Barton, whose focus of study at UBC is a combination of earth sciences, social sciences, and humanities. "It is my hope that this site will become a resource for everyone who is interested in the issues surrounding the Northern Gateway Project, and will create a record of the events that transpire over time." [UBC News](#)

**U Regina's David Sauchyn studies adaptation to climate change, focusing on rural agricultural vulnerability:** University of Regina's David Sauchyn, a senior research scientist at the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative (PARC), is a co-director of the Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Extremes in the Americas or VACEA project. The \$2.5 million research project just completed the third year of a five-year study. VACEA is a multi-disciplinary comparative study of adaptation to climate change on the Canadian plains, and in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Colombia. "We are working with rural communities to help them deal with flooding, drought and storms as these events seem to be happening more often and with greater intensity," said Sauchyn. Earlier this month, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report that says the planet is on track to warm by almost four degrees Celsius by the end of this century if action to reduce greenhouse gases isn't taken. Sauchyn was one of the scientists to review the report before its release. Under VACEA, researchers are studying the past and future climate in Shaunavon and Rush Lake in Saskatchewan, Pincher Creek and Taber in Alberta, and in the four South American countries. Another important aspect of the research included a team of four PhD students spending months living in rural communities and conducting more than 170 interviews. Through this process, they were able to find out what the public believes about climate change, how they have been affected by extreme weather, and how they will respond to it in the future. [URegina Blog](#)

**Memorial U's Norm Catto weighs in on the weather:** It's the start of many conversations in Newfoundland and Labrador. On April 30, Memorial University experts weighed in. Along with faculty from a number of departments, Norm Catto, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, joined CBC Newfoundland and Labrador meteorologist Ryan Snodden, for a panel discussion entitled "Extreme Obsession: Our Love/Hate Relationship with the Weather". [Today.MUN.ca](http://Today.MUN.ca).

**McMaster U's Walter Peace and the mapmaker's dilemma:** Most of the time, maps help you get from point A to point B. But when it comes to geopolitics, maps have long been used as much more than way finders. Changes made recently to Google's map of Russia – which now includes the disputed region of Crimea, at least for Russian users – bothered many observers. But they're just the most recent (and digital) examples of political gamesmanship that has been played out on paper for hundreds of years. And while these games might seem trivial, they're very important to any information war. "Changing the maps makes things seem official," says geographer Walter Peace, McMaster's map expert. "It's also a way of promoting what you've done. More people will see the changes, and more people will accept this new, 'official' version." He points to turn-of-the-century maps of the British Empire as historical examples of maps with political purpose. "George Parkin's 1893 map puts Canada – the globe's second-largest country and a large piece of the empire – at the centre of the world," says Peace. "Because of this placement, if you look at the bottom corners of the map, you'll see Australia and New Zealand twice, which sent the message that the British Empire truly went to the four corners of the world." It also helps that, despite the fact that they regularly change, most people see maps as authoritative. "You can manipulate the characteristics of space – whether it's the shapes of boundaries, where the boundaries are, etc. – and people will accept, without question, that the map is true. There's just something 'official' about a map." [McMaster Daily News](#)

**U Guelph's Evan Fraser and 10 things you need to know about the global food system:** Geography Prof. Evan Fraser is featured in [The Guardian](#). He was asked to write the kick-off story for the new "Food Hub" feature in the British publication. In the article, Fraser highlights 10 things people need to know about the global food system, from food supply to price volatility to the amount of wasted food. Fraser, who holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and co-wrote the book *Empires of Food: Feast, Famine and the Rise and Fall of Civilizations* about how and why human culture depends on food, what happens when a culture runs out of it and our likely future. He's also heading a [project](#) aimed at drawing attention to world food issues, especially how to feed the projected global population by 2050 and the "Feeding Nine Billion" project includes a website where Fraser analyzes global food security challenges and possible solutions. [The Guardian](#)

**Memorial U's Alistair Bath back in Thompson as research project on wolves kicks off:** Alistair Bath, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, where he teaches in the area of human dimensions in natural resource management issues, was back in Thompson last week, kicking off a two-year masters' degree research project studying perceptions of wolves in places like Thompson and Riding Mountain National Park, near Wasagaming. Alistair Bath, an associate professor in the Department of Geography at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's, where he teaches in the area of human dimensions in natural resource management issues, was back in Thompson last week, kicking off a two-year masters' degree research project studying perceptions of wolves in places like Thompson and Riding Mountain National Park, near Wasagaming. [Thomson Citizen](#)

**McGill U geography student Ian Tattersfield creates McGill Energy Map:** U3 Geography major Ian Tattersfield has created a dynamic map showing the energy consumption of 46 McGill buildings on its downtown campus. Ian worked in collaboration with the [McGill Energy Project](#), and uses data from Pulse Energy. The map was done under the supervision of Prof. Raja Sengupta. [McGill Energy Map](#)

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## Recent Theses and Dissertations

Kimia Abhar. 2014. Spatial-temporal analysis of blowout dunes in Cape Cod National Seashore using sequential airphotos and LiDAR. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Caren Kusel. 2014. Baseline hydrogeochemistry and connectivity among landscape units of two wetland-rich boreal sites in the Alberta Oil Sands region, Canada. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Jolene Jackson. 2014. Embodying Landscape: Spatial narratives of becoming-artist on the islands of the Salish Sea. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Haley Linton. 2014. [Spatial and temporal variations in hydroclimatic variables affecting streamflow across western Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Enock Makupa. 2013. Conservation efforts and livelihoods in western Serengeti, Tanzania: Experience from Ikona Community Wildlife Management Area. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Miho Matsuda. 2014. A case study of the distribution of high wind speeds in the Greater Victoria Area using data from the school-based weather station network. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Brandi Newton. 2013. Evaluating the distribution of water resources in western Canada using a synoptic climatological approach. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Kyle Plumb. 2014. A case study exploring the implementation and lived experience of person-centred dementia care at The Lodge at Broadmead. Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Kathy Tebbutt. 2014. Coastal aquaculture in British Columbia: Perspectives on finfish, shellfish, seaweed and integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture (IMTA) from three First Nation communities. Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

Zhen Xu. 2014. Wildfire occurrence projection and potential impacts estimation for the British Columbia Interior. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

P. Aelamanesh, M.R. Mosaddeghi, A.A. Mahboubi, B. Ahrens and A.A. Safari sinegani. 2014. [Water repellency in calcareous soils under different land uses in western Iran](#). *Pedosphere* 24:378–390.

Jordanna E. Branham and Maria Strack. 2014. [Saturated hydraulic conductivity in Sphagnum-dominated peatlands: do microforms matter?](#) Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.10228

Nicholas Blomley. 2014. [The ties that blind: Making fee simple in the British Columbia treaty process.](#) Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers. DOI: 10.1111/tran.12058

Arash Ehteshami Afshar, Robert G. Weaver, Meng Lin, Michael Allan, Paul E Ronksley, Claudia Sanmartin, Richard Lewanczuk, Mark Rosenberg, Braden Manns, Brenda Hemmelgarn and Marcello Tonelli. 2014. [Capacity and willingness of patients with chronic noncommunicable diseases to use information technology to help manage their condition: a cross-sectional study.](#) CMAJ Open 2:E51-E59.

Hyung-II Eum, Dibike Yonas and Terry Prowse. 2014. [Uncertainty in modelling the hydrologic responses of a large watershed: a case study of the Athabasca River Basin, Canada.](#) Hydrological Processes.

David J.A. Evans, John H. England, Catherine La Farge, Roy D. Coulthard, Thomas R. Lakeman and Jessica M. Vaughan. 2014. [Quaternary geology of the Duck Hawk Bluffs, southwest Banks Island, Arctic Canada: a re-investigation of a critical terrestrial type locality for glacial and interglacial events bordering the Arctic Ocean.](#) Quaternary Science Reviews. doi.org/10.1016/j.quascirev.2014.03.011

James D. Ford, Ashlee Cunsolo Willox, Susan Chatwood, Christopher Furgal, Sherilee Harper, Ian Mauro and Tristan Pearce. [Adapting to the effects of climate change on Inuit health.](#) American Journal of Public Health. doi: 10.2105/AJPH.2013.301724

Greg Halseth, Laura Ryser, Sean Markey and Alex Martin. 2014. [Emergence, transition, and continuity: Resource commodity production pathways in northeastern British Columbia, Canada.](#) Journal of Rural Studies. doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2014.03.010

Mingbin Huang, S. Lee Barbour and Sean K. Carey. 2014. [The impact of reclamation cover depth on the performance of reclaimed shale overburden at an oil sands mine in Northern Alberta, Canada.](#) Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10229

Lance F.W. Lesack, Philip Marsh, Faye E. Hicks and Donald L. Forbes. 2014. [Local spring warming drives earlier river-ice breakup in a large Arctic delta.](#) Geophysical Research Letters. 41:1560-1567. DOI:10.1002/2013GL058761

Jacek Malczewski and Xinyang Liu. 2014. [Local ordered weighted averaging in GIS-based multicriteria analysis.](#) Annals of GIS 20:117-129.

Colin P.R. McCarter and Jonathan S. Price. 2014. [The hydrology of the Bois-des-Bel peatland restoration: Hydrophysical properties limiting connectivity between regenerated Sphagnum and remnant vacuum harvested peat deposit.](#) Ecohydrology. DOI:10.1002/eco.1498

Brandi W. Newton, Terry D. Prowse and Barrie R. Bonsal. 2014. [Evaluating the distribution of water resources in western Canada using synoptic climatology and selected teleconnections. Part 2: Summer season.](#) Hydrological Processes. DOI: 10.1002/hyp.10235

David Olefeldt and Nigel T. Roulet. 2014. [Permafrost conditions in peatlands regulate magnitude, timing and chemical composition of catchment dissolved organic carbon export.](#) Global Change Biology. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.12607

Katharine N. Rankin and Heather McLean. 2014. [Governing the Commercial streets of the city: New terrains of disinvestment and gentrification in Toronto's inner suburbs](#). Antipode. DOI:10.1111/anti.12096

Monik G. Richard, Colin P. Laroque and Thomas B. Herman. 2014. [Relating annual increments of the endangered Blanding's turtle plastron growth to climate](#). Ecology and Evolution. DOI:10.1002/ece3.1065

E. Schnebele, G. Cervone and Nigel Waters, N. 2014. [Road assessment after flood events using non-authoritative data](#). Natural Hazards and Earth System Sciences 14:1007-1015.

Shipeng Suna, Dawn C. Parker, Qingxu Huang, Tatiana Filatova, Derek T. Robinson, Rick L. Riolo, Meghan Hutchins and Daniel G. Brown. 2014. [Market impacts on land-use change: an agent-based experiment](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers 104:460-484.

Sylvain Tremblay, Najat Bhiry and Martin Lavoie. 2014. [Long-term dynamics of a palsa in the sporadic permafrost zone of northwestern Quebec \(Canada\)](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 51:500-509.

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## Other “Geographical” News

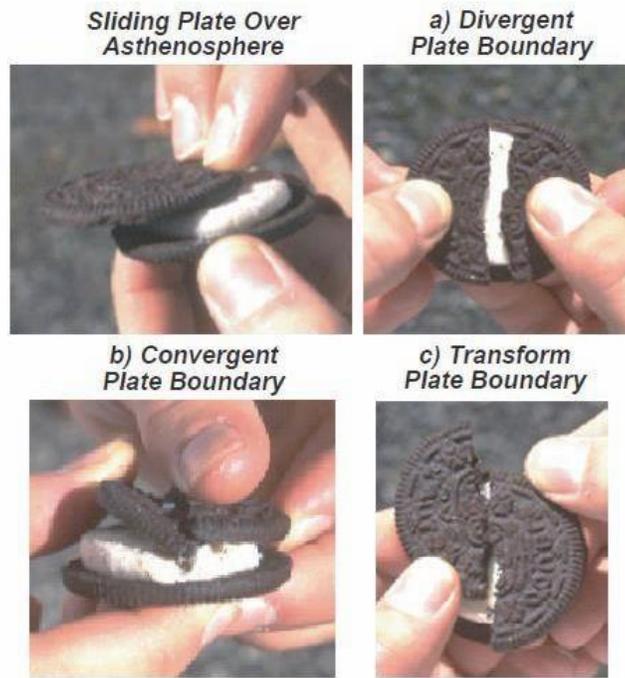
**How geography must adapt or die:** Geography will disappear as a subject in schools unless it unites its human and physical aspects to meet the needs of the 21st century, one of the most high-profile geographers in the UK has warned. Academic and broadcaster Iain Stewart said the travelogue “froth” of most geographical television programmes and the way that teachers were expected to teach geography were symptomatic of the subject’s problems. He says geography was weakened by being split into two disciplines instead of playing to its strengths as the only subject that can offer holistic study of pressing environmental concerns. “We have got this schism between physical geography and human geography,” the Plymouth University academic said. “They don’t often talk to each other and use different methodologies and all the rest of it. “But for a lot of the key issues that we deal with – climate change, shale gas – that dichotomy about whether it is about understanding the human system or the natural system is completely pointless. It is an artefact for the 20th century.” Professor Stewart believes that unless geography exploits its position as the most interdisciplinary subject, it risks being sidelined by rivals such as sociology and economics on the human side and geology and engineering on the physical side. “Geography is going to end up being smeared out unless it captures that middle ground,” the academic said. “It will end up losing its market share.” [TESConnect](#)

**Academics Anonymous: why I'm leaving academia:** In a few weeks, I will be leaving my career in academic research. The pleasure of contributing to scientific knowledge has disappeared and I am overworked and under-compensated with no semblance of a work-life balance. The cons of academia now far outweigh the pros, so I am walking away. I never dreamed of becoming a professor; I simply love doing research and I always thought (naively) that after my PhD – during which I worked long hours, slept little and operated under unhealthy stress levels – I would be able to have a hobby again. I signed up for workshops and programmes to develop new, non-research, passions and loved every minute. However, it quickly became apparent that this was unfeasible. [The Guardian](#)

**Climate change to intensify important African weather systems:** Climate change could strengthen African easterly waves, which could in turn have consequences for rainfall in the Sahel region of northern Africa, formation of Atlantic hurricanes and dust transport across the Atlantic Ocean. [ScienceDaily](#)

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Some not so “Geographical” News



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