



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 309, June 13, 2014**  
**Compiled by Dan Smith <[cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)>**

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**UVic's Chris Darimont confirms two distinct wolf types in British Columbia:** New research provides genetic evidence that BC's mainland wolves and coastal wolves appear to be genetically distinct. The research, published in [BMC Ecology](#), affirms what Chester Starr, an elder from the Heiltsuk First Nation on BC's remote west coast, and his people have always known. In fact, Starr's insight provided motivation for the study. It was likely the profoundly different ecological environments that created the genetic separation, explains co-author [Chris Darimont](#), Hakai-Raincoast geography professor at UVic and a scientist at the Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Coastal islands offer wolves more marine-based foods, such as salmon and marine mammals—preferences that are passed on from generation to generation. Over time, coastal wolves bred more frequently with one another and less frequently with their deer-loving relatives on the mainland. "The fact that this is not supposed to happen over such a short distance is what makes this special," says Darimont. "We'd absolutely expect wolves from Alberta and Alaska to differ, but we would not expect this genetic gradient within an area that is only 2,000 square kilometres." The scientists analyzed DNA samples from wolf scats collected in the field. The discovery reminds us that although Indigenous and scientific approaches constitute different paths to knowledge, they're rooted in the same reality and provide complementary information, adds Darimont. "Earlier in my career, I had assumed that ecological knowledge could only come from science. I was wrong, and it's exciting to learn from this and similar experiences." [UVic Media Tip](#)

**U Guelph's Evan Fraser involved in push to save Cambodia's Tonle Sap Lake:** As the sun rises on Tonle Sap Lake, fishermen head out from floating villages like this one, past half-submerged mangroves and flooded shrub land, to check their nets, much as they have for centuries. Every year, the lake yields about 300,000 tons of fish, making it one of the world's most productive freshwater ecosystems. But the Tonle Sap is in trouble — from overfishing to feed a fast-growing population, from the cutting of mangrove forests that shelter young fish, from hydroelectric dams upstream, and from the dry seasons that are expected to grow hotter and longer with climate change. [Evan Fraser](#), a geographer at the University of Guelph, will explore different management scenarios with Tonle Sap residents in surveys, interviews and workshops, to begin later this year. His findings will become part of the model. A food-security expert, Dr. Fraser has studied some of history's worst famines, as well as those prevented by tactics like stockpiling food and distributing drought-resistant seeds. His research suggests that no matter how the Tonle Sap changes in the coming years, the right adaptive strategies could mean the difference between a tolerable transition and a disaster. "The policy and development challenge is one of managing the transition," he said. "There's no way to stop it." [New York Times](#)

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**Carleton U's Fraser Taylor releases interactive online Arctic atlas:** Killam Award-winner, Fraser Taylor is shining a new light on the Inuit presence in the Canadian Arctic using an innovative mapping technology. This new online, interactive atlas, constructed from historical records, accounts, maps, trails and place names and visualized using innovative mapping technology, provides a unique window into the spatial extent and connectedness of Inuit occupancy, illustrating their historic sovereignty over a large area of Arctic land, sea and ice. The [Pan Arctic Inuit Trails Atlas](#) was funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and co-directed by Taylor, Claudio Aporta at Dalhousie University and Michael Bravo from the University of Cambridge. Amos Hayes, technical manager at the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre (GCRC) at Carleton, managed the Nunaliit design and development for the team. "The atlas is the latest example of the application of the innovative Nunaliit Cybercartographic Atlas Framework which is under continuing development by the team at the Geomatic and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University," said Taylor. "The atlas illustrates in a compelling and interesting way the connectivity of Inuit peoples and their travel patterns over wide swaths of the Arctic which have been in existence for generations." [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**Memorial U MSc graduate Sarah Chan in the spotlight:** Sarah Chan earned a M.Sc. in Physical Geography with a focus on climatology in 2011. She was "attracted to Newfoundland as a location to study and live," which gave her an opportunity to conduct research in Northern Canada. Her graduate research was a part of the Labrador Highlands Research Group, which studied how treeline and tundra ecosystems may be affected by climate change. Sarah's focus within this group was on the climatology of research sites in the Mealy and Torngat Mountains in Labrador, and how local climatologies can be used to look at past and forecast future ecosystem shifts under a changing climate. Sarah is now working as an Assessment Officer with the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Board. According to Sarah, the MUN geography program "provided her with the knowledge and awareness necessary to understand complex relationships through space and time, two concepts which are at the core of geography." The most valuable skills she took from her studies at MUN are analytical and research skills - "the ability to synthesize and analyze information" is integral to her work. [Memorial Geography News](#)

**Nipissing U MEd graduates get published:** The first graduates of the interdisciplinary Master of Science in Environmental Science (MEd) program at Nipissing are already contributing new knowledge to their field, publishing their research in an international peer reviewed journal. Under the supervision of Dr. John Kovacs, recent MEd graduates Jeff Cable and Jeff Wilson investigated the application of radar and hyperspectral remote sensing data, to study and monitor crops at the field and regional scale. The research is part of a collaborative project involving Nipissing's Geography and Computer Science departments, as well as Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Ferme Roberge (Verner). Cable's and Wilson's research was supported by funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. Wilson also received a postgraduate scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. [Nipissing U News](#)

**Memorial Geography alumnus is Shorefast Foundation's Geologist-in-Residence:** Kevin Sheppard will begin a position as geologist-in-residence with the Shorefast Foundation's "Geology at the Edge Program" in August. The Fogo Island native will be mapping the local geology, focusing on glacial and marine features along the local coastal hiking trails, close to where he grew up – the town of Embree – making the residency both professionally and personally significant to Kevin. He will be returning home with his family to his birthplace to carry out work that is similar to the type he was involved in with the Department of Geography and the Newfoundland and Labrador Geological Survey in the 1990s. [Geology at the Edge](#) is intended to enhance the geological knowledge of the islands in support of geo-tourism and education. [Memorial Geography News](#)

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## Geography News Bites

**Brock Geography** is delighted to announce that Dr. Catherine Jean Nash has been promoted to Full Professor. The advancement marks a wonderful achievement for a researcher and teacher whose significant commitment and contributions to the discipline have been acknowledged in the promotion. [BrockNews](#)

**McGill Geography** is pleased to announce that Lea Berrang-Ford, James Ford, and Margaret Kalacska have all been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.

**Lethbridge Geography** is proud to announce that Margaret Cook, administrative assistant in the Department of Geography was presented with a President's Award for Service Excellence. [U Lethbridge Office of the President](#)

**Calgary Geography** offers congratulations to 2013-2014 Geography Graduate Student Award winners. [U Calgary Geography News](#)

**UBC Geography** opens the new Ross Mackay Graduate Lounge. [UBC Geography News](#)

**Ottawa Geography** celebrates announcement that Denis Lacelle is Faculty of Arts Young Researcher of the Year. [UOttawa Arts Faculty News](#)

**Concordia Geography** announces Kevin Gould has achieved tenure and has been promoted Associate Professor.

**McMaster Geography** congratulates John Maclachlan on receiving the President's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Teaching & Learning, recognizing his commitment to teaching in and outside of the classroom.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Marwan A. Hassan, Samuel V.J. Robinson, Hal Voepel, Jack Lewis and Thomas E. Lisle. 2014. [Modeling temporal trends in bedload transport in gravel-bed streams using hierarchical mixed-effects models](#). *Geomorphology* 219:260-269.

Sienna Svob, J. Pablo Arroyo-Mora and Margaret Kalacska. 2014. [The development of a forestry geodatabase for natural forest management plans in Costa Rica](#). *Forest Ecology and Management*. DOI: 10.1016/j.foreco.2014.05.024

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## Other "Geographical" News

**Canada from space:** Canada from Space is comprised of images taken by Canada's RADARSAT-2 and is the first of its kind. Explore how Earth observation satellites monitor Canada and can be used to protect and prepare Canadians. Through ten curriculum-linked activities, students will learn first-hand how pollution and natural disasters impact our country, the importance of Canada's arctic ice, and the scientific phenomenon of the northern lights. They will also get a chance to see Canada from the

International Space Station, through the eyes of the Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield. [Canadian Geographic Giant Floor Maps](#)

**On the road with CLIVE: PEI's coastal erosion visualization tool:** Adam Fenech, director of UPEI's Climate Research Lab, will tour Prince Edward Island communities this July to give demonstrations of the Coastal Impacts Visualization Environment tool, better known as CLIVE. Dr. Fenech will lead discussions about coastal erosion and sea-level rise, and the risk to homes, cottages, roads, and communities. CLIVE allows users to manipulate a 3-D map of Prince Edward Island with a video game controller. It simulates erosion and sea-level rise over the next 90 years, and shows their impact on Prince Edward Island infrastructure. [UPEI News](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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