



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 318, August 17, 2014
Compiled by Dan Smith [<caq@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:caq@geog.uvic.ca)

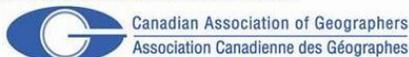
Trent U's Graham Cogley co-authors study showing human contribution to glacier mass loss increasing: By combining climate and glacier models, scientists have found unambiguous evidence for anthropogenic glacier mass loss in recent decades. The researchers report that about one quarter of the global glacier mass loss during the period of 1851 to 2010 is attributable to anthropogenic causes. The fraction of human contribution increased steadily and accelerated to almost two thirds between 1991 and 2010. The recently established Randolph Glacier Inventory (RGI), a complete inventory of all glaciers worldwide, enabled the scientists to run their model. "The RGI provides data of nearly all glaciers on the Earth in machine-readable format," explains Graham Cogley from Trent University in Canada, one of the coordinators of the RGI and co-author of the current study. Since the climate researchers are able to include different factors in their model, they can differentiate between natural and anthropogenic influences on glacier mass loss.. [ScienceDaily](#)

McGill U's Tim Moore on why there's more to geography than meets the eye: Cartography, or the study and creation of maps, may be one of the first things that come to mind when people think about the study of geography. It could also be a reason why the discipline flies under the radar as a program choice for university students. But geography is way more than maps and charts. It encompasses many aspects of life, like climate change, food and water resources, land claims as well as urban planning and transportation. "The core of geography is the relationship between humans and their environment," said Tim Moore, who has taught the subject for 43 years at McGill University. Moore observed that students tend to not gravitate toward geography because, at the high school level, it does not receive the attention it deserves by the educational authorities. "It's not as important as doing mathematics or languages or history," he explained. But the discipline eventually attracts students who are inquisitive about the environment and the world in which they live. "We find that most students come to us not because they have done geography at high school or CEGEP or whatever. They get to university and they say, 'well that's pretty interesting — the things that geography is teaching. Maybe I can transfer into the geography program,'" said Moore. [The Suburban Newspaper](#)

Selkirk College students use GPS in graveyard project: The Selkirk Geospatial Research Centre has helped restore a hallowed historical site in Ootischenia, and they've done it using the most modern tools available. As part of the Ootischenia Doukhobor Cemetery's two-year restoration project, the Selkirk College-based research centre helped with the tricky task of ensuring grave markers were returned to the proper resting place after significant landscaping was completed. Using Geographic Information Systems technology, a pair of Selkirk College co-op students completed the important project last month. The Ootischenia Graveyard is located just south of Castlegar and was established in 1889. The original cemetery was known as the Waterloo Cemetery and served the Waterloo mining camp until its demise in 1902. In 1908, the Doukhobor community became the steward of the cemetery and it has remained an important burial site since that time. There are more than 850 interments at the graveyard, many of them unmarked. With time not treating the site well, two years ago the graveyard committee embarked on a project to restore the area with help from a Regional District of Central Kootenay grant. A pair of co-op students—Barry McLane and Christie Rajtar—were assigned to the project in May. The gravestone removal and replacement required the students to survey the original location using DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) technology to pinpoint accuracy. Using the survey data and advanced GIS software, the students created a headstone replacement plan that allowed the graveyard committee to remove the markers with a high degree of confidence that they would be returned to their original locations. "We really wanted to honour these people and their families," says McLane, "and we made an extra effort to be completely accurate in our survey and marker replacement planning." [Castlegar News](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Ellen Petticrew on potential effects of Mount Polley mine spill: Water test results from near the site of a massive mine tailing spill in British Columbia have so far found levels of contaminants such as heavy metals within government guidelines and the province has said the spill isn't a danger to human health or aquatic life. But Ellen Petticrew, a UNBC professor who specializes in aquatic ecology, agreed that it's too soon to say for sure how the spill will affect salmon and other aquatic life. Those answers, she said, are likely years away. "They've done certain tests on fish to determine what the lethal doses are for certain contaminants, but we don't know the cumulative effect of this mixture of material," said Petticrew, who is studying the potential effects of the spill along with her colleagues at the Quesnel River Research Centre. "We can drink bottled water, but the fish can't move away from this." Petticrew said any heavy metals the salmon pick up while they migrate through the spill area would then travel with them to their spawning grounds, potentially spreading the contamination farther afield. [Huffpost British Columbia](#)

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



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

The latest CAG Communications Newsletter is now available for [downloading](#). Volume 21(2) features the first 'President's Column' written by new CAG President Theresa Garvin and an expose from CAG Councillor Heather Castleden describing why all her promised paper reviews are late.



U Northern British Columbia's Phil Owens speaks about the research at the Quesnel River Research Centre (@QRRC_UNBC) in response to the Mount Polley mining disaster, August 2014. [UNBC News](#)

U British Columbia's Tom Koch delivered a plenary lecture at the 32nd KMA meeting in Seoul, entitled "Age, Aging, & Allocation: The failure of success"—built upon his work on aging and the elderly to consider citizen longevity in the postmodern era. [UBC Geography News](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth, Director of the UNBC Community Development Institute (CDI), is set to host the [Canadian Rural Revitalization Foundation \(CRRF\) National Conference](#) in Prince George, BC from September 25 – 27, 2014. Dr. Keith Storey, one of the keynote speakers, is an Honorary Research Professor in the Geography Department at Memorial University. [Prince George Free Press](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

H. Andres Araujo, Ashley Page, Andrew B. Cooper, Jeremy Venditti, Erland MacIsaac, Marwan A. Hassan and Duncan Knowler. 2014. [Modelling changes in suspended sediment from forest road surfaces in a coastal watershed of British Columbia](#). Hydrological Processes 28:4914–4927.

Micah J. Hewer, Daniel Scott and William A. Gough. 2014. [Tourism climatology for camping: a case study of two Ontario parks \(Canada\)](#). Theoretical and Applied Climatology. DOI:10.1007/s00704-014-1228-6

Clare J.A. Mitchell and Michelle Madden. 2014. [Re-thinking commercial counterurbanisation: Evidence from rural Nova Scotia, Canada](#). Journal of Rural Studies 36:137–148.

Kati Pitkänen, Czeslaw Adamiak and Greg Halseth. 2014. [Leisure activities and rural community change: Valuation and use of rural space among permanent residents and second home owners](#). Sociologia Ruralis 54:143-166.

Chad W. Thackeray, Christopher G. Fletcher and Chris Derksen. 2014. [The influence of canopy snow parameterizations on snow albedo feedback in boreal forest regions](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres. DOI: 10.1002/2014JD021858

Robert G. Way and Andre E. Viau. 2014. [Natural and forced air temperature variability in the Labrador region of Canada during the past century](#). Theoretical and Applied Climatology. DOI:10.1007/s00704-014-1248-2

Kathy L. Young, Melissa J. Lafrenière, Scott F. Lamoureux, Anna Abnizova and Elizabeth A. Miller. 2014. [Recent multi-year streamflow regimes and water budgets of hillslope catchments in the Canadian High Arctic: evaluation and comparison to other small Arctic watershed studies](#). Hydrology Research. DOI: 10.2166/nh.2014.004

Recently Completed Theses and Dissertations

John-Paul Laplante. 2014. La Voz del Pueblo: Maya Consultas and the challenge of self-determination for socially responsible investment in the mining sector. MA in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography stream), University of Northern British Columbia. Supervisor: Dr. Catherine Nolin.

Other “Geographical” News

The great grade deflation experiment at Princeton University: Princeton’s report on its decade-long grade-deflation experiment has a lot of fascinating findings. To recap, in 2004, Princeton set a nonbinding target — 35% — for the share of grades awarded within each department that should be in the A range (A-, A, A+). Students griped about the stingy allotment of A’s, but the report found that almost no departments actually met the target. [The Washington Post](#)

Who governs science? Traditionally, science holds itself to account, primarily through internal systems of peer review. But the recent retraction of two papers on stem-cell research by the journal Nature highlights weaknesses in this self-regulatory framework that scientists need to address. [The Guardian](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



[Toronto Star](#)



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](#). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](#)

GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.ubic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>

@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
