



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 323, September 28, 2014
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Simon Fraser U's Jeremy Venditti offers new insights into flow and incision in bedrock-rivers: Simon Fraser University geography professor Jeremy Venditti led the team of SFU, University of Ottawa and University of British Columbia researchers on a scientific expedition on the Fraser River. For the first time, we used oceanographic instruments, commonly used to measure three-dimensional river flow velocity in low land rivers, to examine flow through steep bedrock canyons," says Venditti. "The 3-D instruments capture downstream, cross-stream and vertical flow velocity." To carry out their expedition, the researchers put their lives into the experienced hands of Fraser River Rafting Expeditions, which took them into 42 bedrock canyons. Equipped with acoustic Doppler current profilers to measure velocity fields, they rafted 486 kilometres of the Fraser River from Quesnel to Chilliwack. Their raft navigated turbulent waters normally only accessed by thrill-seeking river rafters. The scientists conclude that river flow in bedrock canyons is far more complex than first thought and the way scientists have linked climate, bedrock incision and the uplift of mountains needs to be rethought. They say the complexity of river flow plays an important role in deciding bedrock canyon morphology and river width. [ScienceDaily](#) | [U Ottawa News](#)

U Calgary's Stefania Bertazzon reports that recreational activities polluting the Canadian Pacific Ocean coast: Scientists have found that recreational activity is a major pollutant on the Canadian coast of the Pacific Ocean. "Cargo ships and oil tankers are much more regulated with portside inspections and they have to meet certain standards," said Stefania Bertazzon, associate professor in geography at the University of Calgary. "They're very aware of this surveillance and this is probably why our analysis suggests that they are responsible for a smaller portion of detected oil discharges. They have to be more careful. We're not saying that cargo ships and oil tankers are not polluting. What we are saying is that they are not the only source of pollution in the Canadian Pacific Ocean." The problem is that there is a lot of oil discharge at fuel docks, which is largely uncontrolled. In marinas, there are also old boats that have been sitting for years and slowly leaking into the ocean. While this isn't a huge spill and it's a relatively small discharge, the number of vessels can add up. "There is scientific evidence to show that these day to day activities have a larger impact on the wildlife and the marine ecosystem than those accidents that are huge, but limited in space and time," said Bertazzon. "What we're talking about happens every day, all along the coast. The impact is longer term and over a larger spatial extent." [Science World Report](#)

U Victoria's Reuben Rose-Redwood on municipal naming-rights programs: Greater Victoria hockey and music fans will continue to go to an arena with a grocery store name for games and concerts. RG Properties and Save-on-Foods announced Friday a 10-year extension on naming rights for Save-on-Foods Memorial Centre. Reuben Rose-Redwood, associate professor in the University of Victoria department of geography, received a research grant to study the naming-rights program in Winnipeg, and naming rights generally. "You are taking facilities that are symbolic of a city's identity and putting up for sale to corporations the rights to name them. The question is: Are you getting enough revenue to make it worthwhile?" Rose-Redwood said. "It is estimated 15 per cent of all Canadian municipalities have an instance of at least one [public] facility with a naming-rights agreement. So the vast majority of municipalities don't have them." [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Brandon U hosts Prairie Geographers: A prominent whale researcher was the keynote speaker when geographers from across western Canada and North Dakota met at the Elkhorn Resort at Riding Mountain National Park from September 26-28. Brandon University played host to the annual conference of the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers (PCAG), with about 100 representatives from BU, University of Saskatchewan, University of Regina, University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Lakehead University, and the University of North Dakota. "We made it a point to hold the conference in smaller communities because it's a great opportunity for us as geographers to experience new regions, and create positive spinoff for the communities," says Dr. Derrek Eberts, Associate Professor in BU's Department of Geography and PCAG President. "Every year, our group produces research that has a direct connection to local communities and residents," says Dr. Eberts, "including climate change, fish migration and the sustainability of peat-land." Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Dave Duffus, has been in the public eye regarding the ethics of keeping killer whales in captivity. Dr. Duffus, an associate professor at the University of Victoria and international expert on whale management, was an expert witness in the 2011 court case following the death of a SeaWorld trainer who was dragged underwater and drowned by a killer whale, and he appears in the resulting 2013 documentary Blackfish. [Brandon University News](#)

U Waterloo's Susan Elliot and AllerGen finds fewer food allergies among new immigrants and Canadians with low education: Researchers from the Allergy, Genes and Environment (AllerGen) Network have published the first nationwide study to estimate the prevalence of food allergy among vulnerable Canadians, including those with low income, those with low education, new Canadians and individuals of Aboriginal identity. The research was conducted by a team of AllerGen investigators and led by Ann Clarke, a professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Calgary, and Susan Elliott, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at the University of Waterloo. The study's findings will help researchers to better understand the lived experiences of food allergies in vulnerable populations. [Health Canal](#)

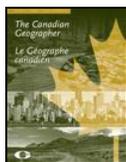
McGill U's Nigel Roulet Named to the Royal Society of Canada: Nigel Roulet, James McGill Professor of Biogeosciences and Department Chair, will be inducted this November to the Royal Society of Canada for his work on climate, hydrology and ecosystem structure, and on global climate change. Roulet has made outstanding contributions to our understanding of how climate, hydrology and ecosystem structure function by uniquely combining ecohydrology and biogeochemistry, investigating the transport and transformation of elements and compounds and the greenhouse gas and carbon balance of peatlands, including their sensitivity to climate variability and change. Professor Roulet, whose work has contributed significantly to the use of science in public policy, was a contributing author to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007 with ex-US Vice-President Al Gore. [McGill Reporter](#)

Memorial U Graduate Spotlight on Kim Olson: After graduating with her MA in Geography in 2011, Kimberly Olson became one of the Regional Partnership Planners for the Rural Secretariat, Office of Public Engagement, an entity in the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador that strives to enhance the sustainability of rural communities and regions in the province. This position is a natural extension of her graduate research, which examined the pre-implementation process of fishery closures, focusing on the closure discussions in the Bay of Islands in western Newfoundland. “For me, geography is about the interactions between people (citizens, government, academia, nonprofit sector, etc.) and the environment (physical and cultural),” stated Kim. [Memorial Geography News](#)

McGill U’s Peter Brown receives Social Science and Humanities Research Council Partnership Grant: Geography Professor Peter Brown has been awarded \$2.5 million over six years to study the impact of human activity on the global ecosystem since the Industrial Revolution, a period scientists refer to as the Anthropocene. A diverse group of academic, government, and NGO partners will take on the challenge of investigating, teaching, and applying a new understanding of human-Earth relationships – with a specific focus on three regional, transboundary challenges: water security, energy resources, and climate justice. [McGill Reporter](#)

Ryerson U welcomes new faculty members Claire Oswald and Richard Shaker: Dr. Claire Oswald and Dr. Richard Shaker have joined the Department of Geography & Environmental Studies at Ryerson University, Dr. Oswald and Dr. Shaker will be teaching in the Environment and Urban Sustainability program. [Dr. Oswald](#) holds a PhD (2011) in Physical Geography from the University of Toronto, an MSc (2002) in Physical Geography and a BSc (1999) in Physics from McMaster University. Most recently, Dr. Oswald was a Postdoctoral Fellow at McMaster University’s School of Geography and Earth Sciences. Her research examines pollutant movement through natural and disturbed ecosystems, from constructed wetlands in the Alberta oil sands region to urbanized watersheds in southern Ontario. Her peer-reviewed book chapters and articles have appeared in publications such as Hydrological Processes and the Journal of Hydrometeorology. [Dr. Shaker](#) holds a PhD (2011) and an MSc (2007) in Geography from the University of Wisconsin (Milwaukee), and a BSc (2004) in Geography from the University of Wisconsin (La Crosse). Most recently, Dr. Shaker was an Assistant Professor of Geography at Binghamton University (SUNY). His research covers sustainability science; environmental management; landscape dynamics and global change; spatial ecology; and spatial analysis and qualitative methods. His scholarship and field research deploy geospatial technology to study aquatic conditions and sustainable developments. [Ryerson GES News](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Jin-Kyu Jung. 2014. [Code clouds: Qualitative geovisualization of geotweets](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12133

Clare J.A. Mitchell and Kathryn Randle. 2014. [Heritage preservation and the “differentiated countryside”: Evidence from southern Ontario](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12131

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jodi N. Axelson, Alexander Bast, Renee Alfaro, Dan J. Smith and Holger Gärtner. 2014. [Variation in wood anatomical structure of Douglas-fir defoliated by the western spruce budworm: a case study in the coastal-transitional zone of British Columbia, Canada](#). *Trees*. DOI:10.1007/s00468-014-1091-1.

Allison J. Bawden, Donald H. Burn and Terry D. Prowse. 2014. [Recent changes in patterns of western Canadian river flow and association with climatic drivers](#). *Hydrology Research*. DOI:10.2166/nh.2014.032

Carissa D. Brown and Mark Vellend. 2014. [Non-climatic constraints on upper elevational plant range expansion under climate change](#). *Proceedings of the Royal Society. B | Biological Sciences* 281. no. 1794.

Madelaine C. Cahuas, Sarah Wakefield and Yun Peng. 2014. [Social change or business as usual at city hall? Examining an urban municipal government's response to neighbourhood-level health inequities](#). *Social Science & Medicine*. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.09.022

M. Doughty, N. Eyles, C.H. Eyles, K. Wallace and J.I. Boyce. 2014. [Lake sediments as natural seismographs: Earthquake-related deformations \(seismites\) in central Canadian lakes](#). *Sedimentary Geology*. DOI: 10.1016/j.sedgeo.2014.09.001

Johannes Koch, John J Clague and Gerald Osborn. 2014. [Alpine glaciers and permanent ice and snow patches in western Canada approach their smallest sizes since the mid-Holocene, consistent with global trends](#). *The Holocene*. DOI: 10.1177/0959683614551214

Mark Groulx, John Lewis, Christopher Lemieux and Jackie Dawson. 2014. [Place-based climate change adaptation: A critical case study of climate change messaging and collective action in Churchill, Manitoba](#). *Landscape and Urban Planning* 132:136–147.

W.C. Mahaney. 2014. [Clay mineralogical evidence of a bioclimatically-affected soil, rouge river basin, south-central Ontario, Canada](#). *Geomorphology*. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2014.08.033

Zachary Patterson, Simon Saddier, Ali Rezaei and Kevin Manaugh. 2014. [Use of the Urban Core Index to analyze residential mobility: the case of seniors in Canadian metropolitan regions](#). *Journal of Transport Geography* 41:116–125.

Augusto Pérez-Alberti and Alan S. Trenhaile. 2014. [An initial evaluation of drone-based monitoring of boulder beaches in Galicia, northwestern Spain](#). *Earth Surface Processes and Landforms*. DOI: 10.1002/esp.3654

Jeremy G. Venditti, Colin D. Rennie, James Bomhof, Ryan W. Bradley, Malcolm Little and Michael Church. 2014. [Flow in bedrock canyons](#). *Nature* 513:534–537.

Other “Geographical” News

Gitxaala First Nation granted leave to appeal Northern Gateway pipeline: The Federal Court of Appeal has granted leave to the Gitxaala Nation to apply for judicial review of the Northern Gateway pipeline project's approval. The Gitxaala is challenging the federal cabinet's approval of the Enbridge project. The court application argues that the federal Conservative cabinet did not consider the Gitxaala's aboriginal rights and title in approving the oil pipeline proposed by Calgary-based Enbridge. [CBC News](#)

Most of the Aral Sea is now completely dried: The Aral Sea—a huge part of it at least—is no more. According to NASA, "for the first time in modern history, the eastern basin of the South Aral Sea has completely dried." In the early 1900s, the Aral Sea was the fourth largest lake in the world. It has been dwindling since the 1960s, when a Soviet program of irrigated agriculture diverted the region's major two rivers, the Amu Darya and the Syr Darya, largely to grow lucrative but water-intensive cotton. [The New Zealand Herald](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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