



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
**No. 324, October 4, 2014**  
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

---

**McMaster U professor emeritus Henry Schwarcz discovers Kennewick Man was a seafood lover:**

From the moment the Kennewick Man was discovered along the banks of Washington's Columbia River, nearly 20 years ago, the prehistoric remains have been the subject of both fascination and controversy. The fully intact skeleton, named for the area in which it was uncovered, is one of the oldest ever found in the Americas, dating back more than 8,500 years. While it has revealed much about the life he led, it has raised many questions about his origins and early human movement. Scientists from around the world, including McMaster's Henry Schwarcz, have studied the skeleton, piece by piece. As a widely recognized leader in the isotopic analysis of human bones and ancient diets, Schwarcz, professor emeritus in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, was recruited to examine a small bone fragment, which yielded some surprising results. "We discovered that he had a particular habit in that he seemed to be living on a diet exclusively of marine food even though there were tons of four-footed creatures — elk, deer and the like — running around the banks of the Columbia River," said Schwarcz. "He was not eating any of them. It appears from his isotopes that it might not have just been fish, but he might have been eating a lot of seal, which is very odd." [McMaster Daily News](#)

**Ryerson U's Andrew Millward turning city parks into "classrooms" with mobile application:**

Imagine walking around your neighbourhood park and being able to use your smartphone to find out species information and the ecological benefits for each tree. A group of Ryerson researchers have launched a mobile web app designed to do just that. The new app [parktrees.ca](http://parktrees.ca), allows users to click on each tree in the database to learn about its key attributes and environmental benefits such the annual amount of carbon stored, air pollution removed and storm water runoff mitigation. "City trees provide many tangible and intangible benefits to urban residents," says Ryerson geography professor [Andrew Millward](#), principal investigator with Ryerson's Urban Forestry Research & Ecological Disturbance (UFRED) Group. "Sustaining and enhancing this flow of benefits begins with awareness. We designed [parktrees.ca](http://parktrees.ca) to raise mindfulness of Toronto's urban forest with the view that knowledge can be a bridge to engagement and stewardship." To date, the app includes data on all of the trees found in three Toronto locations -- Ryerson University's urban forest, Grange Park near the Art Gallery of Ontario and Earls Court Park near St. Clair and Lansdowne. Still in prototype form, the app evolved from an earlier project that created a tree inventory of Ryerson's urban forest, which is comprised of 584 trees and 41 species. Two Ryerson researchers, Greg Bowie, a masters student in spatial analysis and research associate Bhagat, collaborated to develop a web-based interface for the data. [Ryerson University News & Events](#)

---

**Western U Geography PhD candidate Marylynn Steckley named among Storytellers finalists:**

Marylynn Steckley doesn't want this to turn into American Idol. Her research, she stresses, is a collective effort – larger than any one competition's winner. "My work is really just a small contribution to the work many Haitian activists and social movements are doing, really," said the Western Geography PhD candidate. "Even my tiny contribution is a product of a lot of Haitian mentors and friends patiently teaching and guiding me." Stemming from those combined efforts, Steckley's work was named recently among five finalists in the [Research for a Better Life: The Storytellers](#) competition, sponsored by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Councils of Canada (SSHRC). SSHRC launched the second annual challenge last fall, asking postsecondary students from across the country to demonstrate in three minutes or 300 words how a SSHRC-funded research project at their institution is making a difference in the lives of Canadians. Selected from a field of more than 150 nationwide, the finalists are now preparing to tell their research story on the stage at the [SSHRC Impact Awards](#) ceremony this November in Ottawa. [Western News](#)

**U Guelph community engagement project offers real-world experience and leads to job for undergraduate Julia Foster:**

When Julia Forster was looking for real-world experience to enhance her undergraduate degree, she didn't need to look any further than her own community. As a fourth-year student in environmental governance, she had the opportunity to work on a community engagement project with Prof. Ben Bradshaw, Department of Geography. Forster worked on the Community Well-Being Initiative (CWI) led by the City of Guelph. "We all love Guelph and we wanted to see if other people felt the same way," she says. The project consisted of a series of surveys, focus groups and town-hall meetings designed to collect public feedback on what makes the city great and how to make it better. After graduating in 2013 with a BA in environmental governance and a minor in marketing management, Forster now works for a not-for-profit organization called Emerge Guelph, which encourages people to make environmentally sustainable choices. She says she has applied the knowledge she gained from working on the CWI's communications strategy to what she does now for Emerge Guelph. At Guelph

**Memorial U Geography Department to co-host inaugural Public Engagement Postdoctoral**

**scholar:** Dr [Pam Hall](#) is a recent graduate of Memorial University's interdisciplinary PhD programme, Her PhD work focused on recovering local knowledges on the west coast of the island of Newfoundland. The research involved a wide range of techniques including indepth interviews, photographic and audio note taking, as well as archival research. The thesis combined social science and humanities theory with art and imagery to make the case that socially engaged art practices can be used as a way to make and move local knowledge in Newfoundland. Pam will be building on her PhD through the post-doctoral fellowship by gathering, mapping and representing local knowledge on Fogo and Change Islands. The project will advance community and publicly-engaged research and methodology in both contemporary art practice and in participatory knowledge creation/mobilization. [Memorial Geography](#)

**UBC Adjunct Professor Tom Koch on Ebola:** Growing international concern over Ebola has forced me to focus increasingly on the epidemic as it struggles toward pandemic status. My work in medical cartography, a kind of visual history of public health and the conditions that promote disease, has been focused, in recent months, just here. In August, I privately backgrounded friends involved in World Health Organization discussion on the use of untried drugs in epidemic zones. The University of Chicago Press asked for a blog post on Ebola that reflected the insights from past epidemics mapped in my Disease Maps: Epidemics on the Ground. In September, I did an audio interview—soon to be posted—for graduate students in Harvard's History of Science and Technology department. At their request, I wrote an article on [Ebola and its mapped history](#) for their magazine, Remedia. Another article is now in press and a third one, in the planning stages, should be out by January. [UBC Geography](#)

**Université Laval - Dix étudiants en géographie ont séjourné deux semaines à la baie James et à la baie d'Hudson:** “Les gens aiment visiter la Gaspésie ou la Côte-Nord, mais c'est rare qu'ils pensent à aller dans le Nord-du-Québec, soutient l'étudiante Catherine Laplante, inscrite à la maîtrise en agroforesterie. Pourtant, c'est tellement différent! Les paysages sont merveilleux et les gens sont fantastiques!”. De toute évidence, Catherine Laplante a particulièrement aimé son excursion de deux semaines à la baie James et à la baie d'Hudson, en août dernier. Ce cours intensif sur le terrain, axé sur les milieux nordiques, mettait un terme à son baccalauréat en géographie. Huit autres étudiants inscrits au même programme, ainsi qu'un autre à la maîtrise, faisaient partie de l'excursion dirigée par les professeurs Najat Bhiry et Martin Lavoie ainsi que le directeur associé des programmes de 1er cycle au Département de géographie, Yves Brousseau. Six étudiants de l'UQAR et de l'UQAM complétaient le groupe. Le Centre d'études nordiques de l'Université Laval a collaboré à l'organisation du voyage. [lefil](#)

**McMaster U PhD student Chris Higgins says LRT no magic bullet for Hamilton:** Hamiltonians should tone down their expectations about the city-building powers of LRT, according to the co-author of a new study by McMaster University researchers. PhD student Chris Higgins, the study's lead hand, says there's been "a bit of an oversell" in positioning the project as a catalyst for economic development. Just temper your expectations," he said in an interview. Based on an extensive review of LRT land use literature, the study found Hamilton falls short of the conditions necessary to transform the city along the proposed 14-kilometre route between Mac and Eastgate Square, particularly the east part. Higgins and his co-authors with the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics identified six factors that need to be in place for LRT to have an appreciable impact on shaping development. [The Hamilton Spectator](#)

---



**Western U's [Jamie Voogt](#)** was elected President of the [International Association for Urban Climate](#) (IAUC). As President, Jamie is responsible for many aspects of the organization including representing the IAUC to other bodies, such as the World Meteorological Organization, American Meteorological Society, and IUGG.

**U Waterloo's [Geoff Wall](#)** is the recipient of a Friendship Award which was presented to him by Vice Premier Ma Kai at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing as part of China's National Day celebrations. "The People's Republic of China Friendship Award" is "China's highest award for foreign experts who have made outstanding contributions to the country's economic and social progress".

**SFU, UBC and UVic geographers** join call for Canada to take stronger stand on climate change. The time has come to move toward a low-carbon and sustainable society for Canada. [Victoria Times Colonist](#)

**UVic's Chris Darimont** is featured a locally produced documentary film about ocean acidification and the impacts of ocean change in the Salish Sea entitled [Reaching Blue: Finding Hope Beneath the Surface](#). Watch the entire documentary [online here](#) (Canada only)

[CanGeographers Weekly](#) is out!

---

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dennis E. Nicholas, Kathryn H. Jacobsen and Nigel M. Waters, 2014. [Risk factors associated with human Rift Valley fever infection: systematic review and meta-analysis](#). Tropical Medicine and International Health. DOI:10.1111/tmi.12385

Wanda Leung, Bram Noble, Jill Gunn and Jochen A.G. Jaeger. 2015. [A review of uncertainty research in impact assessment](#). Environmental Impact Assessment Review 50:116–123.

Martin Schmieder, Fred Jourdan, Eric Tohver and Edward A. Cloutis. 2014. [<sup>40</sup>Ar/<sup>39</sup>Ar age of the Lake Saint Martin impact structure \(Canada\) – Unchaining the Late Triassic terrestrial impact craters](#). Earth and Planetary Science Letters 406:37–48.

A. Jonathan Shaw, Blanka Shaw, Hans K. Stenøien, G. Karen Golinski, Kristian Hassel and Kjell Ivar Flatberg. 2014. [Pleistocene survival, regional genetic structure and interspecific gene flow among three northern peat-mosses: \*Sphagnum inexpectatum\*, \*S. orientale\* and \*S. miyabeianum\*](#). Journal of Biogeography. DOI: 10.1111/jbi.12399

---

### Other “Geographical” News

**Angry, rolling cloud is first new type in 60 years:** *Undulatus asperatus* isn't some obscure anatomical structure next to your peritoneum, nor is it a minor character from the movie "Gladiator." No, it's actually a type of cloud formation that weather fanciers have proposed for inclusion in the next edition of the World Meteorological Organization's "International Cloud Atlas," the ultimate reference source on the varieties of clouds. [DNews](#)

**I know students who buy essays online are being ripped off – I used to write them:** Students who buy essays online are being ripped off. The work they purchase is written by “relatively competent writers”, but who have an “almost universal ignorance of the scope of the work” and an “utter lack of in-depth analysis”. This is completely true. I worked for two of these companies. [The Guardian](#)

**Bill Nye talks about Canadian oil and the certainty of climate change:** “The government in Canada is currently being influenced by the fossil-fuel industry. [Prime Minister] Stephen Harper is a controversial guy in the science community because [of] the policies, especially in Western Canada, with regard to the production—that's the verb they use, "producing," but you're taking old earth and burning it—of tar sands, oil shale... Is there tar shale? Is there sand goo? Whatever.” [Vice](#)

**Proof that academia is teeming with humour, wit... and general oddness:** Though academics are often maligned for our perceived stuffiness, academia is in fact teeming with humour, wit, and general oddness. [The Guardian](#)

**British Columbia stonewalls on mine disaster - America take note:** The collapse of a tailings dam on Aug. 4, at a big British Columbia mine, not only contaminated key salmon habitat but breached the credibility of B.C.'s government. The province's lack of transparency, and lackadaisical attitude toward warning signs at the Mount Polley Mine, should be a wakeup call on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border. [Seattle pi](#)

---

Some not so “Geographical” News



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

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

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

---