



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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McGill U's Tim Moore steps down as Chair: On Friday, September 19 the faculty of the Department joined together to thank Tim Moore for over fifteen years of service as Chair. He has always dreamed of playing fly half for the Leicester Tigers (and it looks like they could use his help this year) but have given up his rugby to pursue a career as an academic at McGill and we are all the better for that decision. [McGill U Geography](#)

U Western's Jason Gilliland on London's ACT-i-Pass program: ACT-i-Pass, offered to all Grade 5 students in London, allows for free access to indoor and outdoor sporting activities throughout the city for the entire school year. "It's all about promoting health and wellness," said Jason Gilliland, director of Western's Human Environments Analysis Laboratory. "Through a recent Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant, the Geography professor will be tracking participants throughout the eight-month program, as well as up to a full year, following its completion. "We want to find if kids are not only more physically active with the pass, but if they are still maintaining higher physical activity after the program concludes," he said. "Does geography matter? Is that barrier still too big? And we can then see if it might be lack of transportation. Do bus routes play a role?" Beyond these geographic concerns, other factors play a role in the program's success or failure, including economic and informational. "You could have a pool right next to you, but if it's too expensive, then you can't use it," Gilliland said. "ACT-i-Pass takes away that barrier, and the informational barrier, because we are providing a lot of info about programs available in neighbourhoods throughout the city". [Western News](#)

La Société canadienne de géotechnique honore Daniel Fortier des spécialistes du pergélisol: Daniel Fortier, Professeur agrégé au département de géographie et directeur du laboratoire de géomorphologie et géotechnique des régions froides (Geocryolab), et Isabelle de Grandpré, agente de recherche, ont reçu le prix Roger. J. Brown décerné par la [Société canadienne de géotechnique](#). Décerné pour la publication du meilleur article sur l'ingénierie ou la science du pergélisol, ou pour honorer une personne pour son excellence dans le domaine de l'ingénierie du pergélisol, le prix Roger. J. Brown est une haute distinction attribuée aux deux ans. L'article honoré, intitulé "*Groundwater flow under transport infrastructure: potential heat flow impacting the thermal regime of permafrost and the degradation of ground ice*", a été publié en 2012 dans la Revue Canadienne des Sciences de la Terre. [U Montréal Département de géographie](#)

Memorial U's Ratana Chuenpagdee leads project investigating challenges and opportunities in the small-scale fishery sector: Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee, Professor of Geography and Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Sustainability and Community Development, is the project director for Too Big to Ignore, a multi-year interdisciplinary research project involving over 15 partners including intergovernmental organizations, research and academic institutions, environmental and non-governmental organizations. Researchers across Canada and throughout the world are working together to investigate challenges and opportunities in the small-scale fishery sector. Today.MUN.ca

Concordia U's Zachary Patterson finds Individuals 65+ moving away from city centre: By 2040, there will be more than three times the number of Americans aged 80+ than there were in 2000. Condo towers crowding city skylines seem to reflect builders' hopes that the grey set will head to urban centres for increased services and better transit options. But new research from Concordia University suggests that the opposite is more likely to occur. In a recently published study Zachary Patterson uses census data to map seniors' moving habits. What emerges is a clear pattern: individuals over the age of 65 have been increasingly moving to the suburbs. Patterson, who is a professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, says that this is an unfortunate trend. "Seniors living in highly automobile dependent suburbs who lose their licenses can suffer a decreased quality of life as a result. At least if they live in central neighbourhoods with good access to medical services and public transit infrastructure they will not suffer so much from the loss of automobility." These findings are based on micro census data pulled from Canada's six largest metropolitan areas: Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. Altogether, that represents 45% of Canada's population. [Concordia News](#)

U Saskatchewan's Colin Laroque reports that Alberta oilsands making trees sick: A Saskatchewan researcher says Alberta is affecting the development of prairie trees. Colin Laroque, a professor in the University of Saskatchewan's soil sciences department, said Saskatchewan's trees are seeing higher levels of reduced growth because of oilsands production in Fort McMurray, Alberta. "With most of the trees here, we don't think of the oilsands, but the westerly winds blow all the material over towards and into Saskatchewan." Laroque and his team tested trees on the Clearwater River Dene Nation in northern Saskatchewan. "We floated down Clearwater River and sampled trees on our way," said Laroque. The trees weren't doing well, he added. Laroque looked into production records of the oilsands and discovered that emissions would increase and blow into Saskatchewan every time production rose. There was little change in the trees before the oilsands were developed, he added. Laroque said he was surprised that his team could measure the "slow sickness rising in Saskatchewan trees." [Western Producer](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki on Toronto's transit future: On an average weekday, 1.6 million people use public transit to navigate Canada's largest city, relying on the Toronto Transit Commission's four subway lines, 11 streetcar routes, and more than 140 bus routes to reach their destinations. Heading into October's municipal election, transit and transportation planning is proving to be a pivotal issue among voters. University of Toronto expert Matti Siemiatycki was asked about where Toronto's transit has been and where it's heading. "The best transit systems serve people where they are and where they want to go," says Siemiatycki, associate professor with the Department of Geography and Program in Planning. But, he tells his students, "You can't understand transportation planning without understanding politics." For example, Siemiatycki says, because Toronto missed a generation of investment in its transit system, there's a lot of debate about how it should allocate the massive amounts of money and resources necessary to catch up — money that affects where communities develop over time. [U Toronto FAS](#)

U Calgary’s Stefania Bertazzon leads study assessing the association between oil spills and maritime activities: From recreational boats and fishing vessels to commercial cruise ships and private marinas, a newly published study shows that oil discharges related to human maritime activity on the Canadian coast are posing a major threat to marine ecosystems in the Pacific Ocean. The study — published in the August edition of the journal [Applied Geography](#), with University of Calgary associate professor in geography Stefania Bertazzon as lead author — provides a geospatial analysis of oil discharges in the Canadian Pacific Ocean. The findings show that a large portion of oil discharge within these waters stems from recreational activities, passenger traffic and fisheries. According to this scientific analysis — conducted on oil spills observed by the National Aerial Surveillance Program with the use of remote sensing devices — these sources are polluting the ocean along the British Columbia coast more than oil tankers and commercial cargo ships. “Cargo ships and oil tankers are much more regulated with portside inspections and they have to meet certain standards,” explains Bertazzon. “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.” Bertazzon adds: “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.” [Calgary U Today](#)

Memorial U’s John Sandlos and Arn Keeling release report outlining the challenges of communicating toxic hazards to future generations: Participants in the “Toxic Legacies” partnership project have released a new report outlining the challenges of communicating toxic hazards to future generations. Prepared by John Sandlos (History and Geography) and Arn Keeling (Geography) at Memorial University, and Kevin O’Reilly of the Yellowknife, NWT, based NGO Alternatives North, the report aims to launch a community conversation around the long-term management of the abandoned Giant Mine in the Northwest Territories. The question of communicating this hazard to future generations emerged as a key concern of community members, including Alternatives North and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, during recent the environmental assessment of the remediation project. The final report of the environmental assessment now requires ongoing research into a permanent solution to the arsenic problem at Giant Mine within a 100-year time frame. Nevertheless, a century is a very long time (people have forgotten about toxic sites over shorter periods), and there is no guarantee that technology will be developed to safely remove all arsenic from the site. The new report draws on previous research into communicating with future generations undertaken as part of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant project in the United States. There, researchers dealing with questions of nuclear waste disposal articulated a series of key principles and challenges to communicating to the distant future, and recommended types of signage, symbolism, archives and memorials suitable for ensuring the safety of future societies that might encounter the site. [Memorial U Geography](#)

U Saskatchewan’s Colin Laroque hopes shelter belts can help determine the future of trees on the Prairies: Professor Colin Laroque from the University of Saskatchewan’s soil sciences department has been part of the Agricultural Greenhouse Gas project for the past four years. He and his team of undergraduate students have explored farms across Saskatchewan, looking at shelter belts that were planted by the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. “My aspect is looking at shelter belt trees planted since the early 1900s,” said Laroque. “We look into the past and say we’ve planted all these trees in various areas in Saskatchewan. Which ones are growing well, which aren’t, and why? We can project into the future climate scenarios, which ones are going to grow better.” Laroque said it’s not easy determining why farmers are getting rid of their shelter belts. He said older farmers are often the ones who see the benefits because they have lived through events in which shelter belts were useful. However, he also acknowledged that shelter belts can cause trouble for farmers. [Western Producer](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Timothy S. Anderson. 2014. [Hydrological impacts of climate change on the Castle River watershed, Alberta, Canada](#). MSc. thesis. University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta. Supervisor: Stefan W. Kienzle.



[@CanGeographers](#) Weekly is out! [Edition of 15 October 2014](#)

U Guelph's Evan Fraser was interviewed by the [Globe and Mail](#) on Oct. 8 for a story on food security in Canada. Fraser discussed the need for developing a national food strategy, and said that some changes are needed to ensure food production matches the needs of Canadians.

Trent U Geography produces a 'giant year book'. Intended to entertain and inform those associated with Geography at Trent "[Geography at Trent, the First Forty Years](#)" is freely available for [download](#).

McGill U Geography's Climate Change Adaptation Research Group recently hosted a free screening of "[Lament for the Land](#)". The film weaves together the voices and wisdom of Labrador Inuit from Nunatsiavut with stunning scenery to tell a powerful story of change, loss, and hope in the context of rapid climate change in the North. Watch the trailer for the film @ [Lament of the Land](#).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Woonsup Choi, Sung Joon Kim, Mark Lee, Kristina Koenig and Peter Rasmussen. 2014. [Hydrological impacts of warmer and wetter climate in Troutlake and Sturgeon river basins in central Canada](#). Water Resources Management. DOI:10.1007/s11269-014-0803-z

Elena A. Favaro and Scott F. Lamoureux. 2014. [Antecedent controls on rainfall runoff response and sediment transport in a High Arctic catchment](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography. DOI: 10.1111/geoa.12063

C. Michael Halla, Bas Amelung, Scott Cohen, Eke Eijgelaar, Stefan Gössling, James Higham, Rik Leemans, Paul Peeters, Yael Ram, Daniel Scott, Carlo Aall, Bruno Abegg, Jorge E. Araña, Stewart Barr, Susanne Becken, Ralf Buckley, Peter Burns, Tim Coles and Jackie Dawson. 2014. [No time for smokescreen skepticism: A rejoinder to Shani and Arad](#). Tourism Management. DOI:10.1016/j.tourman.2014.08.008

Rob Kitchin and Tracey P. Lauriault, 2014. [Small data in the era of big data](#). GeoJournal. DOI:10.1007/s10708-014-9601-7.

George Mammen, Michelle R. Stone, Ron Buliung and Guy Faulkner. 2014. [School travel planning in Canada: Identifying child, family, and school-level characteristics associated with travel mode shift from driving to active school travel](#). Journal of Transport & Health. DOI: 10.1016/j.jth.2014.09.004

Colin J. Courtney Mustaphi and Michael F.J. Pisaric. 2014. [A classification for macroscopic charcoal morphologies found in Holocene lacustrine sediments](#). The Holocene. DOI:10.1177/0309133314548886

L. Shah, H.W., L. Berrang-Ford, G. Henostroza, F. Krapp, C. Zamudio, S. Heymann, J. Kaufman, A. Ciampi, C. Seas, E.; Gotuzzo and T.F. Brewer. 2014. [Geographic predictors of primary multidrug-resistant tuberculosis cases in an endemic area of Lima, Peru](#). The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease 18:1307-1314.

Jeremy G. Venditti and Michael Church, 2014. [Morphology and controls on the position of a gravel-sand transition: Fraser River, British Columbia](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface 119:1959–1976.

Zhen Xu and G. Cornelis van Kooten. 2014. [The El Niño Southern Oscillation index and wildfire prediction in British Columbia](#). The Forestry Chronicle 90:592-598.

Xiaolei Yu, Xulin Guo and Zhaocong Wu. 2014. [Investigating the potential of long time series remote sensing NDVI datasets for forest gross primary productivity estimation over Continental U.S.](#) International Journal of Applied Science and Technology 4:55-71.

Other “Geographical” News

Icebergs once drifted all the way to Florida: When the massive North American ice sheet from the last Ice Age began to melt 20,000 years ago, fresh water pooled in lakes, which were blocked in by glaciers and debris. But eventually, the lakes flooded over those barriers, and the waters carried icebergs into the northern Atlantic Ocean. While have suggested that those icebergs drifted east toward Europe, researchers have found that some of the icebergs drifted south to Florida because ocean currents are different today than they were tens of thousands of years ago. [DNews](#)

Building bridges between basic science and public interest: Most people have a very limited grasp of the state of the art in any given research discipline and the advancements in that field that they help support. One solution I propose is for publicly funded research groups, as a major stipulation of their grant, to produce two- to three-minute videos every five years that summarize their research programs. These should be published in open-access journals or academic department/university, public health organization, or grant organization websites where they can be accessed freely by the general public. [University Affairs](#)

It's no joke: Humor rarely welcome in research write-ups: So is levity ever appropriate in a scientific publication? Mr. Heard, a professor of biology at the University of New Brunswick, thinks so, and in an essay titled "*On whimsy, jokes, and beauty: can scientific writing be enjoyed?*"—published in the always hilarious *Ideas in Ecology and Evolution*—he bemoans the buttoned-up super-seriousness of most published research. Heard believes there should be room for levity in research papers, not because research papers can or should be laugh-a-minute, but because moments of lightness remind readers that this paper, like all papers, was written by an actual person, or several actual people, attempting to communicate an idea to other people. [Chronicle of Higher Education](#)

What will the Anthropocene mean for people and planet? People are changing Earth so much, warming and polluting it, that many scientists are turning to a new way to describe the time we live in. They're calling it the Anthropocene — the age of humans. [Huffington Post](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



UK student study reveals a morning pee in the shower is good for the environment: Two students at the University of East Anglia say there are environmental and economic savings to be had by taking your first pee of the day in the shower. They're trying to spread the word on social media, too. Their "#GoWithTheFlow" campaign invites people to share the fact that they urinate during their morning shower. [CBC Radio](#)



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