



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Western U's Jason Gilliland has a heart-to-heart for children's health: Over the past 12 years, Western Geography Professor [Jason Gilliland](#) has conducted interdisciplinary research on how the physical environment influences children's health and well-being. The collaborative work of Dr Gilliland and colleagues from the [Lawson Health Research Institute](#) and [Children's Health Research Institute \(CHRI\)](#) was recently the focus of an article in the London Health Sciences Centre's (LHSC) Inside magazine. A researcher at Lawson and CHRI, Dr. Gilliland has been mapping patients with congenital heart defects to see where they come from. "Children are a population who are particularly influenced by the characteristics of their immediate, local environment," he says. "Many times the location of these clusters (where the incident rate of heart defects is greater than expected) is not random, and we can ask ourselves is there something about the social and physical environment that is influencing this outcome?" Dr. Gilliland's new research suggests that the physical environments in which children live, play, shop, work, and go to school, may have an important influence on their heart health. With obesity, for example, certain aspects of cities make it hard or easy for kids to be physically active and eat healthy foods. "We want cities to be planned with children's well-being in mind," says Dr. Gilliland. [London Health Services Center - Inside](#)

Concordia U's Zachary Patterson reports Canadian seniors are trading city for suburbs: New research suggests more and more Canadians are choosing to move to the car-dependent suburbs in their golden years. Even if the condos popping up in urban centres may seem a perfect fit for retirees, Canadians 65-and-over are increasingly going outside the city, according to a study from Concordia University. Zachary Patterson, a professor in Concordia's department of geography, planning and environment, said the findings could mean difficulties ahead. "Seniors who live downtown will be able to access services that they need without having to use automobiles," Patterson said in an interview. "In the suburbs, if you lose your licence you may not be able to access the services you need. The challenge is to provide services to people in spread out areas -- to people who haven't got access to automobiles." The Concordia study, which was pulled from Statistics Canada census data between 1991 and 2006, tracks seniors' moving habits in Canada's six largest metropolitan areas: Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton, and Vancouver. Across the board, Patterson found the rate at which seniors are moving to the suburbs appears to be increasing faster than for all other age groups. Although the study didn't look in depth at the causes of the shift, or whether it's likely to continue, Patterson does offer one possible reason: an increase in the number of new, affordable apartment residences in the suburbs, where downsizing seniors tend to move. Regardless, the demographic shift has planners and health-care workers looking to adapt to the new system. [CTV News](#)

Memorial graduate spotlight on Nicole Renaud: Nicole Renaud received her MA in Geography from Memorial in May 2012. She is now a doctoral student at the University of Western Ontario, where she is conducting a comparative case study involving small-holder farmers in northern and central Malawi. "I am interested in assessing how agroecological and industrial farming approaches influence small-holder farmer agricultural water security, as well as the gender and food security implications for the different agricultural approaches," explained Nicole. "I am also interested in examining how multi-level actors address drought vulnerability in sub-Saharan Africa." A mainlander, Nicole came to Memorial for one reason: "Location, location, location!" She explained, "I have always felt an affinity for East Coast culture and its people, and once I perused the faculty pages in the Geography Department, Dr. Vodden's community engagement and research interests caught my eye. From my first email to her all those years ago, continuing on today, her unrelenting support and kindness played a big role in my graduate university choice and success." [MUN Geography News](#)

Carleton University's Chris Burn and Iain Wallace honoured with the Royal Canadian Geographical Society's Camsell Medals: Up to two medals may be awarded each year for outstanding service to the society. "During the long period of their involvement, the society benefited greatly from their expertise, wisdom and dedication," the society said. "The Camsell Medals are well-deserved recognition for these two Fellows and their many contributions to the society." **Iain Wallace**, professor emeritus of Geography and Environmental Studies, has served the society for more than 31 years in a number of capacities. He was a member of the research grants committee (also serving as its chair), the awards committee, the policy and planning committee and the editorial advisory committee. In addition, he served on the society's board of governors from 1995 until 2000 and again from 2005 until 2010. **Chris Burn**, professor of Geography and Environmental Studies, has been involved with the society for more than 20 years. He has served on the research grants committee (also serving as its chair), the policy and planning committee and the nominating committee (also serving as its chair). Burn was on the society's board of governors from 2001 until 2009. He served as the society's vice-president from 2005 to 2009. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

Memorial U's Donald Forbes talks about the Martin Bergmann Medal: The Martin Bergmann Medal is an award established in 2012 by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society. Dr. Forbes was awarded the honour, as indicated in the press release, for his "lifetime work in Arctic geography", and for his roles "as a mentor and leader in community adaptation to climate change in coastal Arctic communities." The medal has a personal significance to Dr. Forbes, who considered "Marty" Bergmann to be a good friend. Dr. Forbes visited the Geography Department within days of receiving the award, and we spoke with him about the award and what it means to him. [Watch the video Interview](#) with Dr. Donald Forbes. [MUN Geography News](#)

U British Columbia PhD student Noémie Boulanger-LaPointe on her seven weeks in the field season in Nunavut: Pristine landscapes, untamed wildlife, and heroic explorers are too often the images used to represent the Canadian Arctic. Last summer, I completed my seventh field season in the Arctic and was struck more than ever by the importance of human-environment interactions, pollution, and intensive land use. Vast landscapes and wildlife encounters are nonetheless part of daily life, but human interventions cannot be ignored. While in the Department of Geography, most people describe themselves as either 'physical' or 'human' geographer, I've got to think of myself as a geographer, period. Working in Nunavut's communities, where people strongly identify with the land through ancestral tradition and contemporary use, the links between human and non-human, environment, climate, and land use are tangible and as such, a fertile ground for geography investigations. [UBC Geography News](#)

U Western geographers test out new Western Active Learning Space: Students and [L. Graham Smith](#) used the new WALs classroom ([Western Active Learning Space](#)) for the Geography of Change

(Geography 4100) course. The new space was designed to promote student-centric learning and interactive engagement, which greatly facilitates the pedagogy of Geography 4100. All of the course materials for Geography 4100 were hosted on a Prezi, a software feature which was a focal point for a recent Lunch and Learn session. The session, entitled Beyond the Powerpoint and hosted by Western's Teaching Support Centre (TSC), included a feature presentation by Dr. Smith on the varied uses of Prezi. Both the use of WALS and of a Prezi as a course host reflect the continued innovation in teaching practice by the Department of Geography and its instructors. [Western U Geography News](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U student pursues her passion for protecting nature: WLU student Shailyn Drukis recently went to Australia where she was one of only 30 young people from around the world to be part of a workshop for youth that took place before the World Parks Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Last summer, she worked for Environment Yukon in Whitehorse where she led a team of post-secondary students on detailed ecological monitoring projects. They tented in the wilderness while they captured, weighed and released salmon, voles and deer mice, and counted berry species and snowshoe hare scat. They saw caribou, elk, black bears, a grizzly bear, a "majestic" lynx. Further afield, Drukis represented Canadian youth at the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in India in 2012 and in Japan in 2010. In Japan, she co-founded the "global youth biodiversity network" which has members in 76 countries. It's a lot of work and a lot of time away from the university lecture hall, and Drukis says she wouldn't be able to do it without the support of the university and professors who appreciate that learning is not confined to the classroom. "I'm very thankful to Laurier," Drukis says. Professors have helped her integrate her international experiences in her research and assignments. And the university is among contributors helping to pay the cost of attending forums, she says. Drukis's thesis adviser, Scott Slocombe, says he's a "big supporter" of the idea that education also happens off campus. "It is not just about school," says Slocombe, a WLU professor of geography and environmental studies. "You learn lots by being involved with real organizations and travelling and attending meetings. It complements the school a lot." [The Record.com](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Sarah Wakefield, Kaylen R. Fredrickson and Tim Brown. 2014. [Food security and health in Canada: Imaginaries, exclusions and possibilities](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12139

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Joelle T. Perreault. 2014. [Impact of lake expansion on mercury concentrations in lake sediments, Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). MSc in Geography. Carleton University, Ottawa. Supervisors: Michael F.J. Pisaric and Murray C. Richardson.



U Waterloo's Amanda Hooykaas was recently inducted into the [College of Fellows](#) of The [Royal Canadian Geographical Society](#). [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

U Toronto's Tammara Soma makes a guest appearance on Metro Morning to speak about food waste in Toronto. [Listen](#) at CBC Toronto

New Books

Sebastien Breau. 2014. [Nouvelles Perspectives en Développement Régional. Essais en l'honneur de Donald J. Savoie](#). Presses de l'Université du Québec



Donald J. Savoie est l'un des chercheurs les plus féconds et les plus avisés du milieu des sciences régionales. Après des études en économie à l'Université de Moncton, en sciences politiques à l'Université du Nouveau-Brunswick et en économie politique à l'Université d'Oxford, il a poursuivi une longue et fructueuse carrière, autant dans le monde universitaire que dans les organismes gouvernementaux et para gouvernementaux. Non seulement son dossier de publications est-il renversant (plus de 40 livres et environ 65 rapports commandés par des organismes publics ou privés, sans compter une centaine d'articles), mais ses recherches lui ont attiré de nombreux éloges et récompenses. Il a entre autres été chercheur invité à l'All Souls College de l'Université d'Oxford (2006), officier de l'Ordre du Canada (1993), membre de la Société royale du Canada (1992) et récipiendaire de la médaille Vanier (1999). Profondément attaché à ses racines acadiennes, il se révèle prodigieusement perspicace et créatif pour refléter l'ensemble du Canada dans ses travaux d'érudition.

Cet ouvrage rassemble une série d'essais qui reflètent et célèbrent les contributions de Donald J. Savoie en matière de développement régional. Rédigés pour la plupart par une nouvelle génération de chercheurs, ils offrent un éclairage différent et précieux qui aide à la compréhension des disparités régionales et de leur évolution jusqu'au XXI^e siècle. L'ouvrage propose de nouvelles perspectives théoriques et empiriques en sciences régionales, mais aussi des réflexions sur la lutte aux disparités régionales, la planification régionale et l'aménagement des territoires au Canada atlantique. Il se conclut sur un texte de Donald J. Savoie lui-même, qui met de l'avant que le développement régional est ultimement une question de volonté politique, et que c'est vers l'actuel et les futurs premiers ministres qu'il faut se tourner afin de savoir comment s'écrira le prochain chapitre dans l'histoire du développement régional au Canada.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jessica L. Blythe, Mark Flaherty and Grant Murray. 2014. [Vulnerability of coastal livelihoods to shrimp farming: insights from Mozambique](#). *Ambio*. DOI: 10.1007/s13280-014-0574

Karen L. Foster, Gary A. Stern, Jesse Carrie, Joscelyn N.-L. Bailey, Peter M. Outridge, Hamed Sanei and Robie W. Macdonald. 2015. [Spatial, temporal, and source variations of hydrocarbons in marine sediments from Baffin Bay, Eastern Canadian Arctic](#). *Science of The Total Environment* 506–507:430–443.

Harneet K. Gill, Trevor C. Lantz, Brendan O'Neill and Steven V. Kokelj. 2014. [Cumulative impacts and feedbacks of a gravel road on shrub tundra ecosystems in the Peel Plateau, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research* 46:947-961.

Alemu Gonsamo, Holly Croft, Jing M. Chen, Chaoyang Wu and Ralf M. Staebler. 2015. [Radiation contributed more than temperature to increased decadal autumn and annual carbon uptake of two eastern North America mature forests](#). *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* 201:8–16.

Patrick A. Hesp, Thomas A.G. Smyth, Peter Nielsen, Ian J. Walker, Bernard O. Bauer and Robin Davidson-Arnott. 2014. [Flow deflection over a foredune](#). *Geomorphology*. DOI:10.1016/j.geomorph.2014.11.005

Sandra McCubbin, Barry Smit and Tristan Pearce. 2-15. [Where does climate fit? Vulnerability to climate change in the context of multiple stressors in Funafuti, Tuvalu](#). *Global Environmental Change* 30:43–55.

Wayne W. Smith, Xiang (Robert) Lib, Bing Pan, Mark Witte and Sean T. Doherty. 2015. [Tracking destination image across the trip experience with smartphone technology](#). *Tourism Management* 48:113–122.

A. Vanasse, J. Courteau, S. Asghari, D. Leroux and L. Cloutier. [Health inequalities associated with neighbourhood deprivation in the Quebec population with hypertension in primary prevention of cardiovascular disease](#). *Chronic Diseases and Injuries in Canada* 34:181-194.

Lu Wang and Min-Jung Kwak. 2014. [Immigration, barriers to health care and transnational ties: A case study of South Korean immigrants in Toronto, Canada](#). *Social Science & Medicine*. DOI:10.1016/j.socscimed.2014.11.039

Ken Whitehead, Brian Moorman and Pablo Wainstein. 2014. [Measuring daily surface elevation and velocity variations across a polythermal arctic glacier using ground-based photogrammetry](#). *Journal of Glaciology* 60:1208-1220.

Lisa Wood and Dan J. Smith, D.J. 2014. [Intra-annual dendroclimatic reconstruction for northern British Columbia, Canada, using wood properties](#). *Trees - Structure and Function*. DOI:10.1007/s00468-014-1124-9

Chunhua Zhang, John M. Kovacs, Yali Liu, Francisco Flores-Verdugo and Francisco Flores-de-Santiago. 2014. [Separating mangrove species and conditions using laboratory hyperspectral data: a case study of a degraded mangrove forest of the Mexican Pacific](#). *Remote Sensing* 6: 11673-11688.

Other “Geographical” News

Academia and food: stale snacks and strange research: Christmas may be a time for indulgence, but most PhD students are broke and survive on a diet of junk food. If you find yourself with only half a bag of stale crisps in your office – as I have on many occasions – there is a simple way to turn them into an appealing snack. Play crisp noises while you eat and you can trick your brain into believing that they are fresh, crisp, and delicious. Yum. Admittedly this requires some effort, and you would be well advised to make the most of the abundant opportunities for free food in academia instead. [The Guardian](#)

The living, breathing ocean: The ocean is a complex ecosystem. The ocean carbon cycle is governed by the relationship among carbon, nutrients and oxygen, and the ratio between certain elements is key to understanding ocean respiration. [ScienceDaily](#)

Oldest ice cream course in North America celebrates 100 Years: Ice cream has fans of all ages and for many decades. The University of Guelph will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the oldest ice cream technology course in North America. Held since 1914, the annual course is the only one of its kind in Canada. [U Guelph News](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News

How to read a Professor's door



WWW.PHDCOMICS.



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