



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**Compiled by Dan Smith [cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)**

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**Memorial U Geography spotlight on MSc graduate Cheryl Hendrickson, M.Sc.:** It was during a visit to Gros Morne National Park that Cheryl Hendrickson chose MUN to continue her education. "This is where I want to do my graduate fieldwork", she realized back in 1996. Her research sought to answer why the exotic plant coltsfoot (*Tussilago farfara*) is thriving on the roadsides of GMNP. She wanted "to show the link between disturbance and the invasion of an exotic species." Cheryl graduated from the Geography Department in 2000 with her M.Sc. Cheryl is now the President of LandSaga Biogeographical Incorporated, a company she founded in 1999. LandSaga undertakes rare plant surveys and ecological land classification for Environmental and Pre-disturbance Assessments, as well as reclamation and phytoremediation of degraded or contaminated land. To promote the services offered by LandSaga, Cheryl has given dozens of presentations on phytoremediation and renewable biomass. She parallels her preparation for speeches to the preparation required for her thesis in the M.Sc. program - "Dr. Trevor Bell made sure I was prepared to present my thesis, and I still use the same practice to make sure I am confident and prepared for each presentation I give." [Memorial U Geography](#)

**Memorial U's Arn Keeling and John Sandlos receive SSHRC Insight Grant to investigate the historical impacts of northern contaminants and their ongoing remediation in Canada:** The project, "Northern Exposures: Science, Indigenous people, and Northern Contaminants," is led by Arn Keeling (geography) and John Sandlos (history and geography) at Memorial and is funded through a recently announced SSHRC Insight Grant award. The project team includes four co-investigators across Canada, examining various aspects of the environmental history and cultural politics of pollution and toxicity in Canada's Arctic and northern regions. Building on the success of the Abandoned Mines project, "Northern Exposures" researchers and students at Memorial will analyze the attempts of Aboriginal communities, scientific researchers, governments, and environmental groups to respond to the issue of toxics in the northern environment. Their research will trace the "pathways of exposure" through which contaminants have been mobilized in the northern environment, and consider how these flows co-produced "landscapes of exposure" in the Canadian North. In addition to Keeling and Sandlos, the "Northern Exposures" project includes geographer Matthew Farish (University of Toronto) and historians Liza Piper (University of Alberta), Lianne Leddy (Wilfrid Laurier University) and Stephen Bocking (Trent University). Their project received near the maximum possible funding under the Insight Grants program, and is funded until 2019. [Memorial Geography News](#)

**U Victoria postdoctoral fellow Caroline Fox and the story behind the PLOS ONE article on Canada's Species at Risk:** Most scientists are passionate about their work, but enthusiasm can sometimes be hard to maintain over a long project. What if we could inject the fun back into science—take away the emotional baggage of long, drawn-out research projects, and give scientists a chance to approach a question they've never considered before? This was the idea behind the 'Research Derby'—an intense event that gives researchers the chance to ask and answer a question relevant to conservation biology, ecology, or evolution. Last winter, we ran a Derby at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. We brought together undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows from multiple departments. The two of us, both postdoctoral fellows at the time, landed on the same team. Over the two-day event, we brainstormed potential research topics and eventually decided on a topic that interested all of us—the effectiveness of species conservation in Canada. Specifically, we decided to examine aspects of Canada's endangered species recoveries, combining Caroline's expertise about Canada's endangered species legislation with the Derby team's collective aim to look at the overall picture of species conservation in Canada. [PLOS | Blogs](#)

**Wilfrid Laurier U's Robert McLeman explains why Montreal is the epicentre of outdoor skating culture in Canada:** "If every religion has its Mecca, I'd say that for the religion of outdoor skating, it must be Montreal," said Robert McLeman, one of the founders of Rinkwatch.org, a research project based at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ont., now in its third year. "Although Toronto or Minnesota might complain about that." Spurred by a 2012 Montreal research study that found outdoor skating could be on the verge of extinction in much of Canada, researchers at Wilfrid Laurier decided to ask outdoor rink builders to help monitor climate conditions by logging onto their website and recording the skate-ability of their rinks throughout the year. The site drew more than 1,000 people in its first year, including 60 from the Montreal area and 120 throughout Quebec. Researchers are hoping to learn more about the effects of climate change in Canada. They're also studying climate trends in localized, urban areas, where weather patterns differ from their rural and even suburban counterparts due to the heating effect of rooftops, buildings, residential heating and more drivers. Having residents input their data on a quintessentially Canadian pastime is another way of spreading knowledge about the impacts of climate change by showing in concrete terms how it affects them. The project will continue — McLeman says they need 10 years worth of data to start observing conclusive results. Although it receives no funding, some sponsors have stepped up. Canadian Tire has provided a scholarship to the department's grad students, "because they're a big fan of outdoor skating rinks," McLeman said. Esri Canada donated the mapping software needed to pinpoint rinks. [Montreal Gazette](#)

**U Fraser Valley Geography grad Daniel Huesken featured in Maclean's 2015 Guide to Jobs in Canada:** As a University of the Fraser Valley student, Daniel Huesken was a hard-studying tree planter. Nowadays, the 27-year-old UFV Geography alumnus is better known as 'Mr. Maclean's'. Pictured punching GPS coordinates while perched above a topographical map of B.C.'s interior forest district, Huesken is featured prominently in Maclean's magazine's 2015 Guide to Jobs in Canada — an annual publication aimed at helping youth make 'informed decisions about post-secondary education and career choices, from hot jobs to jobs of the future'. Working as a geographic information systems (GIS) technician, Huesken was selected by Maclean's partially because he opened more doors by extending his education to include UFV's GIS certificate. Halfway through his degree, Huesken realized he'd coincidentally accumulated several credits towards GIS completion. "I figured I might as well extend my education by a semester or so and get my GIS certificate, too." That extra accreditation helped him land the GIS job at West Fraser Timber in Williams Lake, where he makes maps with computer software while keeping tabs on timber inventory. The national exposure could be seen as a natural evolution from the days Huesken spent as a member of the UFV Geography Undergraduate Society. [UFV Today](#)

**U Waterloo's Robert de Loë receives Insight Development Grant for water governance research:**

Professor Robert de Loë, of Environment and Resource Studies and the Water Institute at Waterloo, has been awarded an Insight Development grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. De Loë will use an Insight grant to inspire new ways of governing water. He wants to change the way we think about water issues by exposing the connections between water and related areas such as energy, food, finance, security and trade. "My research will focus on why we have been dealing with the same water problems for decades, with too little progress in many cases, and determining how we can re-frame water issues to move forward," said Professor de Loë. "This grant gives my team and me an extraordinary chance to step back, re-evaluate, and take a strategic approach to research that I hope will make a difference in water governance around the world." [U Waterloo Environment](#)

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**U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson and grad student Ben Jestico** were on CFX this past Friday about the geo-caching course featured on the [Buzzfeed list](#): "11 of the quirkiest courses you never knew were offered at UVic."

**Vancouver Island U offering "Geography of Seafood" course** during the spring 2105 semester. Michele Patterson, adjunct faculty member in Geography and program lead, aquatic foods initiative in the Institute for Coastal Research, is offering this three-credit course is open to any 3rd or 4th year student in any program at VIU. [VIU Geography News](#)

**U Victoria Geography Department** is now offering a Minor in Geographic Information Technology. [@UVicGeog](#)

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[Canadian Association of Geographers \(CAG\) 2015 annual conference and meetings](#) will be held at Simon Fraser University, June 1-5, 2015. This celebration of Geographic Diversity and Dialogue will take place in [Simon Fraser's downtown locations](#), principally at Harbour Centre and the (adjacent) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

The conference begins with an icebreaker event on Monday evening, has oral presentations, posters and special events from Tuesday to Friday, and field trips throughout the conference. The John Wiley Presentation will be delivered by Professor Andrew J. Weaver, a leading authority on global climate change and the first Green Party member of British Columbia's Legislative assembly. Following the AGM, the banquet will be held on Thursday, June 4th in the Thursday, June 4th in the [Kirin \(Chinese\) Restaurant](#).

For more info, please visit CAG2015 home page, <http://www.sfu.ca/cag2015.html>

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Oumer S. Ahmed, Steven E. Franklin, Michael A. Wulder and Joanne C. White. 2015. [Characterizing stand-level forest canopy cover and height using Landsat time series, samples of airborne LiDAR, and the Random Forest algorithm](#). ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing 101:89–101.

Alan Bond, Angus Morrison-Saunders, Jill A.E. Gunn, Jenny Pope and Francois Retief. 2015. [Managing uncertainty, ambiguity and ignorance in impact assessment by embedding evolutionary resilience, participatory modelling and adaptive management](#). Journal of Environmental Management 151:97–104.

Jaclyn M.H. Cockburn and John I. Garver. 2014. [Abrupt change in runoff on the north slope of the Catskill Mountains, NY, USA: Above average discharge in the last two decades](#). Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejrh.2014.11.006

Duncan McLaren, Daryl Fedje, Murray B. Hay, Quentin Mackie, Ian J. Walker, Dan H. Shugar, Jordan B.R. Eamer, Olav B. Lian and Christina Neudorf. 2014. [A post-glacial sea level hinge on the central Pacific coast of Canada](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 97:148–169.

Kate Parizeau. 2015. [When assets are vulnerabilities: An assessment of informal recyclers' livelihood strategies in Buenos Aires, Argentina](#). World Development 67:161–173.

Norma M. Rantisi and Deborah Leslie. 2014. [Circus in Action: Exploring the role of a Translation Zone in the Cirque du Soleil's creative practices](#). Economic Geography. DOI: 10.1111/ecge.12082

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### Other “Geographical” News

**The real reason you get lost in New York City:** A soon-to-be completed Manhattan high-rise, 432 Park Avenue, is already known for its height and its outlandish prices. Once the building is done, it may have another distinguishing feature: an address that confuses cabdrivers, postal workers, delivery people, and anyone else navigating the city streets. That's because 432 Park Avenue isn't really on Park Avenue. The building's southern face, where residents are likely to enter, is on 56th Street. In a nod to developers, the city allows building owners who provide cogent rationale and an \$11,000 processing fee to obtain a vanity address. Apartment buyers will pay a premium for the privilege. A dwelling with a Park Avenue address is often worth 5 percent to 10 percent more than a comparable apartment on a nearby side street. [BloomsbergBusiness.com](#)

**What animals appear most on National Geographic's covers?** One-fourth of all the illustrated covers National Geographic magazine has published in its 126-year-long history have featured animals. The newly published [National Geographic: The Covers](#) shows that birds lead in the cover sweepstakes, with apes and gorillas in second place. Snakes and mollusks lag far behind, and in April 2014, a hedgehog made a single, solitary appearance on the cover for a story on wild pets. [National Geographic News](#)

**The North Pole: Does Denmark have a legitimate claim?** Denmark has submitted a claim on the North Pole to the UN, citing scientific data that purports to show that Greenland's continental shelf is

connected to a ridge that runs beneath the Arctic Ocean and through the North Pole, thus giving the Danes a claim to the specific site — along with Russia and Canada. [CBC News](#)

**Class Struggle - Exploitation in the ivory tower:** It is a black mark on the ivory tower, a story of insecurity, fear, jealousy, thwarted ambition, poverty and inequality. And it's a reality that university presidents, and many professors, don't like to talk about. Universities in Canada - which threw open their doors this week to almost a million undergraduates - are propped up by a huge army of part-time teachers, who are highly qualified and poorly paid. They have no job security or pension, and little hope of ever getting a full-time position. They go by many titles: sessional lecturers, contract academic staff, adjunct faculty. Today more than half of Canadian undergraduates are taught by these very precarious workers, not by the big-name - and well-paid - academics that universities like to feature in their recruiting ads. The institutions simply couldn't function without them. Higher education has a new business model. And it affects everyone on campus - the administration, the high-end "professoriate", the lowly sessionals and the students. Ira Basen's documentary looks at the plight of part-time teachers in Canadian universities. [Listen to CBC Podcast](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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