



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Western U opens new Physical Geography Learning Lab: The Physical Geography Learning Laboratory (PGLL) was officially opened on January 9, and offers a unique and engaging learning environment for students taking Physical Geography courses. The PGLL is an innovative facility with equipment and resources providing integrated local field and lab experiences for students to better understand the natural environment, human impacts on the environment, and supports the development of critical skills necessary for a variety of careers and graduate studies. The facility provides students the chance to gain technical skills across a range of physical geography sub disciplines including hydrology, geomorphology, climatology, environmental change, paleolimnology and aquatic ecosystems. The laboratory has been designed to enhance both traditional teaching methods as well as opportunities for hands-on experiential learning with large datasets, equipment, workbench space, water and power infrastructure. The laboratory is used by undergraduate students completing physical geography courses, design, construction and analysis of student research projects and undergraduate theses, as well as a variety of graduate courses. Funding to support the development of PGLL was provided by Western. [Western Geography News](#)

Wilfred Laurier U's Bill Quinton reports that nearly a third of N.W.T.'s permafrost has melted since 1940s: A hydrologist says permafrost is melting at an alarming rate, from covering 70 per cent of the Northwest Territories in the 1940s, to half of the territory today. That's a 28 per cent decrease in 70 years. "The N.W.T. is one of the places in the world that is warming up at the highest rate, so the eyes of the world are upon us," says Dr. Bill Quinton of Wilfred Laurier University. Quinton and fellow researcher Dr. Philip Marsh will give a talk on their findings tonight at the legislative assembly in Yellowknife at 7:30 p.m. Quinton has been studying how melting permafrost is changing freshwater resources. He says it became clear in the past five years just how quickly things are changing. The reduction in permafrost has already contributed to more run off into the Mackenzie River. In the years to come, he predicts water from the melting permafrost could turn forests in the southern part of the territory into wetlands. On the tundra, shrubs will increase in size, which will push the treeline farther north. Quinton says this can lead to changes across the region, more sedimentation in waterways, more slumps or slides, even the frequency of wildfires. [CBCNews|North](#)

U British Columbia's Simon Donner on 2015 – the year of the planet: China and the U.S. secured a historic bilateral agreement on climate change in 2014. Associate Professor of Climatology Simon Donner notes that this will place Canada under increased scrutiny and pressure to make firm commitments in addressing climate change. "This is beyond Canada just getting shamed with some 'fossil of the year' award," he says, referring to the dubious distinction bestowed upon the country multiple times by the Climate Action Network. Donner explains that by the end of March, along with every other country in the world, Canada needs to submit its preliminary long-term emissions-reduction plan to the UN. "We're literally at the point where we have to submit a long-term plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," he stresses. "That has to include targets, and it has to include a plan to achieve those targets. And if we don't, the world will be angry." With a fixed federal election date a month before the climate change conference, he adds, "you know that our sitting government is going to be battered by the opposition parties if that plan is not serious." [UBC News](#)

U Montréal's Daniel Naud - quand les cinéastes idéalisent le milieu rural: Le cinéma québécois offre un regard hétérogène sur les milieux de vie que sont la ville, la campagne et la banlieue, mais les thèmes que les films abordent sont souvent apparentés, tout comme les lieux et territoires où ils sont tournés. En fait, les représentations spatiales s'articulent autour de deux grandes images opposées : la ville fragmentée ou le milieu rural guérisseur. C'est ce qui se dégage de la thèse de doctorat de Daniel Naud, dont les travaux de recherche ont été menés sous la codirection de Patricia Martin, directrice du Département de géographie de l'Université de Montréal, et Sébastien Caquard, professeur de géographie à l'Université Concordia. S'appuyant sur l'hypothèse que le cinéma contribue à cristalliser l'image que l'on a d'une région ou d'un lieu, M. Naud a analysé 50 films québécois tournés par 42 cinéastes entre 1980 et 2008, sous l'angle de leurs représentations urbaines et rurales. Son analyse sociohistorique révèle une tension entre la ville et la campagne ainsi qu'une « négociation permanente qui se joue dans la définition de l'image qu'on se fait d'un territoire », écrit-il dans sa thèse. Après avoir visionné son corpus de films à de nombreuses reprises, Daniel Naud a observé que quatre principales représentations géographiques émergent du discours narratif de ces longs métrages. « Lorsque le milieu rural sert de toile de fond, le discours narratif est dichotomique : soit la campagne est idyllique et revêt un caractère guérisseur, soit elle est malade et tout y va mal », explique-t-il. [U Montréal géographie](#)

Memorial U's Trevor Bell named University Research Professor: Geography's Trevor Bell was recently honoured as one of the very few "University Research Professors" designated by Memorial University. The title of University Research Professor is awarded to faculty members who demonstrate a consistently high level of scholarship and whose research is of a truly international stature. Trevor's appointment is the latest in a long series of honours, including the Arctic Inspiration Prize (as a SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik team member). Trevor's research has encompassed numerous areas, both spatial and by subject, throughout Canada. His work includes investigations of climate and environmental changes and impacts to numerous communities in Arctic Canada and Newfoundland & Labrador; the geomorphology and sedimentology of post glacial relative sea-level change; the impacts of coastal process and changes to permafrost; mapping of bathymetry, seabed morphology and habitat for marine organisms; study of the sensitivity and response of tundra and taiga ecosystems in Labrador and northern Newfoundland; analysis of the patterns and dynamics of glaciations in Newfoundland; assessing the extent of lead contamination in soil in St. John's, and study of archaeological sites and prehistoric settlements and the influence of changing environments. A strong practitioner of collaborative, interdisciplinary research, Trevor has worked with colleagues from numerous departments across Memorial; municipal, provincial, and federal governments and agencies; international commissions and research groups; and uncounted residents of numerous communities. [Memorial U Geography News](#)

U Toronto's Steven Farber and Matti Siemiatycki on the Eglinton Crosstown controversy:

Eglinton Avenue sweeps up from river parkland to the green factory campuses surrounding Don Mills Road, an unexpected oasis between the malls of Leaside and Scarborough. But condos are coming, along with the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and the value of residences on and near the Eglinton corridor have started to skyrocket, especially in neighbourhoods where the LRT will be going underground. "Though Toronto is experiencing an overall real estate boom, transit construction immediately causes property prices in neighbouring areas to increase," says Matti Siemiatycki, an associate professor in the Department of Geography and Program in Planning at the University of Toronto. Steven Farber, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Geography at the University of Toronto Scarborough, points out that the benefits of investing in quality transit are massive. "The bigger piece is not just in land value increase and development. It's in the billions of dollars saved due to reduction of congestion and increases in people's health. We will save priceless green space and rural land on the fringe that we will not need to develop," Farber says. Prof. Farber argues that the potential increase in density along Eglinton may also end up causing problems. "The increased density may be higher than the LRT can accommodate," he says, "leading to overcrowding, potential congestion and a situation where building a subway would have been a better option." [Globe and Mail](#)

U Victoria's David Atkinson presents research underway in Alaskan and Canadian coastal communities:

The Arctic Report Card is an update provided annually since 2006 at the annual American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting. "Arctic warming is setting off changes that affect people and the environment in this fragile region, and has broader effects beyond the Arctic on global security, trade, and climate," explained Craig McLean at the Arctic Report Card session. At another AGU session, David Atkinson of the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria presented his work in Alaskan and Canadian coastal communities. He stated that "Northerners are excellent observers of their environment;" however, with the pace of modern changes "The old ways of knowing aren't working so well." Atkinson's project cooperates and consults with Northern residents to enable the use of forecasting services, weather data and charts provided by agencies like NOAA's National Weather Service or Environment Canada. They also arrange and install equipment to take more local measurements which residents are interested in monitoring. [SciLogs](#)

McGill U's Etienne Fluet-Chouinard and Bernhard Lehner produce a new global wetlands map:

[new global map](#) of the world's wetlands has been produced by an international research team led by former master's student Etienne Fluet-Chouinard and Prof. Bernhard Lehner of McGill's Department of Geography. In a [paper published in the journal Remote Sensing of Environment](#), the researchers present a method producing a map in finer detail than previously available. This is made possible by using topographic information combined with satellite measurements generated by French collaborators from the Laboratoire d'Etudes du Rayonnement et de la Matière en Astrophysique et Atmosphères and Estellus. The map represents a long-term baseline of the world's wetland areas, including areas of artificial inundation and some waterlogged soils, based on measurements made between 1993 and 2004. "This map represents a great asset for scientists to study large inundation patterns and wetland ecosystems at the global scale," says Fluet-Chouinard, now a PhD Student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for Limnology. [McGill University News and Events](#)

Brock selected for student GIS Scholarship: The Maps, Data & GIS Library and the Department of Geography have announced that Brock has been selected for the fourth consecutive year to participate in the Esri Canada \$1,000 GIS Student Scholarship Program, which recognizes Brock's strong, multidisciplinary focus on Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This award will be granted to a current Brock student who desires to pursue a career in GIS studies, and is open to undergraduate and graduate students from all disciplines. [The Brock News](#)



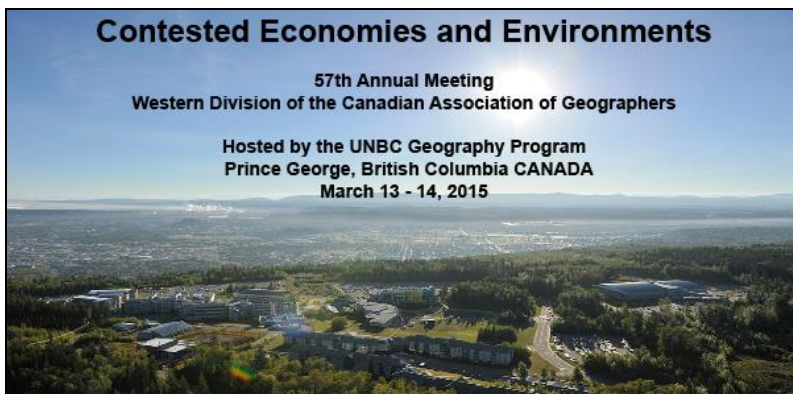
U Victoria's Chris Darimont quoted at the end of an article in Nature on why it's essential to use the "right tone" when publishing contentious findings or defending evidence. [Nature](#)

Western U's Karen Van Kerkoerle is the recipient of the Labour Appreciation Award for Western representing UWOSA. This award is given to those individuals that go above and beyond to support their United Way Campaign.

U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson was on CBC Radio Victoria's "On The Island" about the UVic [Bikemaps.org](#) project. [Soundcloud](#)

Memorial U's Arn M. Keeling was awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant to support research focused on Science, Indigenous Peoples, and Northern Contaminants. [Today.MUN.ca](#) | [Memorial Geography News](#)

Carleton U graduate students Stacey Strilesky and Graham Clark recipients of Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships in Science and Technology. The QEII-GSST Program encourages excellence in graduate studies in science and technology at the master's and doctoral levels. [Carleton DGES](#)



The [Geography Program](#) at the [University of Northern British Columbia](#) is pleased to extend an invitation to the 57th Annual Meeting of the [Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers \(WD-CAG\)](#).

The meeting will be held March 13-14, 2015 at UNBC's Prince George Campus. Please see the [Circular and Call for Abstracts](#), which includes details for submitting abstracts and a preliminary schedule of events to help in planning your travel to Prince George!

Additional information about the conference, including the keynote address, field trips, accommodations and banquet will be available on the [Conference Website](#). The site is still in development and will be updated regularly, so please bookmark it for easy reference.

Please contact Dr. Neil Hanlon (250-960-5881, hanlon@unbc.ca) for additional information.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Thomas E. Barchyn and Chris H. Hugenholtz. 2015. [Predictability of dune activity in real dune fields under unidirectional wind regimes](#). Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface. DOI:10.1002/2014JF003248

J.M. Buttle, W.J. Greenwood and R.E. Gerber. 2015. [Spatiotemporal patterns of baseflow metrics for basins draining the Oak Ridges Moraine, southern Ontario, Canada](#). Canadian Water Resources Journal. DOI:10.1080/07011784.2014.985511

Paul Foley, Charles Mather and Barbara Neis. 2015. [Governing enclosure for coastal communities: Social embeddedness in a Canadian shrimp fishery](#). Marine Policy. DOI:10.1016/j.marpol.2014.11.009

Etienne Fluet-Chouinard, Bernhard Lehner, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Fabrice Papa, and Stephen K. Hamilton. 2015. [Development of a global inundation map at high spatial resolution from topographic downscaling of coarse-scale remote sensing data](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 158:348–361.

Peter Kedron. 2014. [Environmental governance and shifts in Canadian biofuel production and innovation](#). The Professional Geographer. DOI:10.1080/00330124.2014.983589

Sarah Klain, Rachele Beveridge and Nathan J. Bennett 2014. [Ecologically sustainable but unfair? Negotiating equity and authority in common-pool marine resource management](#). Ecology & Society 19: 52.

Bryce Molder, Jaclyn Cockburn, Aaron Berg, John Lindsay and Kathryn Woodrow. 2015. [Sediment-assisted nutrient transfer from a small, no-till, tile drained watershed in southwestern Ontario, Canada](#). Agricultural Water Management 152:31–40.

Maria Mukhtar, Jennifer Dean, Kathi Wilson, Effat Ghassemi and Dana Helene Wilson. 2015. [“But many of these problems are about funds...”: The challenges Immigrant Settlement Agencies \(ISAs\) encounter in a suburban setting in Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of International Migration and Integration. DOI:10.1007/s12134-015-0421-5

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Daniel Dyce. 2014. [A sensor view model to investigate the influence of tree crowns on effective urban thermal anisotropy](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. James Voogt.

Roger Holmes. 2014. [Determining the association between the structure of stream benthic macroinvertebrate communities and agricultural best management practices](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Adam Yates.

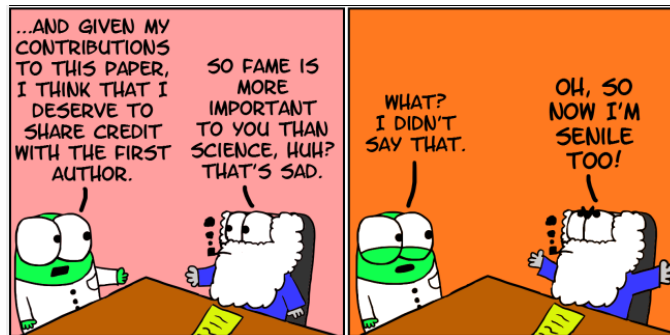
Lucia Hussey. 2014. [Analytic Network Process \(ANP\) for housing quality evaluation: a case study in Ghana](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jacek Malczewski.

- Donald Lafreniere. 2014. [Reconstructing the spatial and temporal patterns of daily life in the 19th century city: a historical GIS approach](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland.
- Martin Lefebvre. 2014. [A spatial exploration of institutional investment in Canada for the year 2010](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Milford Green.
- Faith Mambulu. 2014. [Agricultural interventions as a means to improving food security: Experiences of HIV/AIDS-affected households in northern Malawi](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr's. Rachel Bezner Kerr and Isaac Luginaah.
- Leanne McIntosh. 2014. [Examining the influence of environmental opportunities and exposures on children's sleep duration](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland.
- Shirley Ngai. 2014. [Potential effects of changing climate on the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of alpine lakes, Uinta Mountains, Utah, USA](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Katrina Moser.
- Hanson Nyantakyi-Frimpong. 2014. [Hungry farmers: a political ecology of agriculture and food security in northern Ghana](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Rachel Bezner Kerr.
- Tor Oiamo. 2014. [Environmental health effects of multiple exposures: Systemic risks and the Detroit River International Crossing Study](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr's. Isaac Luginaah and Joy Parr.
- Greg Oulahan. 2014. [The production of unequal vulnerability to flood hazards in Metro Vancouver, Canada](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr's. Gordon McBean and Dan Shrubsole.
- Lucie Richard. 2014. [Exploring the association between commute to school duration and children's physical activity level and bodyweight status](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Jason Gilliland.
- Andrea Rishworth. 2014. [Women's navigation of maternal health services in Ghana's Upper West Region in the context of the National Health Insurance Scheme](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.
- Karen Ross. 2014. [Struggling to compete: Community-based research on agrarian change in the Caribbean](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Anthony Weis.
- Jacqueline Serran. 2014. [The preferential loss of small geographically isolated wetlands on prairie landscapes](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Irena Creed.
- Bo Shan. 2014. [Multivariate spatial visualization using geoicons and image charts](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Micha Pazner.
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Other “Geographical” News

Federal programs and research facilities that have been shut down or had their funding reduced: Hundreds of federal programs and world renowned research facilities have been shut down or had their funding reduced by the federal government. This list was compiled by the Canadian Association of University Teachers and the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada. [The Fifth Estate](#)

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>
