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U Victoria's Dennis Jelinski on Vancouver Island Roosevelt elk poaching: Elk poaching is easy for those willing to search the wilderness south of Port Alberni, say some wildlife experts of an ongoing problem caused by forestry operations in the area and tight restrictions on legal hunting of the animals. The issue has grabbed headlines in recent weeks with the discovery of six Roosevelt elk carcasses since early November. Despite the alarm the recent kills have created, elk poaching south of Port Alberni is nothing new, according to Dennis Jelinski, an associate professor in the University of Victoria's Department of Geography. He believes the six carcasses found could be a small fraction of the poaching that is actually taking place. "I bet you there's just someone driving around on an ATV with a rifle looking for elk," said Jelinski. "How many carcasses are out there that nobody has seen?" Elk often graze near roads or in the vegetated areas along riverbanks. Forestry activity makes the animals easy prey for illegal hunting, as poachers can drive along logging roads or spot elk in clearcuts where no hiding places are available, said Jelinski. "By virtue of building more roads for forest practices, it means you're opening up a lot more of the landscape to easy access," he said. "Then people just drive up and down these roads, and elk tend to be found along forest edges, not deep in forest." "A big problem around poaching for a long time is that the courts don't take it very seriously," he said. "For a poacher, the chance of getting caught is pretty slim. And then if they're caught, it's worth $50." Until the management of Roosevelt elk changes, it appears poaching will continue. The Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council reported 17 illegal kills near Port Alberni in the year before this winter's wave of poaching incidents. Alberni Valley Times

Simon Fraser U's Anders Knudby mapping Vancouver hot spots: A researcher is mapping hot spots in Metro Vancouver to help prevent deaths caused by heat waves.The study, led by assistant professor Anders Knudby from SFU's geography department, arose from health concerns after a heat wave that hit the Lower Mainland in 2009. The B.C. Centre for Disease Control discovered the 2009 heat wave killed more than 100 people, which was discovered by comparing the average number of deaths to the number of deaths during the heat wave. "Most people who do die from heat aren't specifically recorded as such," said Knudby. Knudby wanted to know if people were more likely to die if they were in a hot part of town. To do that, he had to find and map Metro Vancouver's hot spots. Generally, urban areas tend to be warmer than rural areas. Cooler areas include those that are close to water, at higher elevation, or have a lot of vegetation. "If we find there is a significant risk, then you can do things to try to cool down the hot neighbourhoods," said Knudby. Generally, urban areas tend to be warmer than rural areas. Cooler areas include those that are close to water, at higher elevation, or have a lot of vegetation. "If we find there is a significant risk, then you can do things to try to cool down the hot neighbourhoods," said Knudby. CBC News | British Columbia

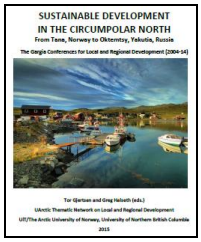
U Saskatchewn's John Pomeroy and UBC Okanagan's Michael Pidwirny on how ski resorts in western Canada are coping with global warming's threat to their existence: Over the past 50 years throughout most of B.C. and Alberta, the average nightly low temperature in the middle of winter has increased at least 2 C near the coast and up to 5 C in parts of the Rockies, according to University of Saskatchewan hydrologist John Pomeroy. Dr. Pomeroy, a Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, said climate change has shortened the spring ski season anywhere from four to six weeks at many hills. "It's going to be the edge seasons – the fall and the spring – and the lower elevations and the sites that were already marginal that will be first affected," Dr. Pomeroy said. "The ski areas I've seen that are already in trouble … are the ones that are already adapting to it – they're really good at snowmaking. Operators such as Whistler Blackcomb are adapting to global warming by carving out slopes at higher elevations. No one today would build as low as 850 metres, where West Vancouver's long-defunct Hollyburn Chairlift – which opened in 1951 and burned down in 1965 – sits in ruins. If it operated now, its slopes would receive about a quarter less snow per year, according to the climate modelling done by Michael Pidwirny. Pidwirny, a physical geography professor at the University of B.C.'s Okanagan campus, says above it, Cypress Mountain isn't doing much better, as the "one bad year in 10" it experienced 50 years ago has now increased to about three bad years each decade. "The number of bad years is increasing so probably by 2050 maybe five or six of the years that occur in the decade would be bad years," said Prof. Pidwirny, whose research uses data from UBC Forestry's ClimateBC program to calculate the historic snowfall at B.C.'s ski resorts and predict how they would be affected by a warmer climate, as modeled on various global emissions scenarios. The Globe and Mail

Carleton MSc candidate Melissa Nacke gives talk at Arctic Circle meeting: Melissa Nacke, an MSc candidate in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies presented her talk entitled "The influence of a grounded ice island on the marine environment in the Canadian Arctic". Ice islands are huge tabular icebergs that have broken away from ice shelves or floating glacial tongues and can alter the biology in the surrounding waters. Her talk focused on the physical processes behind this effect, the sampling methods used to study these processes, and preliminary results from her work in Resolute Bay in summer, 2014. Melissa's original sampling strategy involved taking water samples every few days at several sites around an ice island and testing for salinity, temperature, nutrient, and chlorophyll a (a pigment used to indicate the presence of phytoplankton). However, thick fog and sea ice moved into the study area during her trip, and she was forced to abandon sampling at all but a single site. "I'm someone who likes to have everything organized and in control," says Melissa. "Since Arctic fieldwork never goes as planned my biggest challenge was to learn how to take a deep breath and not stress about an uncontrollable situation." Despite the challenges she faced, Melissa was able to determine that chlorophyll a concentrations around the ice island were near those seen during algal blooms – suggesting that there is dramatically increased biological activity around the ice island, possibly due to nutrient enrichment of the water. "This experience taught me how to stay Zen and roll with the punches," she says. DGES News

U Guelph's Aaron Berg looks to eye in the sky: He's got a launch party planned here at Guelph. Now Aaron Berg is crossing his fingers for successful deployment of a NASA satellite this week. All going well, the U of G geography professor expects he'll begin receiving data from the Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite this spring. He says information from the satellite about global soil moisture and soil freeze-thaw stats will help forecasters and farmers better predict floods, droughts, seasonal weather forecasts and crop yields. An expert in soil moisture and modelling, Berg will be among a group of leading Canadian and international researchers to receive and analyze data from the new satellite. But why is soil water so important? Weather can be affected by how much water evaporates into the atmosphere, says Berg, and a key influence on that evaporation rate is how wet or dry soils are. Soil moisture also affects flooding or drought. Farmers need to consider soil conditions before planting or spraying crops. at Guelph

New Book

Tor Gjertsen and Greg Halseth (Eds.) 2014. Sustainable Development in the Circumpolar North: From Tana, Norway to Oktemtsy, Yakutia, Russia. The University of Northern British Columbia's Community Development Institute and The University of the Arctic's Thematic Network on Local and Regional Development in the North: Prince George, BC, November



Through this book, the contributions made by many participating stakeholders are brought together to present and illustrate elements of a more holistic and integrated approach to local and regional development. At its core, the book confronts critical issues and ways to facilitate positive change for communities that are experiencing economic and social transformation. The issues and lessons outlined in this book are grounded in the experiences acquired with the project for local and regional development workshops and partnerships, the Gargia Conference, and the Thematic Network for Local and Regional Development initiated in 2003 by Finnmark University College, Norway, in cooperation with the University of the Arctic. The opening section of the book includes a foreword by Greg Halseth, this introduction, and an historical background to the Gargia Conferences (including details of the local and regional development workshops and partnerships) by Tor Gjertsen. To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Gargia conferences, and yet share the most up-to-date information, the main sections include as many as possible presentations from the last six conferences (2009-2014).

GeogNews Bites

U Guelph's Aaron Berg was interviewed by the Globe and Mail for a story looking at a spacecraft mission measuring the amount of moisture in the soil. Berg, who studies hydrology and climate change, discussed the importance of the satellite in tracking agricultural productivity and flood risk. Globe and Mail

Memorial U's John-Michael Davis awarded SSHRC PhD Fellowship. John-Michael Davis, currently doing his PhD under the supervision of Drs. Yaakov Garb and Josh Lepawsky, innovative research focuses on transboundary trade of electronic waste (e-waste). His research focuses on two case studies: movement of e-waste between Israel and Palestine, and the possibilities and issues involved in generating transboundary e-waste trade to El Salvador. There are numerous aspects involved along any potential road to the development of international "fair e-waste trade". Memorial Geography News

UBC's Dr. Derek Gregory has been awarded an Honorary Fellowship from King's College London, which "recognises the exceptional distinction achieved on the part of the holder through their public and professional life". UBC Geography News

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Alana M. Bartolaia, Lingli He, Ardith E. Hurst, Linda Mortsch, Robert Paehlke and Donald Scavia. 2015. Climate change as a driver of change in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin. Journal of Great Lakes Research. DOI: 10.1016/j.jglr.2014.11.012

James D. Ford and Diana King. 2015. Coverage and framing of climate change adaptation in the media: A review of influential North American newspapers during 1993–2013. Environmental Science & Policy 48:137–146.

Merih Aydinalp Koksal, Ian H. Rowlands and Paul Parker. 2015. Energy, cost, and emission end-use profiles of homes: An Ontario (Canada) case study. Applied Energy 142:303–316.

Jean-Sébastien Landry and Navin Ramankutty. 2015. Carbon cycling, climate regulation, and disturbances in Canadian forests: scientific principles for management. Land 4:83-118.

Elizabeth Lunstrum. 2015. Mozambique's Limpopo National Park. Area. DOI: 10.1111/area.12121

Emily Schnebele, Christopher Oxendine, Guido Cervone, Celso M. Ferreira and Nigel Waters. 2015. Using non-authoritative sources during emergencies in urban areas. Geotechnologies and the Environment Volume 13, Computational Approaches for Urban Environments, Helbich, M., Arsanjani, J. J., Leitner, M. Eds., 2015, Ch. 14, pp. 337-361. Springer International Publishing, Switzerland.

Benita Y. Tam, William A. Gough and Tanzina Mohsin. 2015. The impact of urbanization and the urban heat island effect on day to day temperature variation. Urban Climate 12:1–10.

Chui-Ling Tam. 2015. Timing exclusion and communicating time: a spatial analysis of participation failure in an Indonesian MPA. Marine Policy 54:122-129.

Benoit Turcotte, Robert G. Millar and Marwan A. Hassan. 2015. Drag forces on large cylinders. River Research and Applications. DOI: 10.1002/rra.2868

Brennan Vogel and Daniel Henstra. 2015. Studying local climate adaptation: A heuristic research framework for comparative policy analysis. Global Environmental Change 31:110–120.

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Malyssa Mauer. 2015. Late Holocene glacier fluctuations in southernmost Patagonia. MSc in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Geography), University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Supervisor: Dr. Brian Menounous.

Other "Geographical" News

Maps that you can hear and touch: Sighted people read maps almost every day. Maps help us get off at the right subway station, grasp global affairs, plan museum trips, and remember the new office floorplan. And our use of maps, and sense of what they represent, is based almost entirely on looking at them. So it's disorienting to think about navigating a new place without a map—let alone without sight, like most of the 285 million people in the world who are visually impaired do everyday. But a group of scientists, architects, and advocates are working toward on new methods of wayfinding for blind people: They're making maps that convey information through touch and sound. 100 Resilient Cities

Applying for a postdoc job? Here are 18 tips for a successful application: Securing a postdoc position is fiercely competitive. Research carried out by Vitae, which supports the development of researchers, suggests that only 23% of doctoral graduates find employment as research staff in higher education, while 14% work as lecturers. In some subject areas, the figures are even more bleak: for arts and humanities subjects, only 14% secured a research position. The Guardian

Some not so "Geographical" News

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

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