



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**McMaster geography students will stock libraries with bikes for kids to borrow:** With spring around the corner, bicycling is picking up steam again in Hamilton. And as the city's bike share formally launches, another group is growing its own bike library aimed at children and youth. McMaster geography students are working to place bicycles at libraries around the city that people can check out and ride. Unlike the new SoBi Hamilton bike share program, people younger than 16 years old are allowed to borrow these bikes, for free. "How do you create a lifelong cyclist? You have to start young," said Shiloh Covey, executive director of [Start the Cycle](#). "And you have to provide bikes." Borrowers go into the library like they're checking out a book, but instead they check out a helmet with a bar code and a lock to retrieve their borrowed bike. They have 24 to 48 hours to borrow the bike, and must return it during library hours. Covey said the team is not worried about theft, because the bikes are painted with logos and are obviously part of the program. So far, Mac Cycles has maintained the *Start the Cycle* bikes. The organization, founded by geography grad students Justin Hall and Charles Burke, hopes to find other partners who believe in the project and are willing to donate or subsidize the upkeep of the bikes. McMaster and *Geographers Without Borders* provided the initial funding. The team hopes to win a student startup competition on campus later this month. Earlier this year, the team enlisted the help of young programmers at a McMaster hackathon to code its website. What's the connection to geography? "Geography is a very broad subject," Covey said. "We're trying to connect people and provide access to active transportation." [CBC | Hamilton](#)

**McMaster students hope to bring bike lending to Ottawa Public Library:** Libraries are usually about teaching kids how to read, but two McMaster University students are hoping the Ottawa Public Library will soon be a place to learn how to ride a bike. Justin Hall and Charles Burke are avid cyclists who launched a Hamilton-based bike library program aimed at children. Ottawa's library and the Start the Cycle group have only just started talking, and no commitment has been made, said Anna Basile, a planning manager from the Ottawa Public Library. While it might be a slow process, the idea of lending things other than bikes isn't a new trend. "Libraries are community hubs, they're not just about lending books. They're about providing community services," said Valoree McKay, executive director of the Canadian Library Association. She said whether it's books, technology or bikes, libraries across the country are trying to draw in younger patrons and serve their community's needs. [Metro News](#)

**Université de Montréal's Pierre André - La politique sur le développement durable se met en place:** "Que ce soit à travers les travaux de nos professeurs, la formation de nos étudiants ou les services que nous offrons à la collectivité, nous sommes là pour rendre le monde qui nous entoure plus juste, plus équitable, plus agréable, plus durable", dit le préambule de la Politique de développement durable de l'Université de Montréal. C'est-à-dire que l'autonomie, la recherche de connaissances nouvelles et de l'excellence ainsi que la transmission du savoir peuvent se faire dans le respect de l'environnement et des personnes. «Nous sommes fiers de cette politique, qui enracine l'engagement de l'Université. Nous sommes peut-être l'une des dernières universités québécoises à la mettre en place, mais je crois qu'elle va très loin», commente en entrevue à Forum l'un des initiateurs de cette politique, Stéphane Béranger, coordonnateur au développement durable au Vice-rectorat aux finances et aux infrastructures. Parmi les membres du Comité du développement durable, Pierre André, professeur agrégé au Département de géographie de la Faculté des arts et des sciences [UdeMNouvelles](#)

**Michael Goodchild to receive Honorary degree from Western University:** Recognized as a global leader in the ever-evolving field of geographic information systems, Michael Goodchild is Emeritus Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The former chair of Western's Department of Geography, Goodchild won the Lauréat Prix International de Géographie Vautrin Lud, considered the Nobel Prize for Geography, in 2007. He will be the recipient of a Doctor of Science, honoris causa (D.Sc.), at the convocation ceremony on June 10, 2015. [Western Geography](#)

**McMaster's School of Geography and Earth Sciences offers Geography 2OC3 as online course this summer:** Geography 2OC3 is a fully online course taught by Dr. Walter Peace, brought to McMaster via Ontario's Online initiative. It will run over the spring-summer semester from May to July. Now you can finally learn about the regional geography of Canada, wherever you happen to be! "The purpose of Geography 2OC3 is to provide an understanding of Canada by studying its geographical diversity in terms of the physical environment, society, economy and culture. By the end of the course you will have a greater appreciation of Canada's regions, physical resource base, economic history and current issues. These themes are crucial to understanding Canada's 'essence' and its mosaic of regional landscapes." View the [Introduction Video](#)



**UCLA's Glen MacDonald** elected as Vice-President of American Association of Geographers. [2015 AAG Election Results](#)

**McGill U's Natalie Oswin** has edited a special issue of [Antipode](#) on the relationships among globalization, urbanization and sexual politics.

**U British Columbia's Elizabeth Lee**, a Teaching Fellow in the Department of Geography, ranked as in the top 10% of instructors in the UBC Faculty of Arts. [UBC Geography](#)

**U Victoria's Dan Smith** comments on Vancouver Island's disappearing glaciers. [CHEK News](#)

At **Concordia U Jessica Roda** was awarded SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to work jointly under the supervision of Erica Lehrer at CEREV [Concordia News](#)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Derek Armitage, Rob C. de Loë, Michelle Morris, Tom W. D. Edwards, Andrea K. Gerlak, Roland I. Hall, Dave Huitema, Ray Ison, David Livingstone, Glen MacDonald, Naho Mirumachi, Ryan Plummer and Brent B. Wolfe. 2015. [Science-policy processes for transboundary water governance](#). AMBIO. DOI:10.1007/s13280-015-0644-x

Julia Bentz, António Rodrigues, Philip Dearden, Helena Calado and Fernando Lopes. 2015. [Crowding in marine environments: Divers and whale watchers in the Azores](#). Ocean & Coastal Management 109: 77–85.

G. Choné and P.M. Biron. 2015. [Assessing the relationship between river mobility and habitat](#). River Research and Applications. DOI:10.1002/rra.2896

Celia Fan, Weihua Cao, Darko Joksimovic, James Li, Doug Banting and Saalih Mohamed Shamead. 2015. [City of Toronto's approach on estimating CSO using a GIS-based hydrologic and hydraulic model](#). 11th International Conference on Hydroinformatics HIC 2014, New York City, USA.

N. Firoozy, A. Komarov, J. Landy, D. Barber, P. Mojabi and R. Scharien. 2015. [Inversion-based sensitivity analysis of snow-covered sea ice electromagnetic profiles](#). Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing, IEEE Journal. DOI:10.1109/JSTARS.2015.2399651

Craig A. Jones. 2015. [Lawfare and the juridification of late modern war](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132515572270

Ziqi Li, Zidong Zhang and Keith Davey. 2015. [Estimating geographical PV potential using LiDAR data for buildings in downtown San Francisco](#). Transactions in GIS. DOI: 10.1111/tgis.12140

Chris Lonergan, Nick Hedley and John J. Clague. 2015. [A visibility-based assessment of tsunami evacuation signs in Seaside, Oregon](#). Natural Hazards. DOI:10.1007/s11069-015-1696-8

Stephanie Morin, Etienne Boucher and Thomas Buffin-Belanger. 2015. [The spatial variability of ice-jam bank morphologies along the Mistassini River \(Quebec, Canada\): an indicator of the ice-jam regime?](#) Natural Hazards. DOI:10.1007/s11069-015-1693-y

Sarah Moser. 2015. [New cities. Old wine in new bottles?](#) Dialogues in Human Geography 5:31-35.

Trisalyn A. Nelson, Taylor Denouden, Benjamin Jestico, Karen Laberee and Meghan Winters. 2015. [BikeMaps.org: a global tool for collision and near miss mapping](#). Frontiers in Public Health.

Reuben Rose-Redwood. 2015. [Looking "Beyond" Power? J.B. Harley's legacy and the powers of cartographic world-making](#). Cartographica 50:54-57.

Matthias N. Sweet, Carly J. Harrison and Pavlos S. Kanaroglou. 2015. [Gridlock in the Greater Toronto Area: Its geography and intensity during key periods](#). Applied Geography 58:167–178. Pages 167-178

Robert G. Way and Philip P. Bonnaventure. 2015. [Testing a reanalysis-based infilling method for areas with sparse discontinuous air temperature data in northeastern Canada](#). Atmospheric Science Letters. DOI:10.1002/asl2.574

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## *Academia Explained: Muppets*



Undergrad



Grad Student



Post-Doc



Assistant Professor



Tenured Professor



Professor Emeritus

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Maritimers declare #WinterISurrender after blizzards batter region:** After being pelted by the second snowstorm in three days, some people in Atlantic Canada are waving a frosty white flag and declaring #WinterISurrender. The most recent blizzard dumped as much as 30 centimetres of snow in parts of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, bringing many areas to a virtual standstill. [CTV News](#)

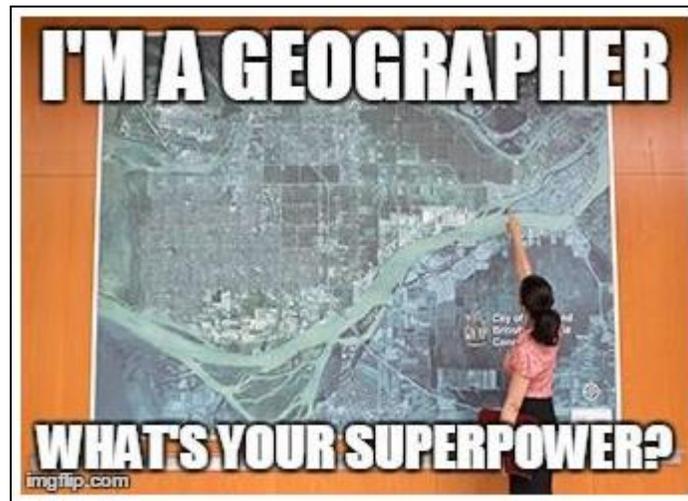
**So you’re “not interested” in being Department Chair?** Have you ever overheard (or been part of) this conversation? For some reason the issue of being Departmental Chair comes up – maybe the Chair position will soon be vacant at your institution, or maybe it just was, or maybe you’re just chatting about career trajectories in academia. Sooner or later Dr. X asks Dr. Y “What about you – will you serve as Chair next/later/some day?” And – stop me if you’ve heard this one – Dr. Y says “Oh, I’m not interested in being Chair”. So wait. If we aren’t “interested” in being Chairs, why do we do it? Well, in jest we often say that we’re just stupid, or that we run away slower than everybody else. (At least, most days we’re saying it in jest). The real reason is pretty simple: somebody has to do it. So, it’s perfectly fine to say that you “aren’t interested” in being Chair (I’ve said it myself, before, after, and even during my service as Chair). Just realize that by saying it, you aren’t distinguishing yourself from any of your colleagues, and that your saying it has nothing at all to do with whether you should consider doing the job! Which, of course, you should. We all should. [Scientist Sees Squirrel](#)

**Half-century evidence from western Canada shows forest dynamics are primarily driven by competition followed by climate:** Using a dataset of long-term observations from undisturbed forests in western Canada, researchers found that tree demographic rates have changed markedly over the last five decades. However, these changes varied widely across tree size, forest age, ecozones, and species. This finding suggests that internal community-level processes—more so than external climatic factors—are driving forest dynamics. [PNAS 2015](#)

**Arctic sea ice hits record low winter peak:** Warm temperatures in parts of the polar regions kept sea ice levels depressed, and also contributed to the winter peak occurring much earlier than usual. The maximum normally isn’t reached until early March, but was recorded about a week early this year. That low occurred on the backdrop of overall dwindling sea ice levels, fueled by global warming. [DNews](#)

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## 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>

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