



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Waterloo's Jean Andrey named Dean of Environment: Professor Jean Andrey has been appointed dean of the Faculty of Environment for an initial five-year term that begins on July 1, 2015 and will end on June 30, 2020. Andrey completed her BA at Wilfrid Laurier University, her MSc in physical geography at the University of Calgary, and her PhD in geography at University of Waterloo. A faculty member at Waterloo for 25 years, Andrey currently holds the position of professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. Her past administrative service includes her appointment as interim dean (August 2014 to present), associate dean of graduate studies (2006-08, 2012-14), associate dean of graduate studies and research (2005-06), director of the joint graduate program in geography (2008-10), and graduate officer and associate chair of the department of geography (1991, 1998-2002). Her research expertise spans a variety of fields including climate resilience, weather-transport interactions, natural hazards and risk assessment, and sustainable transportation. Her work has been recognized with her election as fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society in 2011, the university's Outstanding Performance Award which she received in 2006 and 2007, and numerous teaching awards. She has acted as principal investigator on 25 research projects. [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#) | [Exchange](#)

U Lethbridge's Christopher Hopkinson using ARTeMiS to get a better look at Earth: In the world of academic research, acronyms are pervasive, condensing the titles of everything from funding agencies to prestigious fellowships. But in the case of University of Lethbridge geography researcher Christopher Hopkinson the acronym for his latest project is not only an easy-to-remember abbreviation, but also a symbol of the initiative's ambitions. "I'm interested in enhancing our understanding of the environment and natural resources," says Hopkinson. With such an ecologically minded focus, it's perhaps not surprising Hopkinson is using his research to pay homage to a Greek goddess best known for protecting the wilderness and natural world. The advanced-resolution terradynamic monitoring system (ARTeMiS for short) is a suite of hardware and software technologies that Hopkinson is integrating to improve simultaneous imaging of the Earth's surface and what's happening just beneath it. A national leader in remote sensing technology and its applications, Hopkinson was named a Chair in Terrestrial Ecosystem Remote Sensing in 2013. ARTeMiS will map and quantify surface and sub-surface features and rates of change. "The landscape is complicated," explains Hopkinson. "There are many environmental processes to observe at once – for example, freezing and thawing – and those changes are imperceptible right now because we can't see below and above the ground surface at the same time." "Without this new technology, it will be very difficult to get a handle on these changes and just how important they are," says Hopkinson. [U Lethbridge Research](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont on decade-long increase in B.C. hunting licences for grizzlies and black bears: In 2013-14, the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations issued 1,699 resident hunting licences for grizzly bears, according to data posted online in response to a freedom-of-information request. That's up 58% since 2005-06. The province has, similarly, issued more licences to black-bear hunters. There were 21,836 allotted in 2013-14, up 52% from eight years earlier. Chris Darimont, a professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria, says an overall rise isn't necessarily a bad thing. "What does cause me alarm," he continued, "is the increases in carnivore kills." Darimont explained there are naturally fewer carnivores compared to plant eaters. Larger predators also take more time to reproduce, and can be more easily affected by habitat destruction. In addition, he noted we often don't know the true population of a particular animal or the mortality rate a species can tolerate before experiencing unsustainable population declines. "That grizzly-bear hunt, in most places in the province, is done in the absence of fieldwork that examines if there really are the number of grizzly bears that [government] models say there are," he explained. [The Georgia Straight](#)

SFU Geography selected as an Esri Canada Centre of Excellence in GIS: SFU researchers in the field of spatial and geographic information science (SGIS) have caught the attention of Esri Canada, a private Canadian company that sells enterprise GIS solutions. Esri Canada has established a Centre of Excellence in GIS within SFU's geography department. The new centre joins five other Canadian universities in a national network of excellence in GIS. The SFU ECCE will create an SGIS-focused research and teaching cluster that will also afford networking opportunities for faculty and graduate students at SFU and across Canada. The core group of SFU researchers are Shivanand Balram, Suzana Dragicevic, Nick Hedley, Anders Knudby and Nadine Schuurman. "The ECCE and resulting collaboration with a geospatial leader such as Esri Canada will enable us to expand our research and teaching capacity in the field of spatial information sciences," says professor Suzana Dragicevic, who is coordinating and managing the SFU ECCE. She says the collaboration will also lead to improved access to scholarships, competitions and conferences for SFU's graduate students. Already, four undergraduate students have received SFU Esri scholarship awards, and two graduate students have been sponsored to attend the 2015 Esri Development Summit in Palm Springs, USA. As well, a team of geography students, led by Hedley, won third place in the nationwide 2015 ECCE App Challenge organized by Esri Canada. [SFU News](#)

Western U's Jason Gilliland on why one million Canadian households can't afford the food they need: The numbers haven't budged in five years — more than one million Canadian households can't afford the food they need, a new national report says. Nearly six years after Canada's last recession ended, its food insecurity rates still aren't improving, with one in 20 kids and nearly one in 10 adults living in food-insecure households. One possible reason why the rates have so stubbornly hung on? Food inflation keeps eating into any gains, says an expert at Western University. "The price of food keeps going up," said Jason Gilliland, an associate professor of geography at Western and director of its urban development program. The latest Consumer Price Index underlines his take on the rising cost of food, showing food prices were up 3.8% in February from the same month last year, while the nation's overall inflation rate was just 1%. While low income contributes to food insecurity, the study's authors also found the source of income is important. Households reliant on government benefits as their major source of income had much higher rates of food insecurity than households with another main source of income. Gilliland said one strategy to reduce food insecurity would be a system where people can buy their food locally. "Not only would we have fresher and more affordable food, but the money would be going into the pockets of our neighbours — the farmers, the producers, the processors — and they would spend that money on the community. There is an economic multiplier effect." Another strategy would be to increase living wages, he said. Studies have shown it's hard to live on minimum wage rates. "We have a lot of food-insecure households with people who are working, who do have jobs, but just can't make ends meet," Gilliland said. [London Free Press](#) |

U Waterloo's Susan Elliott receives funding for Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships: Susan Elliott, from the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, has recently received funding for Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships. The scholarship funding, awarded by Rideau Hall Foundation, Community Foundations of Canada and Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, allows Canadian students at the undergraduate and graduate levels to participate in internships or academic study for periods of three months to one year in another Commonwealth country. Scholarships will also be available to students from Commonwealth countries to attend a Canadian university for masters or doctoral studies. The Scholarships form part of university-designed projects that address pressing local, national and global issues. Susan Elliott hopes to bring at least four fully funded graduate students to the University of Waterloo to develop a global wellbeing index (nicknamed GLOWING) similar to the Canadian Index of Wellbeing – a project developed at Waterloo. The GLOWING will focus first on countries in east Africa to develop appropriate indicators that can realistically measure wellbeing in low to middle income countries. Elliot has already selected one PhD student who will be arriving at the University of Waterloo in September to begin work on the index. "This is an amazing opportunity for students from LMICs," Elliott said of the funding. "These students will be fully funded. They'll have their tuition paid, travel paid, books, and a computer. It's a great opportunity for them." [U Waterloo Geography News](#)

Western U PhD Candidate Marylynn Steckley featured in Dialogue - SSHRC's eNewsletter: Marylynn Steckley, a PhD Candidate in Western Geography, was featured in the most recent edition of Dialogue - SSHRC's eNewsletter - as a final five finalist of SSHRC's three minute storytellers competition. She is interested in the ecological and sociological impacts of the idiom "you are what you eat." Marylynn studies how the pursuit of greater social status through conspicuous consumption of luxury foods and delicacies can shape food systems in ways that reproduce poverty and facilitate ecological destruction. Despite this, she argues that food systems and eating practices can potentially also be emancipatory. Her current research investigates local responses in rural Haiti to encroachment by the global food market—specifically, how peasant resistance manifests in dietary choices and farming practices. Marylynn has also conducted field research in Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Haiti. Watch [YouTube SSHRC Storyteller: Marylynn Steckley](#)



The CAG 2015 annual conference and meetings, hosted by Simon Fraser University, will take place in Simon Fraser's downtown locations, June 1-5, 2015.

Don't forget you need to register **before April 1, 2014**, to qualify for the early bird registration fee.



[Click here](#) to access CAG 2015 Early Bird Registration



Simon Fraser U's Paul Kingsbury is co-organizing sessions for the Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute for British Geographers) 2015 Annual Conference (Exeter, UK). [SFU Geography News](#)

The **Canadian Geomorphology Research Group** has announced that **Nicole Couture**, Geological Survey of Canada, is the recipient of the 2014 JR Mackay Award for a significant contribution by a young Canadian geomorphologist.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jeremy W. Crampton, Franklin Ginn, Scott Kirsch, Audrey Kobayashi, Simon Naylor and Jörn Seemann. 2015. [Teaching the history of geography. Current challenges and future directions](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132515575940

Beau Doherty, Melissa Hauzer and Frédéric Le Manach. 2015. [Reconstructing catches for the Union of the Comoros: Uniting historical sources of catch data for Ngazidja, Ndzuwani and Mwali from 1950–2010](#). In: F. Le Manach and D. Pauly. Fisheries catch reconstructions in the Western Indian Ocean, 1950–2010. Fisheries Centre Research Reports 23(2). Fisheries Centre, University of British Columbia.

Dyhia Belhabib, U. Rashid Sumaila, Vicky W.Y. Lam, Dirk Zeller, Philippe Le Billon, Elimane Abou Kane and Daniel Pauly. 2015. [Euros vs. Yuan: Comparing European and Chinese fishing access in West Africa](#). PLOS|One. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0118351

F. Domine, M. Barrere, D. Sarrazin and S. Morin. 2015. [Automatic monitoring of the effective thermal conductivity of snow in a low Arctic shrub tundra](#). The Cryosphere Discussions 9:1633-1665.

Nick Revington. 2015. [Gentrification, transit, and land use: Moving beyond neoclassical theory](#). Geography Compass 9:152–163.

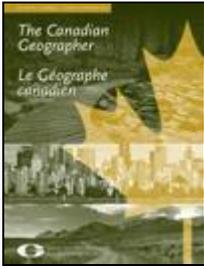
Joel Finnis, Atanu Sarkar and Mark C.J. Stoddart. 2015. [Bridging science and community knowledge? The complicating role of natural variability in perceptions of climate change](#). Global Environmental Change 32:1–10.

Dinesh Babu Irulappa Pillai Vijayakumar, Frédéric Raulier, Pierre Y. Bernier, Sylvie Gauthier, Yves Bergeron and David Pothier. 2015. [Lengthening the historical records of fire history over large areas of boreal forest in eastern Canada using empirical relationships](#). Forest Ecology and Management 347:30–39.

Jie Yang, Frederik P. Agterberg and Qiuming Cheng. 2015. [A novel filtering technique for enhancing mineralization associated geochemical and geophysical anomalies](#). Computers & Geosciences.

Kirsten Zickfeld and Tyler Herrington. 2015. [The time lag between a carbon dioxide emission and maximum warming increases with the size of the emission](#). Environmental Research Letters 10. DOI:10.1088/1748-9326/10/3/031001

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



Antony Chum, Sara Carpenter, Eddie Farrell, Laurie Mook, Femida Handy, Daniel Schugurensky and Jack Quarter. 2015. [Does geographic context influence employability-motivated volunteering? The role of area-level material insecurity and urbanicity](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12167

Bruce Erickson. 2015. [Embodied heritage on the French River: Canoe routes and colonial history](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12171

Other “Geographical” News

Why most Twitter maps can't be trusted: When geographers decided to study the tricky phenomenon of race-based spatial segregation in Louisville, Kentucky, they had a few options. They could have “set up an entire study [and] given [Louisville residents] GPS trackers and diaries.” But “that would require 18 months of planning and lot of money,” he says. “Too much money.” So the geographers went the cheaper, faster route: Twitter data. Specifically, they pulled data from 5.7 million tweets geotagged to Louisville. This sort of Twitter mapping technique is popular, and seems to illuminate broad socio-cultural responses to big-time national events. But this technique has serious flaws. Twitter mappers often fail to normalize their data, meaning that many Twitter maps are less representations of deep, social phenomena and more depictions of population patterns. The problem with Twitter maps isn't that social media data is inherently flawed—it's that the people who make them get lazy. [Atlantic City Lab](#)

Late Pleistocene horse and camel hunting at the southern margin of the ice-free corridor in Alberta 13,300 y ago: Archaeological discoveries at Wally's Beach, Canada, provide the only direct evidence of horse and camel hunting in the Americas at the end of the last Ice Age. Here, seven horses and one camel were attacked and butchered near a river crossing by prehistoric hunters. New radiocarbon dates revise the age of these kill and butchering localities to 13,300 y ago. Other North American kill and butchering sites show that prehistoric hunters preyed on 6 of the 36 genera of large mammals, called megafauna, for at least 2,000 y before these animals became extinct, around 12,700 y ago. [PNAS](#) | [CBC News](#)

Mapped: 10 years of unprecedented change in Canada's cities: Canadian cities have seen a decade of major demographic changes, creating challenges for anyone looking to understanding how people live, work, and think. Since 2004, Environics Analytics has tried to offer more insight into Canadian communities by dividing the population into different segments, based on criteria such as age, income and lifestyle choices. All that data-crunching has resulted in a fascinating snapshot of Canada in 2015—right down to individual postal codes, with the accompanying maps highlighting 11 lifestyle categories that best show how immigration, urbanization and an aging population are reshaping Canadian society. [Macleans.ca](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



The next time you plan a vacation, there's a little nation just east of Canada where the lobster is fresh, the snow is deep and the Atlantic Ocean is right at your doorstep.

Yes, Atlantic Canada is the country just next door to Canada, according to an advertisement from Air Canada.

[CTV News](#) | [CBC News](#)



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