



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 352, April 5, 2015
Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

U Waterloo Geography and Environmental Management students win Esri Canada GIS Centres of Excellence App Challenge: The week-long coding competition encouraged students within the network to build innovative Web apps that use open data and Esri's geographic information system (GIS) technology to address a specific theme. Working as a team, Jonathan Van Dusen, Majuratan Sadagopan and Shanqi Zhang, developed [PredictION](#), a transit modeling and routing application that helps citizens to visualize, analyze and compare routes and service areas between existing and proposed transit systems. "PredictION is an excellent example of how governments, such as transit authorities, can use spatial Web apps to engage citizens in new projects," said Dr. Brent Hall, director of education and research, Esri Canada. "It's a powerful and practical tool for informing citizens of possible changes in the transit system, allowing them to make better travel decisions and improve their quality of life." For the competition, the team used PredictION to demonstrate the impact on travel times and service areas of the coming ION Rapid Transit lines to the Region of Waterloo's Grand River Transit network. They used Esri's [ArcGISplatform](#) to integrate, process and display various open datasets including road and bus networks, transit routes and schedules, regional boundaries and local points of interest. They also used [Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS](#) (Developer Edition) to create a highly visual and easy-to-use analysis tool for comparing current and proposed transit services. [U Waterloo Environment News](#)

U Toronto's Matthew Siemiatycki on need for big box shopping centres will need to reinvent themselves: As Canadians migrate from the suburbs to the inner cities and do more of their shopping online, big box shopping centres face an uncertain fate. Experts say many of these shopping centres will need to reinvent themselves as mixed-use lifestyle hubs to avoid a bleak future. Matthew Siemiatycki, an associate professor of geography and planning at the University of Toronto, says he's optimistic that the sprawling, suburban big box shopping centres will eventually be repurposed into mixed-use sites. "The sites are, in many cases, in phenomenal locations," he says. "They're at key transportation intersections and they could become community hubs depending on what goes in there." Restaurants, fitness centres and medical clinics are beginning to make up a larger portion of the tenant mix at many shopping centres, as they provide social experiences and other services that can't be purchased remotely. "People do want to get out of their house and go and meet in welcoming environments," Siemiatycki says. [Toronto Star](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont receives Distinguished Academics Early in Career award: University of Victoria wildlife expert Dr. Chris Darimont—a research pioneer on BC's coastal wolves and bears, and a passionate advocate for science-based conservation policy—is this year's winner of the Distinguished Academics Early in Career award from the Confederation of University Faculty Associations. Darimont says he's donating the \$1,000 cash award to UVic to help establish a new scholarship for Indigenous students. Darimont, who is the Hakai-Raincoast geography professor in UVic's Faculty of Social Sciences, is an interdisciplinary conservation scientist who has conducted groundbreaking research on the importance of wolves and bears to coastal ecosystems and people. For example, he has injected new evidence into the grizzly bear trophy hunting controversy by working with locally owned and operated bear ecotourism companies to take a science-based "inventory" of bears in their area. Darimont and his students study the relationships among wildlife, salmon and people on BC's central coast, also known as the Great Bear Rainforest. The research is united by strong partnerships with the four Indigenous Nations (Heiltsuk, Kitasoo/Xais'xais, Wuikinuxv and Nuxalk) of the central coast who hold Indigenous knowledge of the area. Darimont's professorship and UVic's Applied Conservation Science Lab are supported by two investors: Hakai Institute and Raincoast Conservation Foundation. [UVic Media Release](#)



Geographer **Robert Maher** writes about the island geography of Haida Gwaii for [Geomatics Canada](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Matthew J. Burke, Tracy A. Brennand and Darren B. Sjogren. 2015. [The role of sediment supply in esker formation and ice tunnel evolution](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 115:50–77.

Mike Church and R.I. Ferguson. 2015. [Morphodynamics: Rivers beyond steady state](#). Water Resources Research. DOI: 10.1002/2014WR016862

Stephen J. Dugdale, Jan Franssen, Emily Corey, Normand E. Bergeron, Michel Lapointe and Richard A. Cunjak. 2015. [Main stem movement of Atlantic salmon parr in response to high river temperature](#). Ecology of Freshwater Fish. DOI: 10.1111/eff.12224

Michael P. Ferber and Randolph Haluza-DeLay. 2015. Scale-jumping and climate change in the geography of religion. In: The Changing World Religion Map. Sacred Places, Identities, Practices and Politics. Edited by: Stanley Brunn. Springer. 203-215.

Greg Oulahan, Linda Mortsch, Kathy Tang and Deborah Harford. 2015. [Unequal vulnerability to flood hazards: "Ground truthing" a social vulnerability index of five municipalities in Metro Vancouver, Canada](#). Annals of the Association of American Geographers. DOI:10.1080/00045608.2015.1012634

Wei Xu, Nader Khoshroo and Henning Bjornlun. 2014. [Evaluating alternative water allocation policies among competing users in the Bow River Basin, Alberta, Canada](#). 11th International Conference on Hydroinformatics. HIC 2014, New York City, USA

Other “Geographical” News

In Manitoba, potholes so large, they have trout: A long time ago, when glaciers were retreating out of Manitoba, giant blocks of ice would "calve off," meaning to separate, from the main glacier. Sediments from the main glacier also washed off and covered the icebergs and surroundings, providing further insulation. When these icebergs finally melted, which took up to 3,000 years, they left behind giant cavities in the landscape that filled with water from runoff and creeks. These are called pothole lakes, and the Riding Mountain area is full of them. "These potholes are extremely productive, and the fish grow at a fantastic rate" of about a kilogram per year, said Ray Frey, chairman of local group, FLIPPR (Fish and Lake Improvement Program for the Parkland Region), which aerates lakes so they'll support trout. There are about 10 public pothole lakes stocked with trout west and southwest of Riding Mountain. That includes Roblin-area lakes East and West Goose lakes, and Twin and Persse lakes, stocked by Manitoba Conservation with brown, rainbow and tiger trout. [The Carillon](#)

Hamilton police launch online crime map: Hamilton police have launched a crime mapping tool that allows residents to search when and where certain types of crimes have happened in the city. Residents can set up crime alerts to receive email and text notifications of crimes in their chosen areas. An iPhone app is also available for this purpose. A new feature will also be added soon to allow residents and businesses to register their security cameras to help police build a database of cameras and turn them into law enforcement tools. Hamilton is the second police agency in Canada to work with the company for the mapping service. London, Ont., police have been using the mapping tool for less than a year. [CBC | Hamilton](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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