

GeogNews



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McMaster U's Richard Harris awarded Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award: The Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award was established in 1949 to recognize annually the most distinguished work of scholarship in the history of architecture published by a North American scholar. Richard received this recognition for his book entitled [*Building a Market: The Rise of the Home Improvement Industry, 1914–1960*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012). [Society of Architectural Historians](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth focuses on amenity migrants in B.C.'s tiniest towns: Jason Clarke is helping to keep rural B.C. from becoming a vast ghost town. Clarke, who works in information technology, likely could have taken his skills anywhere in the province. But he fell in love with the central Kootenay village of Silverton, population 200, and moved there from Vancouver with his wife five years ago. He is now the village's mayor. Clarke belongs to a new wave of workers who are reinventing tiny communities across the province. University of Northern B.C. geography professor Greg Halseth calls them amenity migrants. These folks, often from big cities, migrate to tiny places for a quality of life they can't find anywhere else. Some, like Clarke, are telecommuters. Others use their rural homes as a base while they fly in and out of jobs up north. Still others are entrepreneurs or artists who create a business in their new homes. The flow of amenity migrants to small communities is being swelled by retirement migrants, Halseth says. [Times Colonist](#)

McGill U's Nigel Roulet on why 'Cold carbon conservation' is important in fighting climate change: So-called "cold carbon conservation" is something that all northern leaders across Canada and the globe should be championing. The world's boreal and Arctic regions are the planet's largest land-based storehouses of carbon — larger even than those of tropical forests. Think about that for a moment: They are the largest storehouse on the planet. Canada's boreal forest region was once estimated to store 208 billion tonnes of carbon. But recent science indicates that there may be at least two to three times more than that. The boreal forest ecosystems of Quebec and Ontario alone hold at least 80 billion tonnes of carbon in soils, peat, and forests — equivalent to more than 500 years of Canada's annual carbon emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. Last week, Quebec announced the finalization of two new protected areas developed with the Kativik Regional Government and communities. The new protections total more than 6,500 square kilometres and represent a major step forward in ensuring the carbon in those landscapes has the highest chance of remaining there and wildlife have the greatest chance to survive. [Montreal Gazette](#)

Memorial U student Bethany Downer's non-profit One Step Shoe Recycling: When Bethany Downer became inspired to start a non-profit organization while attending the 2014 Impact Youth for Sustainability conference in Guelph, Ont., she couldn't have anticipated the impact her decision would have. Ms. Downer, a 21-year-old geography student at Memorial, is president of [One Step Shoe Recycling](#), an organization that began with a goal of collecting 100 pairs of gently used shoes for people in need. "I consider shoes a basic need, and I was learning the stats, how great the demand was, and how many unused shoes there are out there," she said. To date, she has collected 13,000 pairs of shoes and distributed them to five different provinces and 15 countries. One Step Shoe Recycling began collecting shoes on Sept. 1, 2014, in St. John's and 30 other locations throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. By November, the organization was shipping shoes to the mainland. Ms. Downer recruited the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and the Ontario-based business Running Free Canada, among other partners, to assist financially with the distribution. "In three months we had collected 5,000 pairs of shoes, and re-directed 9,000 pounds of waste from landfills," said Ms. Downer, who counts and weighs each and every pair of shoes that comes through the makeshift warehouse in the Downer residence. [Memorial Geography](#)

U Victoria's Olaf Niemann appointed to BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing: The University of Victoria is partnering with the province to develop new ways of using airborne sensors to gather information about the environment and natural resources, including forest health, invasive plant species and mineral mapping. UVic geographer Olaf Niemann, an international leader in remote sensing technology, is the newly appointed BC Leadership Chair in Hyperspectral Remote Sensing. It is the first and only research program in this field in Canada. The province has provided \$2.25 million to permanently endow the chair through its Leading Edge Endowment Fund (LEEF). The provincial contribution has been matched by funds from UVic and the University of Victoria Foundation. Hyperspectral imaging collects and measures visible light reflected from surface features like rocks, trees and water, as well as the non-visible energy they emit down to the size of an atom. UVic is the only academic institution in Canada to have an airborne hyperspectral scanner, operated in partnership with Terra Remote Sensing in Sidney, BC. The scanner is combined with other sensors—such as thermal scanners, digital cameras and a LiDAR scanning laser system—to address issues in environmental monitoring and resource management. The endowed chair will allow Niemann and his team to continue their work with government, industry and other university researchers as they investigate new remote sensing techniques, including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to collect hyperspectral images. [UVic Media](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Amy Berry, 2015. "The adverse effects of climate change on coastal communities' capabilities: The case study of Tujereng, The Gambia". Master's thesis. Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Supervisor: Cathy Conrad.

Meagan Symington. 2015. *Community-based conservation and development: The case of the Mori Kunda Community Forest in Tujereng, The Gambia*. Master's thesis. Department of Geography, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Supervisor: Cathy Conrad.

Karin Van Ewijk. 2015. *Estimating forest structure from LiDAR and high spatial resolution imagery for the prediction of succession and species composition*. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Paul Treitz and Neal Scott.



Concordia U's Erica Lehrer receives innovation grant for a teaching project she will undertake jointly with Heather Igloliorte in Art History called "Public Culture in the City: Digital Humanities for Democratic Dialogue." [Concordia News](#)

U British Columbia's David Ley tracing the trend relationship between the rise in Vancouver residential property prices and the influx of immigrant investors over the years. The lines run in direct lockstep. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

U British Columbia's Marwan Hassan's Headship extended to 2017: Professor Marwan Hassan's appointment as Head of the UBC Department of Geography has been extended to June 2017. [UBC Geography](#)

Saint Mary's University BES Major Meghan Clarke and ENVS minor Geordan Lynk awarded funding to reinvigorate the campus community garden. The project has the potential to add urban agriculture components to the sustainability curriculum at Saint Mary's University, and may lead the way for further advancements within the curriculum. [Saint Mary's U Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Simon Dalby. 2015. [Geoengineering: The next era of geopolitics?](#) Geography Compass 9:190-201.

Kiley Daley, Heather Castleden, Rob Jamieson, Chris Furgal and Lorna Ell. 2015. [Water systems, sanitation, and public health risks in remote communities: Inuit resident perspectives from the Canadian Arctic.](#) Social Science & Medicine. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2015.04.017

J.N. Goetz, A. Brenning, H. Petschko and P. Leopold. 2015. [Evaluating machine learning and statistical prediction techniques for landslide susceptibility modelling.](#) Computers & Geosciences. DOI:10.1016/j.cageo.2015.04.007

Bernard Héту, Guillaume Fortin et Kati Brown. 2015. [Climat hivernal, aménagement du territoire et dynamique des avalanches au Québec méridional une analyse à partir des accidents connus depuis 1825.](#) Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences. DOI:10.1139/cjes-2014-0205

Merje Kuus. 2015. [Symbolic power in diplomatic practice: Matters of style in Brussels.](#) Cooperation and Conflict. DOI:10.1177/0010836715574914

J.W. Munroe, G. Soto, E. de M. Virginio Filho, R. Fulthorpe and M.E. Isaac. 2015. [Soil microbial and nutrient properties in the rhizosphere of coffee under agroforestry management.](#) Applied Soil Ecology 93:40–46.

Christina M. Neudorf, Tracy A. Brennand and Olav B. Lian. 2015. [Comparisons between macro- and microfibrils in a pebble-rich, sandy till deposited by the Cordilleran Ice Sheet.](#) Boreas. DOI:10.1111/bor.12120

Felix Nwaishi, Richard M. Petrone, Jonathan S. Price, Scott J. Ketcheson, Robin Slawson and Roxane Andersen. 2015. [Impacts of donor-peat management practices on the functional characteristics of a constructed fen](#). Ecological Engineering. DOI:10.1016/j.ecoleng.2015.04.038

Mark Rosenberg. 2015. [Health geography II. 'Dividing' health geography](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI: 10.1177/0309132515581094

Jeremy Snyder, Valorie A. Crooks, Rory Johnston, Krystyna Adams and Rebecca Whitmore. 2015. [Medical tourism's impacts on health worker migration in the Caribbean: five examples and their implications for global justice](#). Global Health Action. 8:27348.

Dominique St-Hilaire-Gravel, Donald I. Forbes and Trevor Bell. 2015. [Evolution and morphodynamics of a prograded beach-ridge foreland, northern Baffin Island, Canadian Arctic Archipelago](#). Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography. DOI: 10.1111/geoa.12103

Su-Yin Tan. 2015. [Dashboard display of solar weather](#). In: Handbook of Cosmic Hazards and Planetary Defense. Edited by: Joseph N. Pelton and Firooz Allahdadi. Springer International Publishing. 401-447.

Joshua R. Thienpont, Jennifer B. Korosi, Elisa S. Cheng, Kayla Deasley, Michael F.J. Pisaric and John P. Smol. 2015. [Recent climate warming favours more specialized cladoceran taxa in western Canadian Arctic lakes](#). Journal of Biogeography. DOI: 10.1111/jbi.12519

Other “Geographical” News

A PhD is for life, not just for academia: There are more people completing PhDs than there are academic posts available. That is why we must dispel the myths that a PhD leads to a job for life, and to leave academia is to fail. Students and their supervisors need to understand the wide range of careers that a PhD can lead to in and outside science. There are many careers outside academia where scientific skills are invaluable, and students should be exposed to these in their PhD training. It should also include basics like interview and presentation skills. Supervisors should encourage students to think early on about the path they'd like their career to take. We don't need fewer people doing science PhDs, we need more people thinking more widely about what those PhDs could lead to. [The Guardian](#)

Unlocking the mystical secrets of the Manitoba Legislature's Golden Boy: It was 2001 and Frank Albo was driving along Memorial Boulevard, heading toward the Manitoba Legislature. And that's when the sphinx caught his eye. He was looking up at Golden Boy, the famous statue on the roof of the legislative building and found himself asking, “What on earth are two Egyptian sphinxes doing on the roof of the Leg?” [Globe and Mail](#)

Thawing permafrost feeds climate change: Single-cell organisms called microbes are rapidly devouring the ancient carbon being released from thawing permafrost soil and ultimately releasing it back into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide, according to new research. Increased carbon dioxide levels, of course, cause the Earth to warm and accelerate thawing. [ScienceDaily](#)

High mountains warming faster than expected: High elevation environments around the world may be warming much faster than previously thought, according to members of an international research team. They call for more aggressive monitoring of temperature changes in mountain regions and more attention to the potential consequences of warming. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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