



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Memorial U's Norm Catto on the disappearing sand on popular Burin Peninsula beach:** A beach on Newfoundland's Burin Peninsula was one of the sandiest in the province — until it vanished in December. But Norm Catto, a Memorial University professor, says that's not unusual. Now all that's left on Shoal Cove Beach, near the town of St. Lawrence, is a whole lot of rocks. The beach is a popular area in the summer, where people swim, sunbathe and play beach volleyball. Normally, it attracts locals and tourists who enjoy the high waves rolling in over fine sand, with just a few rocks — unusual for the rugged Newfoundland coastline. At least that's how it looked up until last December, when minor storms over a couple of days seemed to suck all the sand off the beach, leaving a rocky shoreline less than ideal for summer activities. Despite concerns from locals, Catto, head of the geography department at Memorial University, says the province's beaches are dynamic and constantly changing, and this is just an example of that process. "This is a natural fluctuation," he says. "It occurs in response to storm events, particularly storms out of the southwest." So where did all that sand go? Catto believes it is just off the shore at the bottom of Shoal Cove, and will return over time as conditions change and the winds calm down. Some residents say they can already see the sand slowly migrating back up the beach, especially at low tide. Catto says the sand can be expected to return before the summer is over. "That sand will be picked up and will migrate back onto the beach system. "Over time the sandy beach will be rebuilt. Normally you're looking at a period of a few weeks to two to three months" [CBCNews | Newfoundland & Labrador](#)



Image Credits: Before CBC | After CBC

**U Saskatchewan's Cherie Westbrook to lead CREATE training program in water security:** A new University of Saskatchewan program that will train leaders to help solve Canada's current and future water security problems has been awarded \$1.65 million over six years through the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) program of the federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. The program will prepare more than 60 graduates for diverse careers in government, industry and academia. Participating students may train in programs at the contributing universities. "We developed the program in co-ordination with many key Canadian water security employers to meet their needs for highly skilled workers where there is currently a shallow candidate pool," said Cherie Westbrook, project leader and associate professor in the department of geography and planning at the U of S. The program's development team includes experts from the disciplines of geography, civil engineering, geoscience, atmospheric science, biology and public policy. All will mentor students through the program, which consists of interdisciplinary courses, internships, lab exchanges and research. "Through this program, we will establish a new, integrative training model that addresses significant science challenges of water security and enables the transition of students to research careers or productive practitioners in the Canadian workforce," Westbrook said. The program involves representatives from the U of S College of Arts & Science, Global Institute for Water Security, School of Environment and Sustainability, College of Engineering, College of Agriculture and Bioresources and Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Other public sector agencies and industrial partners will contribute through work experiences and research collaborations. The first students will begin training in September. [U Saskatchewan News](#)

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**U Victoria Geography's BikeMaps.org** identifies cycling safety hot spots in Victoria: On the BikeMaps.org website, citizens of Victoria, British Columbia, have mapped more than 475 trouble spots for cyclists. Below are top 8 problem areas they report. Drivers and cyclists should use caution at these locations. Interested in safety in your area? Encourage local mapping! [BikeMaps.org](#)

**U Guelph Geography introduces Robin Roth** as new Associate Professor in Human-Environment Geography. Dr. Roth is an internationally recognized scholar of political ecology, who promotes critical understanding of the challenges of biodiversity conservation in regions like southeast Asia and, most recently, indigenous territories in Canada. Dr. Roth has significant experience in curriculum design and alternative teaching models; indeed, she has just returned from a field course in Thailand, and, based on previous experiences there, has developed a course that brings together Canadian university students and refugee students located on the Thai-Burma border to collaboratively study Global Environmental Change. [U Guelph News](#)

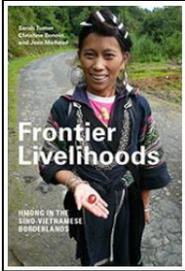
**U Guelph's MA Geography Candidate Gen Lalonde** qualifies for 2015 IAAF World Track and Field Championships and 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Originally from Moncton, New Brunswick, she now competes for the Speed River Track and Field Club located in Guelph, Ontario under the direction of Head Coach Dave Scott-Thomas. The sort-of self-diagnosed faux-hippie, graduated from the University of Guelph in Environmental Sciences and Geography. [AcadienNouvelle](#) | [Athletics Illustrated](#)

**Université Laval, Département de géographie** - Marie-Ève Dubois est diplômée du baccalauréat en géographie. Elle présente son rôle à titre d'agente de recherche pour le Bureau du Nionwentsio au Conseil de la Nation huronne-wendat. [YouTube](#)

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## New Book:

Sarah Turner, Christine Bonnin and Jean Michaud. 2015. [Frontier Livelihoods. Hmong in the Sino-Vietnamese Borderlands](#). University of Washington Press. 234 p.



Do ethnic minorities have the power to alter the course of their fortune when living within a socialist state? In *Frontier Livelihoods*, the authors focus their study on the Hmong - known in China as the Miao - in the Sino-Vietnamese borderlands, contending that individuals and households create livelihoods about which governments often know little.

The product of wide-ranging research over many years, *Frontier Livelihoods* bridges the traditional divide between studies of China and peninsular Southeast Asia by examining the agency, dynamics, and resilience of livelihoods adopted by Hmong communities in Vietnam and in China's Yunnan Province. It covers the reactions to state modernization projects among this ethnic group in two separate national jurisdictions and contributes to a growing body of literature on cross-border relationships between ethnic minorities in the borderlands of China and its neighbors and in Southeast Asia more broadly.

Sarah Turner is professor of geography at McGill University. She is the author of *Indonesia's Small Entrepreneurs: Trading on the Margins* and editor of *Red Stamps and Gold Stars: Fieldwork Dilemmas in Upland Socialist Asia*. Christine Bonnin is lecturer in geography at University College Dublin. Jean Michaud is professor of social anthropology at Université Laval. He is the author of *The A to Z of the People of the Southeast Asian Massif*.

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## Survey of graduates in the Earth Sciences

The Canadian Association of Geographers is participating in an international survey of graduates in the Earth Sciences. The purpose of this study is to assess the post-graduation destinations of graduates in Canadian Earth Science and related programs, and it will be used to compare with similar surveys in USA and UK.

If you graduated in 2014/2015, with a degree that includes an Earth Sciences component, you are invited to participate in the survey. Any personal data collected will be voluntary, and all the data collected from this study will be housed in a secure database. Should you wish, you will also have the opportunity to participate in a longitudinal survey at the end of the questionnaire.

English survey link: <http://bit.ly/1NB1hU8> - Token code: mmyqx

French survey link: <http://bit.ly/1FFRBmV> - Token code: txesr

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Bernard O. Bauer, Patrick A. Hesp, Ian J. Walker and Robin G.D. Davidson-Arnott. 2015. [Sediment transport \(dis\)continuity across a beach-dune profile during an offshore wind event](#). *Geomorphology*. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.05.004

Sasha Bernatsky, Audrey Smargiassi, Markey Johnson, Gilaad G. Kaplan, Cheryl Barnabe, Larry Svenson, Allan Brand, Stefania Bertazon, Marie Hudson, Ann E. Clarke, Paul R. Fortin, Steven Edworthy, Patrick Bélisle and Lawrence Joseph. 2015. [Fine particulate air pollution, nitrogen dioxide, and systemic autoimmune rheumatic disease in Calgary, Alberta](#). *Environmental Research* 140:474–478.

Ana Brandusescu, Renée E Sieber and Sylvie Jochems. 2015. [Confronting the hype. The use of crisis mapping for community development](#). *Convergence*. DOI: 10.1177/1354856515584320

Mike Church and R. I. Ferguson. 2015. [Morphodynamics: Rivers beyond steady state](#). *Water Resources Research* 51:1883–1897. DOI: 10.1002/2014WR016862

Vahid Ghari, Mohammad S. Lazerjan and Khan Rubayet Rahaman. 2015. [Work efficiency of winch in skidding operation in seri-I of Ezdarak Forestry Plan in Lajim area in the north of Iran](#). *Middle East Journal of Management* 2. DOI: 10.1504/MEJM.2015.069007

Roberta Hawkins. 2015. [Shifting conceptualizations of ethical consumption: Cause-related marketing in India and the USA](#). *Geoforum*. DOI:10.1016/j.geoforum.2015.05.007

William N. Holden. 2015. [Mining amid typhoons: Large-scale mining and typhoon vulnerability in the Philippines](#). *The Extractive Industries and Society*. DOI: 10.1016/j.exis.2015.04.009

Zhaoqin Li and Xulin Guo. 2015. [Remote sensing of terrestrial non-photosynthetic vegetation using hyperspectral, multispectral, SAR, and LiDAR data](#). *Progress in Physical Geography*. DOI: 10.1177/0309133315582005

R.J. Soare, B. Horgan, S.J. Conway, C. Souness and M.R. El-Maarry. 2015. [Volcanic terrain and the possible periglacial formation of “excess ice” at the mid-latitudes of Utopia Planitia, Mars](#). *Earth and Planetary Science Letters* 423-182-192.

Jon D. Unruh. 2015. [Use of upgraded evidence in cadaster approaches for Syrian refugee return](#). WCS-CE - The World Cadastre Summit, Congress & Exhibition. Istanbul, Turkey, 20 –25 April 2015.

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### Other “Geographical” News

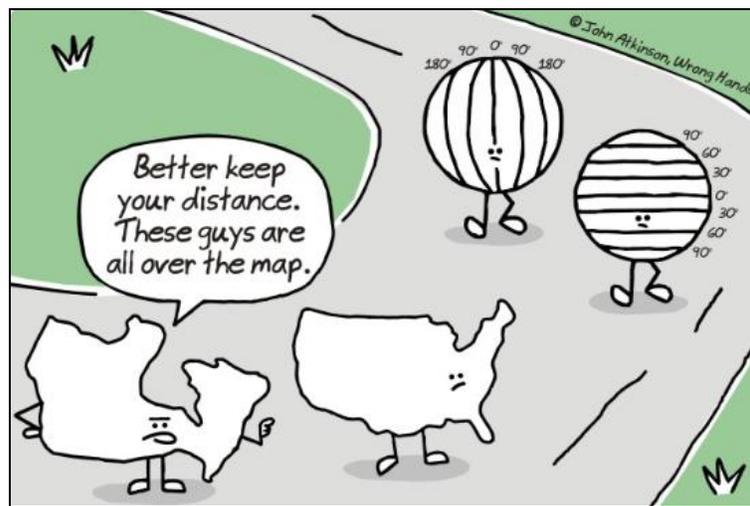
**Canada’s ‘ultimate’ climate history to be housed at U of Alberta:** Buried deep in Canada’s glaciers are clues about the country’s climate and environmental history dating back tens of thousands of years. Soon the University of Alberta will host the country’s ice core archives, approximately 1,000 metal tubes that contain Canadian ice samples that measure a kilometre in total and provide glimpses into what the earth was like as much as 100,000 years ago. The collection of ice cores will be transported by a convoy of freezer trucks from the Geological Survey of Canada in Ottawa to Edmonton in early 2016. [Edmonton Journal](#)

**Ontario's tallest tree is rooted in the Ottawa Valley:** The town of Arnprior, Ont., now has one tall order — the bragging rights to Ontario's tallest tree. Just west of Ottawa, Arnprior is home to a 47-metre tall eastern white pine tree, which reaches higher than a 13-storey building. The tree is more than 200 years old, which means it escaped loggers and developers for quite some time thanks to community support. [CBCNews | Ottawa](#)

**Maps show Alberta is dry:** Much of Alberta and western Saskatchewan have had little to no rain since April 1. Concerns are starting to gather that crops will be stressed if rain does not soon arrive. Unfortunately the five day forecast from the U.S. Weather Service shows little chance of substantial rain accumulation in the next few days. [The Western Producer](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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