



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**CAG 2015 annual conference and meetings**, to be held at Simon Fraser University, June 1-5, 2015. This celebration of Geographic Diversity and Dialogue will take place in [Simon Fraser's downtown](#) locations, principally at Harbour Centre and the (adjacent) Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue.

The conference begins with an icebreaker event on Monday evening, has oral presentations, posters and special events from Tuesday to Friday, and field trips throughout the conference. The John Wiley Presentation will be delivered by Professor Andrew J. Weaver, a leading authority on global climate change and the first Green Party member of British Columbia's Legislative assembly.

Following the AGM, the banquet will be held on Thursday, June 4th in the [Kirin \(Chinese\) Restaurant](#).

Conference Location: <http://www.sfu.ca/cag2015/Location.html>

Conference Schedule: <http://www.sfu.ca/cag2015/schedule1.html>

For more info, please visit the [main conference website](#)

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**U Victoria's Postdoctoral Fellow Caroline Fox confirm that coastal black bears in British Columbia rely on herring eggs:** B.C. scientists have for the first time confirmed that coastal black bears rely on herring eggs that wash up into intertidal zones — backing up longstanding local and traditional knowledge. Despite population reductions throughout parts of their range, Pacific herring still spawn on nearshore and intertidal substrates along the Pacific coast — where water turns chalk white with milt and dense egg layers are laid upon the beaches, kelp forests and seafloor, according to one of the study authors Dr. Caroline Fox, of the Raincoast Conservation Foundation and a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geography at University of Victoria. “Local and traditional knowledge holders, coastal First Nation people, have long been aware of this,” she said. “As you can imagine, black bears foraging on eggs in the spring is a conspicuous event and like anything, Western science can be pretty sluggish and unfortunately it took until now to document those interactions.” The [study documented](#) that bears frequent at large spawn events and eat as much as they can for more than five weeks from single spawn events in Quatsino Sound, B.C. Fox said the findings are important because it links two prominent species that play substantive roles in coastal ecosystems. “The big picture consequence really shows us how little we know in terms of our Western scientific knowledge on coastal interactions,” she said. [24hrs Vancouver](#)

**U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson's interactive bike map tags worst areas:** Have you noticed any crashes or near-misses on your way to and from work over the last few days? Thousands of two-wheeled commuters are pedalling into traffic during Bike to Work Week, many of them for the first time ever, and an interactive map meant to improve safety on our streets is highlighting all the hotspots for incidents between bikes and cars. [BikeMaps.org](#) was launched last fall and has been compiling cycling crash data — much of which isn't captured through traditional sources — from around the world and then creating maps showing the worst routes and intersections. “We started in the fall of 2014, collecting data on crashes and near misses as well as hazards and thefts,” says program director Trisalyn Nelson, a professor of geography at the University of Victoria. “When citizens are out riding around, they often know where the issues are for cyclists. This is an opportunity for riders to let us know what their experiences are and then we make maps of safety and risk,” said Nelson. BikeMaps.org is based at UVic but the project is collecting information from at least 15 different countries and the team is translating it into Spanish, German, French and Dutch. Most of the data is coming from Victoria and Vancouver. “We are starting to see enough data in those regions that we can provide cyclists some guidance on what areas they might want to be cautious when they ride through.” [News1130](#) | [UVicNews](#)

**U Alberta PhD candidate Kurt Borth is discovering the hidden transportation costs:** When you buy a house the first thing your eye goes to is the sticker price. But buying a home comes with a major hidden cost that doesn't show up in the MLS report. Transportation costs could more than eat up the savings of a lower priced home in the suburbs. The concept is called location efficiency and it's the amount of time, energy and greenhouse gas emissions you spend getting from where you live to the workplace as well as your other frequent trips. And location efficiency may be the secret sauce to saving money and getting that house in the neighborhood you never thought you could afford. Kurt Borth is a PhD candidate in the Human Geography and Planning department at the University of Alberta. He's done a lot of research on this issue and he's found that the biggest economic impact comes when you scale down from a two-car household to a one-car household. Take that \$7,500 a year and after 10 years that's \$75,000 — making that home in the nice walkable neighborhood suddenly seem a lot more affordable. Location efficiency doesn't mean suburbs are bad and downtown is good. It means that if you live close to where you work, play and shop you will save money, time and maybe most importantly your health. It turns out reducing your commute can make you a happier, healthier person. [Green Energy Futures](#)

**McMaster U PhD student Chris Higgins on James Street North's LRT surprise:** One of Hamilton's most-heralded grassroots street transformations is about to undergo another massive overhaul. Packaged in Tuesday's \$1 billion light rail transit announcement was the news that a spur line on James Street North is also in the works to connect the main transit corridor on King Street with the new GO Station. That means an area that has undergone a years-long, arts-focused renaissance will start to look completely different in 2019 when construction starts. While the a dedicated LRT lane is expected, McMaster PhD student Chris Higgins – who lives in the James North area – says ideally, he'd like to see a streetcar-like approach on James North similar to what's used on King Street in Toronto. That would be a mixed-use street with an LRT vehicle that makes stops along the way, alongside vehicular traffic. "The economic outlook here I think would be fantastic," said Higgins, who was part of a study on light rail's economic impacts with the McMaster Institute for Transportation and Logistics. "You just have to do it properly." It's unlikely that planners would designate the James North spur purely for pedestrian traffic and an LRT system, Higgins said, as the new GO station on James would still need to be accessible by car. Also, some cities like Calgary that have adopted that model in some areas are now moving away from it, he added. "But you can overcome those issues with proper planning," he said. A lengthy construction process will no doubt take a toll on some businesses on the street. [CBC | Hamilton](#)

**U Saskatchewan's Robert Patrick assists with First Nation drinking water protection:** Dr Patrick, Department of Geography and Planning, recently assisted Aboriginal and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) in the development of a source water protection template and guidance document for use by First Nations in Canada for the protection of drinking water supplies. The template has been piloted with success in Siksika First Nation (Treaty 7) and Frog Lake First Nation (Treaty 6), Alberta, and in Muskowekwan First Nation (Treaty 4), Saskatchewan. Implementation of these plans is the next stage and progress is underway. These communities have either surface or groundwater supplies with many common threats to water quality. Management actions to address the threats were derived from the working committee members composed of Elders, managers, technicians, Band membership, health officials and water treatment plant operators. Community-based source protection planning has helped to identify land use threats to drinking water sources as well as provided leverage for implementation funding. [First Nations On-Reserve Source Water Protection Plan Template and Guide](#)



**Dalhousie University and Saint Mary's University** to host [2016 CAG Annual Meeting](#). The conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia from May 30 – June 4, 2016.

**Simon Fraser U Alumna Jessica Place** to receive Dean of Graduate Studies Convocation Medal. This medal will be presented at the June 2015 SFU Convocation.

**Memorial U Geography Department Faculty and Staff Members celebrate 100 years combined service in 2015:** Four faculty and staff in the Geography Department received service awards this year: Charlie Conway (35 years), Norm Catto (25 years), Trevor Bell (20 years) and Pam Murphy (20 years). [Memorial Geography](#)

**Simon Fraser U geographers** have combined to publish 22 books since 2010. Visit the [Faculty Bookshelf](#).

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**U Waterloo's Geoff Wall**, of the Department of Geography and Environmental Management, was accorded the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus in recognition of his "*distinguished career and contributions to the University of Waterloo... important contributions as a tourism scholar of international repute ... considerable impact as a mentor to many prominent scholars and as a consultant to national and international agencies*".

**Simon Fraser U Geography** launches a [new website](#). Included is an announcement of the forthcoming [16<sup>th</sup> International Medical Geography Symposium](#) being hosted at the University in July, 2015. The IMGS international conference holds a special place in the subdiscipline of health/medical geography, serving as a meeting point for those interested in examining spatial and place-based issues in the context of health and healthcare.

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Emma Caroline Bocking. 2015. [Analyzing the impacts of road construction on the development of a poor fen in Northeastern Alberta, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Environmental Management. University of Waterloo, Waterloo. Supervisors: Jonathan Price and David Cooper.

Emily Eyles. 2015. [Multi-method exploration of the economic sustainability of probiotic yoghurt kitchens in Mwanza, Tanzania](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.

Autumn Gambles. 2015. [Integration of Multi-Temporal Optical and L-Band Synthetic Aperture RADAR \(SAR\) imagery for hierarchical agricultural crop classification in northeastern Ontario, Canada](#). Unpublished MSc thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisors: Dr's. Jinfei Wang and John Kovacs (Nipissing).

Madeleine Northcote. 2015. [Enterprising outsiders: Livelihood strategies of Cape Town's forced migrants](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Belinda Dodson.

Bharat Punjabi. 2015. [Claims of the city? Rights of the countryside? Politics of water contestation in the Mumbai-Thane Region, India](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Belinda Dodson.

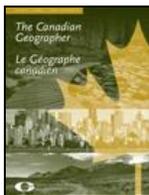
Marylynn Steckley. 2015. [Agrarian change and peasant prospects in Haiti](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Tony Weis.

Joshua Tobias. 2015. ["We are the land": Researching environmental repossession with Anishinaabe elders](#). Unpublished PhD thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Chantelle Richmond.

Germaine Tuyisenge. 2015. [Mothers' perceptions and experiences of accessing maternal health care: Exploring the role of community health workers and continuing professional development in Rwanda: and continuing professional development in Rwanda](#). Unpublished MA thesis. Department of Geography. Western University, London. Supervisor: Dr. Isaac Luginaah.

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## New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Jean Michel Montsion/ 2015. [Churchill, Manitoba and the Arctic Gateway: a historical contextualization](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12199

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Carissa D. Brown, Juxin Liu, Guohua Yan and Jill F. Johnstone. 2015. [Disentangling legacy effects from environmental filters of post-fire assembly of boreal tree assemblages](#). Ecology. DOI:10.1890/14-2302.1

Thomas Buffin-Bélanger, Pascale Biron, Marie Larocque, Sylvio Demers, Taylor Olsen, Guénohé Choné, Marie-Audray Ouellet, Claude-André Cloutier, Claude Desjarlais and Joanna Eyqueme. 2015. [Freedom space for rivers: An economically viable river management concept in a changing climate](#). Geomorphology. DOI: 10.1016/j.geomorph.2015.05.013

Anita E. Gue, Bernhard Mayer and Stephen E. Grasby. 2015. [Origin and geochemistry of saline spring waters in the Athabasca Oil Sands region, Alberta, Canada](#). Applied Geochemistry. DOI:10.1016/j.apgeochem.2015.05.015

Sherilee L. Harper, Victoria L. Edge, James Ford, M. Kate Thomas, David Pearl, Jamal Shirley, IHACC, RIGG and Scott A. McEwen. 2015. [Healthcare use for acute gastrointestinal illness in two Inuit communities: Rigolet and Iqaluit, Canada](#). International Journal for Circumpolar Health. 74.

A. Hasler, M. Geertsema, V. Foord, S. Gruber and J. Noetzli. 2015. [The influence of surface characteristics, topography and continentality on mountain permafrost in British Columbia](#). The Cryosphere 9:1025-1038.

Matthias Jakob, John J. Clague and Michael Church. 2015. [Rare and dangerous: Recognizing extraordinary events in stream channels](#). Canadian Water Resources Journal / Revue canadienne des ressources hydriques. DOI:10.1080/07011784.2015.1028451

Fany Jude, Dominique Marguerie, Ruben Badalyan, Adam T. Smith and Ann Delwaide. 2015. [Wood resource management based on charcoals from the Bronze Age site of Gegharot \(central Armenia\)](#). Quaternary International. DOI: 10.1016/j.quaint.2015.04.019

M.S. Leggat, P.N. Owens, T.A. Stott, B.J. Forrester, S.J. Déry and B. Menounos. 2015. [Hydro-meteorological drivers and sources of suspended sediment flux in the proglacial zone of the retreating Castle Creek glacier, Cariboo Mountains, British Columbia, Canada](#). Earth Surface Processes and Landforms. DOI:10.1002/esp.3755

Abdullah Al Mamun. 2015. [Capacity development through comanagement: Investigating approaches and their effectiveness in developing local capacities in rural Bangladesh](#). Fish Aquac J 6. DOI:10.4172/2150-3508.1000126

Tor H. Oiamo, Markey Johnson, Kathy Tang and Isaac N. Luginaah. 2015. [Assessing traffic and industrial contributions to ambient nitrogen dioxide and volatile organic compounds in a low pollution urban environment](#). Science of The Total Environment 529:149–157.

Matthew Peros, Braden Gregory, Felipe Matos, Eduard Reinhardt and Joseph Desloges. 2015. [Late Holocene record of lagoon evolution, climate change, and hurricane activity from southeastern Cuba](#). The Holocene. DOI: 10.1177/0959683615585844

Rajyashree N. Reddy. 2015. [Producing abjection: E-waste improvement schemes and informal recyclers of Bangalore](#). Geoforum 62:166–174.

Wenxia Tan and Ellsworth LeDrew. 2015. [Monitoring Arctic sea ice phenology change using hypertemporal remotely sensed data: 1989–2010](#). Theoretical and Applied Climatology. DOI:10.1007/s00704-015-1507-x

Ellen Whitman, Enric Batllori, Marc-André Parisien, Carol Miller, Jonathan D. Coop, Meg A. Krawchuk, Geneva W. Chong and Sandra L. Haire. 2015. [The climate space of fire regimes in north-western North America](#). Journal of Biogeography.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Thirteen corporations control up to 40 per cent of world’s most valuable fisheries:** Just thirteen corporations control 19-40% of the largest and most valuable stocks and 11-16 % of the global marine catch, according to new research. These “keystone” corporations of the global seafood industry critically shape the future of marine ecosystems, but have yet to assume this responsibility at the global scale. [ScienceDaily](#)

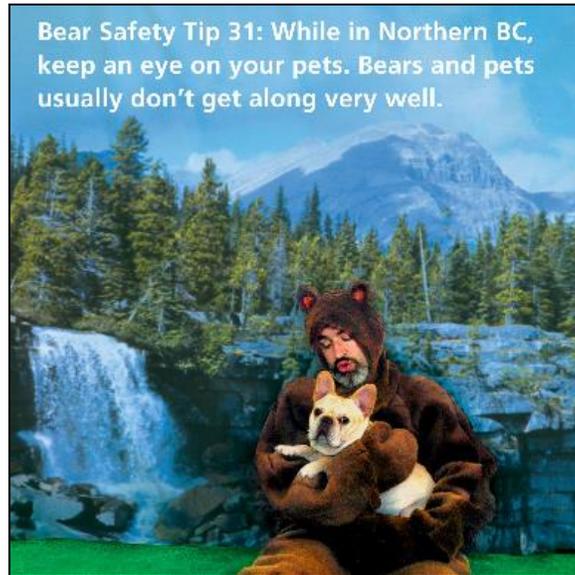
**Global climate on verge of multi-decadal change:** The global climate is on the verge of broad-scale change that could last for a number of decades a new study implies. The change to the new set of climatic conditions is associated with a cooling of the Atlantic, and is likely to bring drier summers in Britain and Ireland, accelerated sea-level rise along the northeast coast of the United States, and drought in the developing countries of the Sahel region. [ScienceDaily](#)

**The most expensive university campus housing in Canada:** As if final exams and tuition aren’t bad enough, now you can add housing to the list of student stresses. Maclean’s Magazine recently published a comprehensive list of the most expensive on-campus housing in the country, and the results are not what you might think. Sliding in at number one is Royal Roads University on Vancouver Island, where living on-campus will cost you a whopping \$2,334 a month. [VanCityBuzz](#)

**More than 100,000 sign petition opposed to expansion of B.C. salmon farming:** A petition signed by more than 100,000 people opposed to expansion of B.C.’s salmon farming industry has been presented to the legislature in Victoria. More than 100 conservation groups, industry organizations, and business owners also supported the petition. [Vancouver Sun](#)

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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>  
[@CanGeographers Weekly](#): <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>

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