



## News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers

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**U Toronto's Meric Gertler hopes new urban advisers in Ontario will help bridge gaps between school and city:** A senior staffer for former Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty will become one of two advisers on urban issues at the University of Toronto, new positions that are signalling the institution's growing ambition to have a voice in how the city runs. The appointments are part of a larger push by the university and president Meric Gertler to break down the walls between it and the city. Since taking over as president in 2013, Dr. Gertler, an urban geography expert, has launched a campaign to raise the school's voice in Toronto. What Toronto needs is a vision of how education can help the city develop, Dr. Gertler says. To be heard, the university needs to prioritize reaching out to local groups. The [Cityworks](#) program at [Evergreen](#), a national non-profit that advocates for urban environmental initiatives, has already worked with the university. "U of T has played a powerful role in city building, but it can play a more powerful role ... [by] linking the role of the researchers to some of the people who are testing these ideas on the ground," Mr. Brodhead said. Some of the first projects from the new urban liaisons at the University of Toronto will include an action plan recommending new ways to build more mid-rise and infill housing. Another will be to work with university researchers on how to repair and modernize aging apartment buildings across Greater Toronto, particularly in the suburbs. Students will have increased experiential learning opportunities as a result, said Dr. Brail. Hundreds of urban studies students have done community internships, a model that will grow across the three campuses. [Globe and Mail](#)

**U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy reports the snowpack in Rockies has melted four to six weeks earlier than normal:** June's hot weather has completely wiped out this winter's snowpack in the Rockies, prompting concerns Western Canada could be entering into a drought. Last week, the mountain snowpack — already 10 to 25 per cent below normal — melted about four to six weeks earlier than expected by scientists monitoring the situation. "The hot weather in the past few weeks has really wiped out the snowpack," said John Pomeroy, a University of Saskatchewan hydrologist. All of his 35 remote monitoring stations in the mountains have no snow. It means river flows in southern Alberta — including the Bow River through Calgary — have already peaked, which usually happens during dry years. Pomeroy reports that all signs are already pointing toward a drought year. "We are losing the snow right now," he said, noting it's bad news for the already-shrinking glaciers because there's not much snow covering the ice and they will start melting sooner than normal. "On the Athabasca, there's been ice exposed for weeks, months." There's also little snow accumulation on the Wapta Icefields, where the Bow Glacier is located. It helps feed the Bow River, a source of Calgary's drinking water — although normally not until late summer when other water sources are depleted. "It'll be a tough year and, with El Nino kicking in, it will be a drier year," said Pomeroy. "All of that seems to show we are entering a drought. [Calgary Herald](#)

**U Waterloo's Peter Johnson and Maria Strack receive Ontario Government Awards:** [Peter Johnson](#), an assistant professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Management, received Early Researcher Award that will enable him to build partnerships with key open data stakeholders, developing case studies that measure the value and impact of open data initiatives, assessing how open data is used to generate economic and social benefits. This research will directly impact how governments provide open data and how stakeholders such as private software developers, other governments, non-profits, and citizens can build successful applications and businesses models that rely on open data. [Maria Strack](#) an associate professor and Canada Research Chair, also in Geography and Environmental Management, received funding from The Ontario Research Fund – Small Infrastructure program for a gas chromatograph and ultraportable greenhouse gas (GHG) sensor to measure peatland GHG flux under various land uses. Results will improve understanding of the interaction between peatlands and climate. Restoration practices to minimize peatland GHG emission will be identified. [Waterloo Environment](#)

**The First Annual Imran Jaffer Memorial Soccer Tournament:** The first Annual Imran Jaffer Memorial Soccer Tournament was held at Bayview Glen High School in Toronto on June 6. Sixteen teams participated and a good time was enjoyed by all, as seen on the video link. Imran Jaffer was a student in Geography's Urban Development Program. The [Imran Jaffer Foundation](#) was formed to improve the quality of lives of youth by providing educational opportunities through scholarships to those who merit them as well as those in need, thereby contributing towards enrichment in the lives of youth - the leaders of tomorrow. Funds generated by the Foundation will support a number of initiatives, including student awards and infrastructure/equipment needs within Western Geography. All these undertakings will make a difference and have a lasting impact - much like the life of Imran Jaffer. Chair of the Geography Department, Dan Shrubsole attended the tournament

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**U Winnipeg's retired Geography professor [William Rannie](#)** was named a Fellow in United College at the recent UWinnipeg graduation ceremonies.

**UNBC Celebrates 25 years, Greg Halseth** featured & interviewed (starting at 1:10min). [UNBC YouTube Channel](#)

**U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson** spoke to CBC Radio's "All Points West" afternoon program about cycling hazards in Victoria. Her BikeMaps.org project was also covered by [News1130](#) on May 27 and [by Metro News](#).

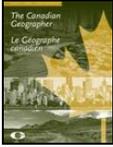
**McGill U Post-Doctoral Fellow [Günther Grill](#)** is one of the lead authors of a new report, [The Power of Rivers](#), published by the Nature.

**U Victoria Postdoctoral Fellow Caroline Fox** spoke to [24 Hours](#) about the findings of her new study confirming coastal black bears rely on herring eggs that wash up into intertidal zones—backing up long-standing local and traditional knowledge.

**U Northern British Columbia's NRES-Geography PhD student Ben Pelto** posts and [AGU.Blogosphere](#) about field work by UNBC and U of C researchers on Kokanee Glacier.

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



Antony Chum, Patricia O'Campo and Flora Matheson. 2015. [The impact of urban land uses on sleep duration and sleep problems](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien.  
DOI:10.1111/cag.12202

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## New Theses and Dissertations

Eda Acara. 2015. [Conflict geographies of water pollution in Thrace region of Turkey](#). Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Audrey Kobayashi.

Adrian J.R. Gaanderse. 2015. [Geomorphic origin of a lithalsa in the Great Slave Lowlands, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). MSc in Geography. Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisor: Steve Wolfe.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nadine Blumer. 2015. [Expanding museum spaces: Networks of difficult knowledge at and beyond the Canadian Museum for Human Rights](#). Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies 37:125-146.

Erica Lehrer. 2015. Preface: [Thinking through the museum](#). Review of Education, Pedagogy, and Cultural Studies 37:96-99.

Vera Pospelova, Andrea M. Price and Thomas F. Pedersen. 2015. [Palynological evidence for Late Quaternary climate and marine primary productivity changes along the California Margin](#). Paleoceanography. DOI:10.1002/2014PA002728

Nadine Schuurman, Jonathan Cinnamon, Blake Byron Walker, Vanessa Fawcett, Andrew Nicol, Syed Morad Hameed and Richard Matzopoulos. 2015. [Intentional injury and violence in Cape Town, South Africa: an epidemiological analysis of trauma admissions data](#). Global Health Action. 8.

Renee E. Sieber and Peter A. Johnson. 2015. [Civic open data at a crossroads: Dominant models and current challenges](#). Government Information Quarterly. DOI: 10.1016/j.giq.2015.05.003

Randy W. Widdis. 2015. [Looking through the mirror: a historical geographical view of the Canadian-American borderlands](#). Journal of Borderlands Studies 30. DOI:10.1080/08865655.2015.1045921

Randy W. Widdis. 2015. [The spatial grammar of migration within the Canadian-American borderlands at the turn of the Twentieth Century](#). In: Entangling North America: Space and Migration History. Edited by: A. Freund and B. Bryce. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. 61-96.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Mother Canada statue wrong way to remember, MSVU history professors:** A group of history professors is adding their voices to the opposition of the Never Forgotten War Memorial Foundation, calling the proposed 10-storey statue "blind patriotism." The organization is planning to build the 30-metre tall statue — called Mother Canada — in the Cape Breton Highlands National Park at Green Cove. It's a memorial to soldiers whose remains were never brought home to Canada. Jonathan Roberts, David Campbell, Corey Slumkoski and Martha Walls of Mount Saint Vincent University wrote a commentary for The Chronicle Herald earlier this month saying the project "falls into a trap of blind patriotism." "We're not trying to be anti-veteran," he said. "We're not trying to be negative ... but we feel the monument is not appropriate to commemorating the First World War or other wars because it distills down the story of those wars in kind of a simplified statue and mainly about soldiers dying and those who participated in those wars."CBCNews | [Nova Scotia](#)

**Prince George's Fort George Park will be re-named “Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park:** Fort George will be re-named “Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park.” It was a motion put forward by Councillor Murry Krause as part of the city's 100th Anniversary celebrations. “But then, the 100th anniversary celebrations might not be a celebration for everyone,” noted Krause. He says the re-naming is timely, given the recent release of the Truth and Reconciliation Report. Add to that, June 21 is National Aboriginal Day. The motion garnered a great deal of thorough and heartfelt conversation around Council Chambers. Many Councillors referred to calls from the public concerned about the loss of the park, but Council assures it is anything but, saying the grass will still be green and the trees will still be there. [CKPG TV](#)

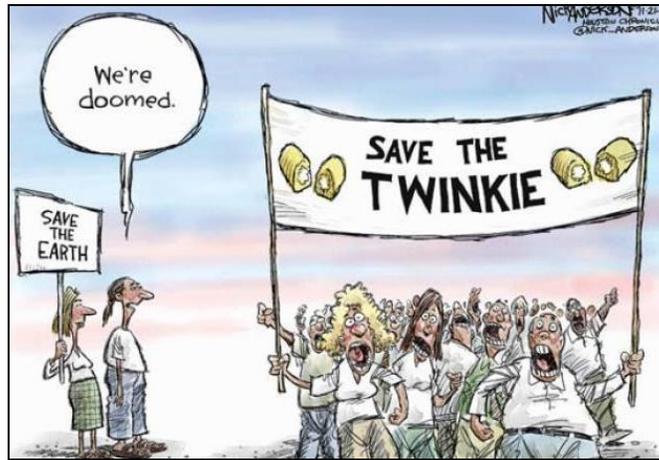
**Whistler to test snowmaking on glacier to fight climate change:** Whistler Blackcomb is planning to test snowmaking on the Horstman Glacier in an effort to battle the effects of climate change. Horstman has been losing half a million cubic metres of snow annually, on average, over the last decade because of hotter summers. "Last summer and certainly this year we will see more significant retreat than in prior years, and that's one of the reasons we're now stepping up to the plate," Arthur De Jong, the resort's mountain planning and environmental resource manager. The resort says it will launch a pilot project this winter with four snowmaking guns before deciding whether to install a full-scale snowmaking system to prevent further recession of the glacier. Horstman is used for summer skiing and snowboarding, and serves as a training area for ski and snowboard national teams from around the world. [CTV News](#)

**Photos of 1200 glaciers added to WGMS photograph collection:** NOAA@NSIDC is pleased to announce the addition of almost 1200 photographs to the Glacier Photograph Collection. This new collection was compiled by the [World Glacier Monitoring Service](#) (WGMS) who collect and disseminate standardized observations on glacier fluctuations such as length, area, volume, and mass. The special WGMS collection focuses on photographs of glaciers for which long fluctuation series are available, some of them dating back to the 18th century. The photos were assembled from the WGMS archive, from contributions from WGMS principal investigators, and from various other sources that provide freely available data such as [Flickr Creative Commons](#). To learn more about the WGMS Collection and to access the photos, visit the [Glacier Photograph Collection web site](#). In addition, the entire Glacier Photograph Collection is also accessible through the Global Terrestrial Network for Glacier's recently announced [Global Glacier Browser](#).

**Jet contrails affect surface temperatures:** High in the sky where the cirrus ice crystal clouds form, jet contrails draw their crisscross patterns. Now researchers have found that these elevated ice cloud trails can influence temperatures on the ground and affect local climate, according to a team of geographers. [ScienceDaily](#)

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Some not so “Geographical” News



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