



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 366, August 7, 2015
Compiled by Dan Smith cag@geog.uvic.ca

U Manitoba's David Allen Lobb to be inducted to Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame: The Soil Conservation Council of Canada (SCCC) has announced that Dr. David Allen Lobb is the 2015 inductee to the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame. He will be officially inducted at a ceremony to be held this December at the SCCC sponsored Summit on the State of Canada's Soils. In 1990, SCCC established the Canadian Conservation Hall of Fame, which to date, has recognized 27 Canadians who have made a significant contribution through their dedication to promoting soil conservation in Canada. Dr. Lobb grew up on a family farm in Huron County, Ontario, where he learned the importance of practical agriculture and soil care. Work in Ontario, the Atlantic Provinces and Manitoba has contributed to his distinguished and highly productive career in the understanding and management of soil erosion processes. Lobb is internationally recognized for his research in tillage translocation and tillage erosion, particularly for his advances in experimental methods and modelling. At the University of Manitoba, he has established the Tillage Translocation Laboratory - the only laboratory in the world capable of measuring soil translocation by tillage and tillage erosion. He also established the Landscapes Dynamics Laboratory, which is the largest laboratory in Canada for analyzing the radiochemistry of soil and sediments. His expertise in soil erosion and conservation has been sought by provincial and federal government agencies in Canada, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Lobb's work has challenged traditional thinking as his investigations bring forth new evidence about erosion, erosion processes, and environmental impacts. This work is contributing to the integrated management of soil erosion by tillage, water and wind in a way that will increasingly benefit agriculture. His work on soil landscape restoration on eroded fields demonstrates that crop yield variability can be reduced and overall crop yield increased. He has raised the profile of soil to a new generation of students and has been keen to be out on the land where he could directly assist farmers in addressing soil management challenges. David Lobb has and is making an important contribution to sustainable agriculture in Canada and around the world.

U Ottawa's Luke Copland's research could make shipping in the Northwest Passage safer:

Researchers from the University of Ottawa have published new findings that could help make shipping routes safer in the Northwest Passage. The team is led by researchers from the Laboratory for Cryospheric Research, some of the world's leading experts on Arctic glaciers. Scientists measured the speed and thickness of 40 glaciers that flow into the Arctic Ocean by compiling data from the last 25 years. From there, they were able to map where the icebergs are coming from and where they'll end up. They found that the amount of icebergs produced by glaciers in Nunavut was relatively the same year after year. However, the amount of icebergs produced by each glacier fluctuated over time. "We found that in recent years two-thirds of all icebergs have come from two glaciers located on Ellesmere Island, near Grise Fiord," said Luke Copland, the director of the Laboratory for Cryospheric Research. Copland says the findings will help prevent potential collisions between icebergs and ships. "Now that we know from this study where the icebergs are being produced from, we can then better inform the shipping companies and Transport Canada where the ice is originating," he said. [CBCNews|North](#)

U British Columbia PhD candidate Craig Jones reports towers threaten cheaper rental stock in Burnaby:

Low-income neighbourhoods along the SkyTrain corridor are threatened by the rise of towers replacing purpose-built rental housing, according to a recently published study from a B.C. researcher. Craig Jones, a PhD student in the University of B.C.'s geography department, focused on Maywood, near Metrotown, and Richmond Park, in Edmonds — two low-income Burnaby neighbourhoods near transit with high rates of new immigrants. Jones found these neighbourhoods have seen rapid change and the loss of affordable apartment units. The two are amongst the most disadvantaged in the region, said Jones, who interviewed 26 residents in both areas for his report. Between 2002 and 2011, Burnaby issued permits to demolish more than 300 apartment units — compared to permits issued between 2002 and 2011 that resulted in 50 demolished units in Maywood. Jones notes it's not an issue special to Burnaby, as the problem has repeated itself along the Cambie Corridor, which saw demolitions make room for high-density development, and along the Evergreen Line in Coquitlam. "There's a social cost associated with facilitating high-density redevelopment at the cost of rental housing that already exists," he said. "People in Richmond Park are somewhat ambivalent about redevelopment; they say the towers are attractive, and in the increase in density, they hope it'll bring down housing costs." "People in Richmond Park are somewhat ambivalent about redevelopment; they say the towers are attractive, and in the increase in density, they hope it'll bring down housing costs." But the opposite is true for Maywood residents who are in "unanimous opposition" to the towers. "In a lot of ways, (transit-oriented development) is a celebrated policy option," he said. "It's a really difficult situation ... the City of Burnaby is facing ... and from the people I've talked to at the city, there's really not a lot of tools at their disposal to get better quality housing in that area without the displacement, or gentrification." [24hrs Vancouver](#) | [Global News](#) | [CBC Television](#)

Memorial U's Neha Gupta and colleagues awarded SSHRC Connection Grant: Neha Gupta and colleagues have been awarded a SSHRC Connection Grant for 2015-2016 for a project led by Laurentian University and in partnership with Wilfred Laurier University and the Huron-Wendat First Nation. Dr Gupta is a co-applicant on the grant which will support an upcoming symposium entitled "[Circles of Interaction: the Wendat and their Neighbours in the Time of Champlain](#)" to be held between October 16 and 18th. The conference in Midland, Ontario - the heart of historic Huronia - will examine change and continuity in the relationship between the Wendat, their neighbours and the French in the region. The program includes a day-long session hosted by the Huron-Wendat First Nation and a session on emerging multidisciplinary themes and trends on the Wendat past that Dr Gupta will chair. Dr Gupta is SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow in Geography working with Dr Rodolphe Devillers on developing geographic visualization for archaeology. [Memorial Geography](#)

Simon Fraser U's Meg Krawchuk discusses active fire season in BC: Meg Krawchuk of the Landscape and Conservation Science Research Group and the Department of Geography, reminded British Columbians that they need to be aware of the looming danger from the extraordinarily dry spring and elevated risk of forest fires. BC forests may be facing an added danger. Krawchuk also stated that some models suggest that dead trees resulting from the mountain pine beetle outbreak in BC's back-country have increased the likelihood of fire, and resulted in more extreme fire behaviour. However, there is limited quantitative data to support this view. Although forest fires are often framed as being solely negative, they do offer several benefits. Lightning-based fires beginning from a natural source could provide several advantages for the surrounding ecosystem. Fire in this context provides the region with much-needed biodiversity, explained Krawchuk, as forest fires may remove decaying matter and are necessary for the persistence and resilience of our ecosystems. [Vancouver Sun](#) | [The Peak](#) | [The Province](#)

Western U's Gordon McBean to receive two awards: Gordon will receive the [American Geophysical Union Ambassador Award 2015](#). Established in 2013, the Ambassador Award will honor members whose achievements extend beyond those recognized by traditional scientific discipline awards. The award furthers AGU's strategic goals to promote collaboration and innovation, inform society about Earth and space science, and build the global talent pool. The award includes AGU Conferred Fellow. Gordon has also been selected to receive the University of [British Columbia Alumni Award of Distinction for 2015](#). The Award will be presented at a Celebration on October 27, 2015. A leader in climate science, Dr. Gordon McBean has led global efforts to raise awareness about climate change impacts and played a key role in the development of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and in 2007, with his IPCC colleagues and Al Gore, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. He is now President of the International Council for Science. [Western Geography](#).

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy warns Alberta weather will intensify: As Calgarians wonder how they will cover the cost of the staggering damage inflicted by this week's thunderstorms, John Pomeroy is warning that even more severe weather is in store in the coming years. "Around the world, it has been observed that extreme weather is increasing in frequency," he said. Southern Alberta's geographical location – in the foothills close to the mountains – means hail and thunderstorms aren't uncommon in the summer. What's increasing, according to Pomeroy, is their frequency, spread and severity. With that in mind, Canadians can expect to pay even more for their already costly insurance. "To be prudent, we have to be prepared that it might become worse," Pomeroy said. [GlobalNews|BC](#)

Memorial U's Geography Department welcomes Dr. Yolande Pottie-Sherman, Urban Geographer: The Department of Geography welcomes Yolande Pottie-Sherman, urban geographer, as their newest faculty member. Yolande considers Syracuse, New York to be her hometown, but she spent all of her summers on the South Shore of Nova Scotia. Her academic study and research has mainly taken place in Canada and the US; she completed her studies at McGill, Queen's and UBC. While pursuing her PhD, she spent time in Germany, working at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity. Prior to her appointment, she held a postdoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Yolande was drawn to Memorial for a number of reasons, "The geography department at MUN is wonderfully dynamic. There is a real team atmosphere here. Researchers and staff are involved in innovative and important work that is both regional and global in scope. I see tremendous potential in terms of what the University is doing with the Jarislowsky Chair's focus on global migration and cultural diversity. Yolande's research interest focuses particularly "on the spatial dimensions of inclusion and exclusion in metropolitan settings. What does it mean to be a welcoming city? What types of spaces foster meaningful intercultural engagement? And, what do policies and other discourses about immigration say about national identity?" [Memorial Geography](#)



Simon Fraser U's Nick Blomley was an [expert witness](#) in a case before the BC Supreme Court, providing a written report and testimony before the Chief Justice of BC. This concerned a constitutional challenge to the City of Abbotsford's bylaws and policies concerning homelessness. The result is pending.

U Guelph's Aaron Berg was on [CBC radio](#) discussing his research involving a NASA satellite. Berg's [project](#) is one of five to receive Canadian Space Agency funding. Berg and his U of G team are using information gathered by NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) satellite to help farmers and meteorologists better predict crop yields, floods, droughts and seasonal weather forecasts.

U Victoria's Chris Darimont spoke on [CFAX Radio](#) about Cecil the lion and the BC Grizzly bear trophy hunt. Cecil the lion was killed recently in Zimbabwe by an American trophy hunter.

Simon Fraser U PhD student Mileva Samardzic receives Best Paper Award at 10th International Conference on the Geographical Analysis, Urban Modeling, Spatial Statistics held together with the 15th International Conference on Computational Science and its Applications in Banff.

U Victoria PhD candidate Cedar Welsh was awarded a W. Garfield Weston Award for Northern Research. Administered by the [Canadian Northern Studies Trust](#) and established by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies ([ACUNS](#)), the award will assist Cedar with her research into the historical flow regimes of several key rivers in north-west BC using dendrohydrometric, densitometric, and stable isotope analyses.

Simon Fraser U PhD student Jonathan Cripps wins Dreimanis Doctoral Scholarship from the Canadian Quaternary Association. The award, "in commemoration of Dr. Alexsis Dreimanis, is awarded to a CANQUA student member demonstrating excellence in Quaternary science". Jonny's award will be presented at the annual meeting in Newfoundland, where he will be giving a research talk.

U Victoria's Paul Pacquet is quoted in a Vancouver Sun op-ed as speculating whether 'wildlife management' is sometimes used as 'a smokescreen' to distract us from the suffering that is involved in some conservation practices. [Vancouver Sun](#)

U Guelph MSc candidate Colleen Parker has been hired by World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) as the "Specialist for the Western Arctic." Colleen will be responsible for generating and building support for WWF's conservation objectives in the Beaufort Sea Region and act as a conduit for local concerns and issues to be addressed in WWF initiatives.

McGill U's Natalie Oswin has been granted tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Natalie studies the geographies of sexuality, drawing particularly on queer and postcolonial theories to understand the workings of heteronormativity in various sites. [McGill Geography](#)

U British Columbia's Professor Emeritus Mike Church elected AGU Fellow: Mike was elected as a Fellow Member of the American Geophysical Union for his exceptional contributions to Earth sciences. This honor is bestowed on only 0.1% of the AGU membership in any given year. [UBC Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathan James Bennett, Jessica Blythe, Stephen Tyler and Natalie C. Ban. 2015. [Communities and change in the anthropocene: understanding social-ecological vulnerability and planning adaptations to multiple interacting exposures](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI:10.1007/s10113-015-0839-5

Nicholas Blomley. 2015. [The territory of property](#). Progress in Human Geography. DOI:10.1177/0309132515596380

Anne D. Bjorkman, Sarah C. Elmendorf, Alison L. Beamish, Mark Vellend and Gregory H.R. Henry. 2015. [Contrasting effects of warming and increased snowfall on Arctic tundra plant phenology over the past two decades](#). Global Change Biogeochemistry. DOI: 10.1111/gcb.13051

Ryan Bullock and Julia Lawle. 2015. [Community forestry research in Canada: A bibliometric perspective](#). Forest Policy and Economics. doi:10.1016/j.forpol.2015.05.009

William A. Gough and Srishtee Sokappadu. 2015. [Climate context of the cold summer of 2014 in Toronto, ON, Canada](#). Theoretical and Applied Climatology. DOI:10.1007/s00704-015-1571-2

Craig E. Jones. 2015. [Transit-Oriented Development and Gentrification in Metro Vancouver's Low-Income SkyTrain Corridor](#). Neighbourhood Change Research Partnership. Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. University of Toronto. Research Paper 237.

Jean-Sébastien Landry, H. Damon Matthews and Navin Ramankutty. 2015. [A global assessment of the carbon cycle and temperature responses to major changes in future fire regime](#). Climatic Change. DOI:10.1007/s10584-015-1461-8

Tracey P. Lauriault, Yvette Hackett and Ed Kennedy, E. 2015. [Geospatial Data Preservation Primer](#). Science & Technology Policy Research and Analysis Resource Team Report for Natural Resources Canada (NRC), Hickling, Arthur and Low Inc., Ottawa, ON, NRC.

Tracey P. Lauriault, Yvette Hackett et Ed Kennedy. 2015. [Guide d'introduction à la préservation des données géospatiales](#). Science & Technology Policy Research and Analysis Resource Team Report for Ressources Naturelles Canada, Hickling, Arthur and Low Inc., Ottawa, ON, NRC.

P.D. Morse, S.A. Wolfe, S.V. Kokelj and A.J.R. Gaanderse. 2015. [The occurrence and thermal disequilibrium state of permafrost in forest ecotopes of the Great Slave Region, Northwest Territories, Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1858

Cameron Owens, Maral Sotoudehnia and Paige Erickson-McGee. 2015. [Reflections on teaching and learning for sustainability from the Cascadia Sustainability Field School](#). Journal of Geography in Higher Education. DOI:10.1080/03098265.2015.1038701

Marc Tadaki, Will Allen and Jim Sinner. 2015. [Revealing ecological processes or imposing social rationalities? The politics of bounding and measuring ecosystem services](#). Ecological Economics 118:168–176.

Sarah Turner and Natalie Oswin. 2015. [Itinerant livelihoods: Street vending-scapes and the politics of mobility in upland socialist Vietnam](#). Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography. DOI:10.1111/sjtg.12114

Other “Geographical” News

Okanagan Western Painted Turtles threatened by non-native species: The Western Painted Turtle is indigenous to the Okanagan and is listed as ‘at-risk.’ The reptile’s threat is heightened when people release red-eared slider turtles and other non-native species into local wetlands. [Global News](#)

World's first ant map launched in Hong Kong: The colorful interactive online map (antmaps.org), which took four years to complete, displays the geographic locations of nearly 15,000 types of ant, with the Australian state of Queensland home to the highest number of native species at more than 1,400. Work on the map is ongoing, with new species of ants discovered frequently. [DNews](#)

Tree rings and plant surveys: Scientists map intensity of N.W.T.'s forest fires: Dan Thompson has been tramping through burned out forest throughout the Northwest Territories this summer, looking for clues into the ecological impact of the fires that burned nearly 34,000 square kilometres last summer. Thompson points to the rings of a burned branch from a pine tree, Thompson maps out a history of the pine tree, and the stand it grew in before it was killed in last summer's fires. [CBCNews|North](#)

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>
