



News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 368, August 20, 2015
Compiled by Dan Smith [<cag@geog.uvic.ca>](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

U Northern British Columbia's Brian Menounos joins up with Kokanee Beer for glacier research and a new beer: A British Columbia scientist is hoping to use a few cold ones to get the public thinking about really big cold ones — glaciers. Brian Menounos, a glaciologist with the University of Northern British Columbia, has teamed up with Kokanee beer for a project that will result in a better understanding of what's happening to western glaciers as well as to brew a special batch of suds. Kokanee is helping fund research into snowfall and melting rates on the Zillmer Glacier in British Columbia's Cariboo Mountains. In return, the Labatt's brand gets about five litres of water melted from snow that fell in 1962 — the year Kokanee was founded — to help brew a special, limited run of beer. "I do see a good opportunity to help get the word out," said Menounos. "If there's an opportunity to disseminate what we do to the general public and have them become more interested and more concerned about the environment, then I think that's a good thing." [CBCNews](#) | [Calgary Herald](#) | [Northern Californian](#)

U British Columbia's Simon Donner suggests oilsands river-water restrictions a 'preview of the future': Low summer water levels by mid-century could be costing the oilsands industry billions of dollars in lost production, said Simon Donner, a professor of geography at the University of British Columbia and co-author of a paper published in *Climate Change*. "Climate change is going to affect the river so much it'll actually affect how much the industry can withdraw. This summer is basically a preview of the future." Earlier this week, Alberta's energy regulator suspended a total of 73 temporary industry licences to take water from the Athabasca and Peace rivers because of low flows. Alberta Environment reports that water flows at the Athabasca station are about 43% below average for this time of year. Get used to it, said Donner. Using mathematical models, he and co-author Doris Leong found that while overall precipitation in the Athabasca basin is likely to increase under climate change, the bulk of that flow will come earlier and earlier in the year. Spring runoff is expected to begin up to a month earlier by 2050. More precipitation in the area is already falling as rain, even in the winter. That shrinks the huge reservoir of water stored up as snow, reducing the amount released gradually over the summer. "Snow is like this reservoir that slowly melts as you go spring into summer," Donner said. "If more of that is falling as rain, it kind of flattens it out so that the peak happens earlier and it's not as high. "When you get to the summer, you end up with pretty low flows." The researchers found that by mid-century — well within the expected lifespan of most oilsands developments — low water levels leading to withdrawal disruptions will increase by up to 40%. Those flow disruptions will translate into a 22 per cent increase in interruptions to oilsands operations, equivalent to more than two years of oil production per decade. [Herald Business](#)

Trent U's Alan Brunger and Peter Adams collaborate on book exploring Champlain's

Peterborough area portage routes: A new book recounting Samuel de Champlain's portage routes through Peterborough is about to be published, 400 years after the French explorer's travels here. *Finding Champlain's Dream* was co-written by Elwood Jones, the archivist with Trent Valley Archives, along with Alan Brunger and Peter Adams. Brunger is a geography professor at Trent University, and Adams is a former MP who is retired from teaching geography at Trent. Jones said the book also contains essays and articles on the topic of Champlain from other experts, too. It's a geography book, but also a history book: it covers how Champlain interacted with First Nations people and how his travels here marked the start of francophone culture in Ontario. Jones said it also shows how Trent University links Champlain, First Nations people and Ontario's francophones. Trent went out of its way to honour Champlain, for instance, when it named Champlain College. It also offered the first indigenous studies program in Canada, and Jones said that in its early years Trent wanted to establish itself as a French-English bilingual university. Meanwhile there's particular emphasis in the book about Champlain's interactions with First Nations people, Jones said. When the explorer travelled through here in 1615, Jones said Champlain wasn't here to "boss around" the First Nation people: He wanted to respect their way of doing things. Jones also said Champlain's travels through Ontario launched French culture in this province. "This was the start of French residency in Ontario - it's part of Franco-Ontario," Jones said. [Peterborough Examiner](#)

Queen's U's Brian Osborne receives Massey Medal from Royal Canadian Geographical Society:

Historical geographer and Professor Emeritus Brian Osborne has spent his life studying "place" and the "layers" of human presence that tell the story of people. He is fascinated by what connects people to the land, particularly at the local level, and he has published extensively on Kingston's history and explored in depth the question of Canadian national identity. Dr. Osborne recently added a "layer" to his own history with a [Massey Medal](#) from the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS). The award recognizes outstanding career accomplishments in the exploration, development or description of the geography of Canada. Dr. Osborne, who grew up in Wales, began teaching at Queen's in 1967, and has since inspired generations of students in the field of geography. He's been awarded numerous scholarly and professional honours, including the 2007 RCGS Camsell Medal for volunteer work and Queen Elizabeth II Gold and Diamond Jubilee Medals in 2002 and 2012. He has been very active in provincial and community organizations, serving as president of both the Ontario Historical Society and the Kingston Historical Society. Dr. Osborne has also been a consultant for the National Capital Commission, Heritage Canada, Parks Canada, Canada Post and the National Film Board. [Queen's Gazette](#)

Memorial U students Canadian Northern Studies Trust Scholarship winners: Geography's Jeanette Carney and Merran Smith each recently were awarded a Canadian Northern Studies Trust Scholarship. The awards, sponsored by the Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies, encourage research and provide experience for graduate students in Canada's North. Merran is currently completing her MSc programme under the supervision of Dr. Trevor Bell. Her research on sea ice timing and extent in Lake Melville, and the impact on residents of Labrador's communities. As the frozen lake surface is a significant transportation route for residents, the variability in sea-ice directly influences the sustainability of communities. Merran's project involves extensive consultation with community members, stakeholders, and the Nunatsiavut government. Jeanette is currently completing her MA programme under the supervision of Dr. Arn Keeling. Her research focuses on the history and legacy of the Asbestos Hill Mine in Nunavik, northern Québec. The opening, operation, and closure of the mine had substantial impacts on residents of Nunavik, which continue today. Jeanette's research also necessitates extensive consultation and interaction with community members and organizations in Nunavik. [Memorial Geography](#)

Queen's U's Melissa Lafrenière studying Apex River as a new source of drinking water for Iqaluit: The city of Iqaluit has identified the Apex River as the best choice for a secondary drinking water supply to meet the need of its growing population. However, researchers from Ontario's Queen's University say more data is needed before tapping into this water source to prevent depleting the supply. "Understanding what controls how much water you have at various times of year is pretty critical in order to determine whether that drinking water source is going to be sustainable," says Melissa Lafrenière, an associate professor in the geography department at Queen's University who heads the research team. "Without understanding, you can't manage the water source," says Lafrenière. The team is investigating the chemical signatures in the water to determine its origins; whether it's coming from snow, rainfall, ice or groundwater. Lafrenière who started this research in 2013 says a long-term approach is needed to identify the impact of climate change on the water supply. "To understand how watersheds respond to climate, we really need to look at these longer-term studies in order to capture the variability that we observe in the climate." [CBCNews | North](#)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy seek answers from Athabasca Glacier: After 45 minutes of walking up Athabasca Glacier, Dr. Jonathan Conway joins two men standing on the ice looking into the sky. Warren Helgason and Bruce Johnson are flying a kite. They are doing so as part of a scientific research project being conducted by the University of Saskatchewan's Centre for Hydrology under the direction of Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, Dr. John Pomeroy. Over four weeks this summer, scientists monitored several instrument stations as part of a glacier melt/glacier weather research project, the scale of which has never before been conducted in the Canadian Rockies. Like the vast majority of glaciers worldwide, the Athabasca, the largest of six tongues of ice descending from the Columbia Icefield, and the icefield itself, are melting at an increasingly rapid rate. In the past 125 years, the Athabasca has receded more than 1.5 kilometres and lost half its volume. Currently, it's losing 5.5 metres annually to melting. The aim of this research is to quantify the local climate over, and energy inputs into, the Athabasca Glacier at a series of locations from its snout to further up-glacier. This work is part of a general study of changing cold regions in western and northern Canada where scientists are quantifying the impact of climate warming on water supply, ecosystems, weather extremes of drought and flood, and changing snow and ice. [Rocky Mountain Outlook](#)

Ryerson U Department of Geography and Environmental Studies welcomes Dr. Sara Edge: Dr. Edge holds a Master of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo and a PhD from the School of Geography & Earth Sciences at McMaster University. She joins Ryerson with a research program in the area of environment & health, environmental justice & urban inequalities, policy transformation, and socio-ecological systems. Dr. Edge seeks to discover innovative approaches to multi-stakeholder governance, collaboration and knowledge integration that help to facilitate more sustainable environmental conditions. She has published in the high-impact *journals Environmental Policy and Governance, Social Science & Medicine, Environmental Politics, and Health, Risk & Society* during the last two years alone. Her teaching focus will be in the BA in Environment and Urban Sustainability (EUS).

U Toronto Mississauga's Yuhong He receives Early Researcher Award: Professor Yuhong He, one of this year's recipients from UTM's Department of Geography, will use the funds to target an area of particular concern to residents of Ontario: the invasive Emerald Ash Borer, which has reached near epidemic proportions with the significant depletion of ash-tree populations in this province. She is aiming to develop a long-term, unmanned aerial vehicle based monitoring system to track the ash-borer invasion that might also be applicable to other invasive species management initiatives. The project will provide training for six lab members that include an MSc student, two PhD students, a postdoctoral fellow and two undergraduate research assistants. [UTM News](#)



U British Columbia Geography releases new undergraduate handbook. The initial idea came out of the feedback from the Undergraduate Geography Surveys. There seems to be a strong need for clear and concise information for students that they can find and interpret easily. [UBC Geography](#)

Simon Fraser U's Eugene McCann has agreed to become editor of [Geography Compass - Urban](#), an online, fully peer reviewed Wiley-Blackwell journal publishing state-of-the art reviews of urban geography and urban studies.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Krishna Bahadur KC, Laxmi Prasad Pant, Evan D. G. Fraser, Pratap Kumar Shrestha, Dinesh Shrestha and Anga Lama. 2015. [Assessing links between crop diversity and food self-sufficiency in three agroecological regions of Nepal](#). Regional Environmental Change. DOI:10.1007/s10113-015-0851-9

Evan S. Castel, Liane R. Ginsburg, Shahram Zaheer and Hala Tamim. 2015. [Understanding nurses' and physicians' fear of repercussions for reporting errors: clinician characteristics, organization demographics, or leadership factors?](#) BMC Health Services Research 15:326 doi:10.1186/s12913-015-0987-9

A.S. Medeirosa, K. Gajewski, D.F. Porinchu, J.C. Vermaire and B.B. Wolfe. 2015. [Detecting the influence of secondary environmental gradients on chironomid-inferred paleotemperature reconstructions in northern North America](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 124:265–274.

D.L. Peters, D. Caissie, W.A. Monk, S.B. Rood and A. St-Hilaire. 2015. [An ecological perspective on floods in Canada](#). Canadian Water Resources Journal. DOI:10.1080/07011784.2015.1070694

Yolande Pottie-Sherman and Rima Wilkes. 2015. [Does size really matter? On the relationship between immigrant group size and anti-immigrant prejudice](#). International Migration Review. DOI:10.1111/imre.12191

María Cecilia Roa-García and Sandra Brown. 2015. [Assessing equity and sustainability of water allocation in Colombia](#). Local Environment. DOI:10.1080/13549839.2015.1070816

John Sandlos and Arn Keeling. 2015. [Aboriginal communities, traditional knowledge, and the environmental legacies of extractive development in Canada](#). The Extractive Industries and Society doi:10.1016/j.exis.2015.06.005

John Thistle and Nancy Langston. 2015 [Entangled histories: Iron ore mining in Canada and the United States](#). The Extractive Industries and Society. doi:10.1016/j.exis.2015.06.003.

Peter Vandergeest, Stefano Ponte and Simon Bush. 2015. [Assembling sustainable territories: space, subjects, objects, and expertise in seafood certification](#). Environment and Planning A. DOI: 10.1177/0308518X15599297

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Amy Mui. 2015. A multi-temporal remote sensing approach to freshwater turtle conservation. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Yuhong He.

Carolyn Winsborough. 2015. Soil nutrient and greenhouse gas cycles in managed mixed deciduous Ontario forests: the role of elevated atmospheric n deposition and nutrient and biochar amendments. University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Nathan Basiliko.

Other “Geographical” News

Shell's Arctic drilling could impact plans for Canada's Beaufort Sea: Companies proposing to drill in Canadian Arctic waters will be closely watching Shell's drilling program in the Chukchi sea off the coast of Alaska, after Shell received final approval to drill two exploratory well. In order to obtain approval to drill the wells the US government required the company to bring in a capping stack. The effectiveness of Shell's equipment could have major consequences on potential drilling on the Canadian side of the border. [CBCNews](#)

Mystery kayak in Edmonton basement for decades returning home to Nunavut: A homecoming more than 50 years in the making got underway Monday, involving an Inuit kayak, a basement in Edmonton, and 76 metres of bubble wrap. When the Baydalas bought the house in 1975, the kayak came with it. “It was hanging from the basement ceiling, suspended there, for whatever reason,” Walter Baydala said. The home’s owner did not want to take it and the Baydalas did not insist he remove it. Unsure where it came from, how it got in the house or how it might be removed, the Baydalas left the kayak and its paddle in the basement. The boat will become an exhibit in Kugluktuk. [Edmonton Journal](#)

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>
