

# GeogNews

Bridge Glacier, B.C. Coast Mountains

## News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers No. 370, September 12, 2015

Compiled by Dan Smith [cag@geog.uvic.ca](mailto:cag@geog.uvic.ca)

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**Memorial U's Alistair Bath Awarded 2015 President's Award for Outstanding Graduate and Postgraduate Student Supervision:** Geography's Alistair Bath was recently awarded the 2015 President's Award for Outstanding Graduate and Postgraduate Student Supervision. The Human Dimensions research group has developed into a world-class team, involved in investigations of human-wildlife relationships across Canada and around the world. With Alistair's guidance, graduate students have worked together to produce outstanding research work and theses, to interact effectively with each other, and to benefit from each others' expertise and experience to advance their careers. Alistair works with grad students as colleagues, with respect, empathy, humour, and consistent enthusiasm. We heartily congratulate Alistair as a highly worthy recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Graduate and Postgraduate Student Supervision. [Memorial U Geography News](#)

**U Guelph's Kate Parizeau and local retailers tackle food waste dilemma:** Five days a week the Guelph Food Bank picks up skids of food from grocery stores. The skids are full of whatever didn't sell that day – one time it was pineapples, more commonly it's loaves of bread, packages of meat and bags of vegetables. Five days a week the Guelph Food Bank picks up skids of food from grocery stores. The skids are full of whatever didn't sell that day – one time it was pineapples, more commonly it's loaves of bread, packages of meat and bags of vegetables. Donors include Loblaws grocery stores, Market Fresh and Metro, all of which are striving to cut back on food waste. Across Canada, both food waste and insecurity are growing problems that hint at bigger systemic issues, said University of Guelph waste management professor Kate Parizeau. "We have a food system that doesn't work well for our society," she said. "We produce too much food; it's cheap enough and available enough that people become comfortable wasting it. We also don't provide enough food access to people who have income issues." Last year, Canada's food waste cost the industry more than \$31 billion (more than two-thirds the value of all Canadian agricultural exports), according to a report from the Value Chain Management Centre. Businesses waste labour, energy, transportation, inventory and infrastructure on huge quantities of food that ends up getting thrown out. Then there are the environmental costs of sending it to landfills. Consumers are responsible for almost half of food waste. That equals about 10 pounds of food waste per week per household in Guelph, a U of G study found. Right now the city is working with Parizeau and her team to figure out why people throw out food and how the problem should be addressed. At the grocery-store level, however, Guelph has a way to go. Right now it is unknown how much retailers waste food locally, said Parizeau. Nationally, however, retailers and farmers are each responsible for 10 per cent of food waste and processors are responsible for 20 per cent. "We know there's waste in

these different sectors. We know it could be going somewhere else, but we don't really understand the barriers," said Parizeau. "We need to know more before research and policy can address these problems." [Guelph Tribune](#)

**U Victoria's tracking impact of vanishing ice in northern Canada:** Between 1982 and 2008, the glacier-covered area in the Selwyn Mountains contracted by about 30 percent, from 101 square miles to 71 square miles. Its retreat has accelerated since then. Understanding what is happening on and around the icefield has not been easy for scientists from the University of Victoria, the University of Saskatchewan, and the Geological Survey of Canada. For the better part of the week we were there, University of Victoria atmospheric scientist David Atkinson and graduate student Eric Courtin worked to reassemble a weather station that had collapsed earlier in the summer when the ice unexpectedly melted out the guy wire anchors holding it up. Weather hampered everyone's work. Two days of cold, hard rain; a snowstorm; and a violent cold-weather thunderstorm forced the scientists to abort plans for an aerial survey, as well as an ongoing study of lichens to determine the age of rock that has been exposed by retreating glaciers. The re-drilling of a number of glacier poles — used to determine the depth of snow or ice that has melted — was also abandoned. In spite of the setbacks, Atkinson and his colleagues are optimistic that the data they are collecting will, in time, give them a clearer picture of what is happening in this part of the world. "This weather station that we have set up is designed to give us a day-to-day, hour-to-hour view of what impact the weather is having on the icefield," said Atkinson. Together with hydrological studies and Bologna Glacier valley. [Environment 360](#)

**Memorial U geography graduate student rediscovers history:** Two 18th-century cannons precariously perched along the rugged cliffs of Ferryland are just some of the historic gems a Memorial alumnus has rediscovered as part of fieldwork research for his master's degree. Eric Watton, who holds a bachelor of science degree as well as a criminology certificate, is currently completing a master of science degree under the supervision of Dr. Norm Catto, professor and current head of the Department of Geography. He's examining the effects of coastal erosion on rural parts of the province — particularly communities like Ferryland, which rely heavily on tourism for economic development. Coastal erosion has the potential to affect the future of many seaside communities, which are susceptible to erosion from higher sea levels or damaging storms. Alumnus Eric Watton has completed extensive field research in Ferryland, N.L. Alumnus Eric Watton has completed extensive field research in Ferryland, N.L. "I have learned much about the causes of erosion and wanted to help residents understand their local area, but also foster a constructive conversation and knowledge base in the local context," he explained. For his part, Dr. Catto, who has been studying the impacts of climate variation and change in Newfoundland and Labrador for more than 25 years, says some of his work is focused on providing municipalities with practical research in order for towns and cities to develop options to address vulnerabilities and make long-term plans when it comes to coastal erosion. "Regardless of the cause, coastal erosion has happened, is happening, and will continue to happen," he noted. "Erosion is a natural process: it only becomes a problem or hazard when it affects people. Our studies focus on the processes, the rates, and impacts on people and infrastructure." [Memorial University News](#)



**Saint Mary's U's [Ryan Gibson](#)** elected President of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network. CCEDNet is a national association of several hundred organizations and individuals in every province and territory committed to strengthening communities by creating economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions.

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**Concordia U Affiliate Assistant Professor Mary Anne Poutanen** has published a new [book: \*Beyond Brutal Passions: Prostitution in Early Nineteenth-Century Montreal\*](#) with McGill-Queen's University Press.

**New Visiting Scholar at UBC Geography, Joel Wainwright**, Associate Professor of Geography at Ohio State University, is joining the UBC Department of Geography as a Visiting Professor for the 2015-2016 academic year. Dr. Wainwright was previously an Izaak Walton Killam Postdoctoral Fellow under the supervision of Trevor Barnes in 2004-2005. Students may be familiar with [his work](#) on Gramsci, political ecology, and environmental politics. [UBC Geography](#)

**Simon Fraser U Department of Geography** announces establishment of the Amrik S. Pooni and Family Bursary. The Amrik S. Pooni and Family Bursary was established at Simon Fraser University in 2015 with a generous gift and a minimum three-year commitment from SFU alumnus Gary Pooni. The bursary is intended to offer financial assistance to an undergraduate student in financial need who has a declared major or honours in Geography. [SFU Geography News](#)

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Gurveer Bains. 2015. Mixing health and geography: a study of risks associated with cardiovascular disease for the Punjabi Sikh population in the Regional Municipality of Peel. Masters in Geography. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Mark Rosenberg.

Kilian Nasung Atuoye. 2015. [Relationship between household food insecurity and health in the upper west region of Ghana](#). Masters in Geography, The University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario. Supervisor: Isaac Luginaah.

Yolanda Weima. 2015. Villagisation for our Time: Neoliberal governmentality and the experiences of villagised Burundian returnees. Masters in Geography. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Beverley Mullings.

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Nathan James Bennett, Alin Kadfak and Philip Dearden. 2015. [Community-based scenario planning: a process for vulnerability analysis and adaptation planning to social-ecological change in coastal communities](#). Environment, Development and Sustainability. DOI:10.1007/s10668-015-9707-1

S.J. Cooke, J.M. Chapman and J.C. Vermaire. 2015. [On the apparent failure of silt fences to protect freshwater ecosystems from sedimentation: A call for improvements in science, technology, training and compliance monitoring](#). Journal of Environmental Management 164:67–73.

S. L. Davidson and B.C. Eaton. 2015. [Reach-scale impacts on aquatic habitat in gravel bed streams](#). Water Resources Research. DOI:10.1002/2015WR017124

Anne Fontaine, Rodolphe Devillers, Pedro R. Peres-Neto and Ladd E. Johnson. 2015. [Delineating marine ecological units: a novel approach for deciding which taxonomic group to use and which taxonomic resolution to choose](#). Diversity and Distributions 21:1167–1180.

Matthew Gaudreau and Huhua Cao. 2015. [Political constraints on adaptive governance. Environmental NGO networks in Nanjing, China.](#) The Journal of Environment Development. DOI:10.1177/1070496515602044

Sara Harrison, Amber Silver and Brent Doberstein. 2015. [Post-storm damage surveys of tornado hazards in Canada: Implications for mitigation and policy.](#) International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction. DOI:10.1016/j.ijdrr.2015.08.005

Marwan A. Hassan, Daniele Tonina and Todd H. Buxton. 2015. [Does small-bodied salmon spawning activity enhance streambed mobility?](#) Water Resources Research. DOI:10.1002/2015WR017079

Philip F. Kelly. 2015. [Transnationalism, emotion and second-generation social mobility in the Filipino-Canadian diaspora.](#) Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography. DOI:10.1111/sjtg.12115

Joshua Nasielski, Jessie R. Furze, Jun Tan, Adnane Bargaz, Naresh V. Thevathasan and Marney E. Isaac. 2015. [Agroforestry promotes soybean yield stability and N<sub>2</sub>-fixation under water stress.](#) Agronomy for Sustainable Development. DOI:10.1007/s13593-015-0330-1

Greg Oulahan, Dan Shrubsole and Gordon McBean, G. 2015. [Determinants of residential vulnerability to flood hazards in Metro Vancouver, Canada.](#) Natural Hazards 78:939-956.

Pete Parker, Brijesh Thapa and Aerin Jacob. 2015. [Decentralizing conservation and diversifying livelihoods within Kanchenjunga Conservation Area, Nepal.](#) Journal of Environmental Management Volume 164:96–103.

Jesse Proudfoot. 2015. [Anxiety and phantasy in the field: The position of the unconscious in ethnographic research.](#) Environment and Planning D. Society and Space. DOI:10.1177/0263775815598156

Cristian Suteanu. 2015. [A methodology for the time-scale-sensitive evaluation of wind speed and direction variability.](#) Energy Procedia 76:200–206.

Mary Thornbush. 2015. [Urban agriculture in the transition to low carbon cities through urban greening.](#) AIMS Environmental Science 2:852-867.

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### Other “Geographical” News

**I have a feeling we’re not in high school anymore:** You’ve just graduated high school and are feeling cocky. You were prom king, valedictorian, and Most Likely To Be A Really Big Deal in your yearbook. You were the undisputed king of your suburban high school, and now here you are at university, ready to become a big fish in a bigger pond. Except it doesn’t quite feel that way. Here you are on the first day of school, surrounded by unfamiliar faces. You’ve bought your textbooks, but have no idea what half the words in your first-year philosophy class mean (“semiotics”?). You want to be social, to have fun, and to fit in, even when it’s not coming easily. Maybe you wish you could just go back to that nice, small pond like nothing had ever happened. [Ryerson U News & Events](#)

**Plastic in 99 percent of seabirds by 2050:** Researchers from CSIRO and Imperial College London have assessed how widespread the threat of plastic is for the world’s seabirds, including albatrosses,

shearwaters and penguins, and found the majority of seabird species have plastic in their gut. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Four steps to killing off sexism in science:** This summer, we've seen a series of social media campaigns highlighting sexism in science, following Tim Hunt's now infamous "the problem with girls" comment. But what about the progress the scientific community is making in achieving greater equality in the workplace? Turning the higher numbers of younger women choosing science at school and university into greater numbers of female lecturers and professors demands hard work. But financial incentives for universities, and inventive and resourceful campaigns to inspire young people and the public, have started to yield results. [The Guardian](#)

**Many North American birds may lose part of range under climate change scenarios:** Over 50 percent of nearly 600 surveyed bird species may lose more than half of their current geographic range across three climate change scenarios through the end of the century in North America. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Say what? Mapping mispronounced towns across Canada:** Does it drive you crazy when people mispronounce your hometown? We asked, and you answered, with a resounding "yes." There were the obvious responses, like Calgary and Toronto. But we decided to highlight some towns that you might have never heard of, from Ucluelet, B.C., to Souris, PEI (Plus one province that wants to put its pronunciation on the record.) Hit the play button and then navigate with the arrows to listen to frustrated Canadians, from coast to coast. [The Globe and Mail](#)

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### Some not so "Geographical" News



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