



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Trent University Launches School of the Environment: Trent University is launching a School of the Environment that brings together vast expertise to spark the next generation of global environmental leaders in fields from aquatic science and Indigenous environmental studies to agriculture and food systems, sustainability and [geography](#). The Trent School of the Environment will enable and empower innovative thinkers and researchers who will put knowledge into action on the world's most pressing environmental concerns: climate change, the quality of our water, sustainable agriculture and at-risk ecosystems. Hands-on research opportunities for students abound in the new school, allowing students to make their mark on the planet even at the undergraduate level. Students within the school will also benefit from extensive practical outdoor field experience at one of Canada's most breathtaking campuses, as well as community-based research projects, encouraging them to apply the knowledge they learn to the real world. The school will enhance opportunities for the entire community to come together to discuss solutions to environmental challenges, and offer teachers and researchers at Trent the opportunity to connect with colleagues in related fields, building important new collaborative research projects. [Trent U Daily News](#)

U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson uses online map to allow Victoria cyclists to navigate trouble spots: The Bay Street Bridge in Victoria is one of more than 475 cycling trouble spots in the capital region mapped on BikeMaps.org, the website and app that celebrates its first anniversary next month. "The level of response we've been getting from the citizens of Victoria has been amazing," said BikeMaps.org founder Trisalyn Nelson, the Lansdowne research chair of spatial sciences at the University of Victoria. [BikeMaps.org](#) is a crowdsourcing tool that uses Mapquest maps to allow cyclists to track near-misses, bicycle thefts, collisions, construction activity, potholes and other potential pitfalls. In its first 11 months, its users in Greater Victoria generated 590 data reports about hazards, vastly exceeding regional data available for cycling safety planning, Nelson said. BikeMaps.org collects information on an estimated 72 per cent of crashes and near-misses in Greater Victoria, and has information on about 20 per cent of hazards and eight per cent of thefts, Nelson said. By comparison, she said, it is estimated that official reports such as insurance claims include only 30 to 40 per cent of cycling crashes. This fall, BikeMaps.org will highlight five to 10 of the worst hot spots. The website and mobile apps will offer push notifications on incidents at these spots. Since its launch less than a year ago, BikeMaps.org has spread around the world. Users from across Canada, the United States, Europe and beyond have used it to record data of value to local cyclists. [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Queen's U's John Andrews on why PropertyGuys.com stumped by Vancouver house prices: As Vancouver property prices continue to soar, entrepreneurs are vying to enter the market with a bag of new tricks for homeowners looking to sell. They are having varying degrees of success. With 106 franchise units, PropertyGuys.com is a popular service throughout the rest of the country, and in parts of B.C., but it is nowhere to be found in Vancouver. "Greater Vancouver is our biggest void in the country," Mr. Melanson says. "We are not present in Greater Vancouver, not because we don't want to be, it's just because we've never had a mandate to serve entrepreneurs who want to go head to head with real estate agents there. John Andrew, a professor at Queen's University, argues that the super hot Vancouver market should make it easier for a homeowner to sell without an agent. "A lot of the benefit to having an agent is the network they bring to the table," he says. "They are able to pitch it to colleagues in their office and in the city, and that becomes less important if you are in a bidding war." However, the downside is a lot of preparation, knowing the market, and receiving offers. It would require a few days off work. That's not for most people. "If you have your heart set on a particular agent, and they are connected, to the neighbourhood, I am the first one to admit that [hiring an agent] is money well spent. A lot of people shouldn't try to do it on their own," he says. "And with values as high as they are, most people just say, 'You know, I'm making so much money on the sale of my home, the commission, which is scaled proportionately, is affordable. And I don't want to screw up the sale of a \$2 million home,' that sort of thing." But most people don't realize that negotiating about commission is an option. In a high stakes market such Vancouver. [Globe and Mail](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont in search of the elusive sea wolf along Canada's rugged west coast: For decades headlines across the West have howled about wolves—their comebacks, their setbacks, the debate about whether and how to manage them. Chris Darimont, from the Department of Geography and Raincoast Conservation Foundation, has spent over ten years developing a fine-grain picture of coastal wolves, which he lightheartedly calls "Canada's newest marine mammal." New to science, he means. In the early 2000s Ian McAllister and Canadian wolf biologist Paul Paquet became intrigued when they saw coastal mainland wolves eating salmon. With local First Nations' support, they recruited graduate student Chris Darimont to investigate. Darimont narrowed his study area to Heiltsuk First Nations territory on the central coast—one-third of it water, the rest largely roadless, dense with towering Sitka spruce and cedar, and often extremely steep. Darimont and Paquet ditched the traditional approach of collecting blood and hair directly from the animal. "We collected poop," Darimont tells me. Wolf scat, he means, and also wolf hair, veritable libraries of data about home range, sex, diet, genetics, and other variables. "Wolves are deliberate poopers, not random like deer," Darimont says, "and they use travel corridors very reliably." Wolves' anal glands add oily deposits to scat, appending messages intended for other wolves. They favor posting their messages conspicuously, especially at trail intersections, where one missive gets twice the readership. "I'd throw a mountain bike out of the boat onto a logging road or game trail and spend ten sweaty hours scat hunting," Darimont says. Ten years, innumerable poop jokes, more than 3,000 miles, and 7,000 samples later—autoclaved, washed, bagged, labeled, and eventually stored in Darimont's mother's basement—the feces began to deliver the facts. The data from coastal wolves along the mainland quantified what many locals already knew: Wolves eat salmon. In spawning season the fish make up 25 percent of these wolves' diet. [National Geographic](#)

Queen's U's Warren Mabee on decision by Britain, Nova Scotia cut subsidies to green energy over cost concerns: Warren Mabee, a geography professor at Queen's University in Kingston, said the changes in Nova Scotia and Britain are mostly driven by the desire of governments to manage electricity costs. The subsidy programs were set up as a way to kick-start renewable energy generation, he said, and were designed to be so attractive that many individuals and organizations jumped in to take advantage of them. "The downside is that they are costly on a per-kilowatt basis and are arguably less able to keep costs down compared to industrial-scale solar or wind, which has successfully moved towards much cheaper generation," Mabee said. [Globe and Mail](#)

Simon Fraser U's Peter Hall on Vancouver's Port Land Makeover: SFU Geography associate member, Peter Hall comments on Vancouver's Port Land Makeover. "We think we live in a post-industrial city and think we don't need industry," says Peter Hall, an associate professor of geography and urban studies at Simon Fraser University. "That's just wrong." Hall's research on port regions stems from growing up and living in two -- Cape Town and the San Francisco Bay -- before moving to a third, New Westminster. He cautions against looking to industrial land to "solve real problems we have in the housing market." New properties might be coveted for being near the water, but that's also where the best industrial land is, Hall notes, because it tends to be well connected to rail and marine as well as highway access. He says housing can be built almost anywhere, but industry isn't as flexible. Hall believes it's in the city's interest to keep industrial land cheap to attract investment. Targeting that same land for commercial, mixed or residential development drives up the price of land available for industry. "It's a self-fulfilling prophecy," he says. "When developers decide pieces of industrial land are in play, it becomes a part of the speculation cycle." [The Tyee](#)

Concordia U's Damon Matthews shows national carbon and climate debts could decide who pays for cost of climate mitigation and damage: All countries have contributed to recent climate change, but some much more so than others. Those that have contributed more than their fair share have accumulated a climate debt, owed to countries that have contributed less to historical warming. This is the implication of a in which Concordia University researcher Damon Matthews shows how national carbon and climate debts could be used to decide who should pay for the global costs of climate mitigation and damages. The countries that have accumulated the largest carbon debts on account of higher than average per-capita carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions are the United States, Russia, Japan, Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. The U.S. alone carries 40 per cent of the cumulative world debt, while Canada carries about four per cent. On the other side, the carbon creditors — those whose share of CO2 emissions has been smaller than their share of world population — are India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nigeria, Brazil and China, with India holding 30 per cent of the total world credit. "Thinking of climate change in terms of debts and credits for individual countries shows how much countries have over- or under-contributed to historical warming, relative to their proportion of the world's population over time," explains Matthews, study author and associate professor in Concordia's Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. "This paints a striking picture of the historical inequalities among countries with respect to their greenhouse gas emissions and consequent responsibility for climate changes." The idea of additionally accounting for debts and credits would of course increase the burden placed on countries with high historical emissions. "But these historical inequalities are real and substantial, and need to be fully acknowledged," says Matthews. "My hope is that this discussion will help lead to a stronger and more meaningful global climate agreement." [Concordia News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Ofer Amram. 2015. [Spatial epidemiology of child and youth injury](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nadine Schuurman.

Lucas Brehaut. 2015. The use of NDVI and tree ring widths to evaluate changes in vegetation productivity in a mountainous boreal landscape. MSc thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Ryan Danby.

Rebecca Whitmore. 2015. [Canadian informal caregivers in medical tourism](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Valorie Crooks.



Simon Fraser U's Meg Krawchuk commented on the need for more August rain as in a [News 1130](#) Radio interview (Aug 1, 2015). "If you think about what rain does when it comes into your garden for example after a dry period. You get rain and it percolates into the top levels of the soil but when you actually dig down deeply into your garden you find that there is not actually much water there." "We need a lot more rain and a lot more continuous rain to actually make a difference in terms of soil moisture and moisture that then gets up into foliage."

Carleton U's Fraser Taylor, distinguished research professor and director of Carleton's Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre, received a grant from the SSHRC Insight Program for his Residential School Land Memory Mapping Project that will be a part of the reconciliation process. The project aims to acknowledge, honour and enhance awareness of the living history of the land, the buildings and the survivors of residential schools. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

U Northern British Columbia graduate student Marli Bodhi talks about the cost and availability of food in Northern BC on CBC's [CBC Daybreak North](#). Marli is supervised in the NRES grad program by Dr. Annie Booth and Geography's Dr. Zoë Meletis. [Listen @ DayBreakNorth](#)

Simon Fraser U's Jonathan Cripps was awarded the Alexis Dreimanis Doctoral Scholarship at the 2015 Canadian Quaternary Association (CANQUA) Biennial Meeting in St. John's, and gave an oral presentation of his research entitled "Reinterpreting the style and pattern of Cordilleran Ice Sheet retreat from glacial lake reconstructions: southern interior, British Columbia". Additionally, he received the Canadian Geomorphology Research Group's (CGRG) Olav Slaymaker Award for the best student talk for this presentation.

U Waterloo Geography a top 50 program in the world according to Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), a UK firm that released an annual ranking of world universities. The Faculty of Environment's Geography program ranked 48th in the world in 2015. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

Western U's Karen Van Kerkoerle receives Western Staff Excellence Award: Karen Van Kerkoerle, Western Geography's Cartographic Specialist, one of this year's recipients of a Western Staff Excellence Award. It recognizes her outstanding work as a cartographer, her support of graduate and undergraduate students to develop their cartographic and visual design skills, her ongoing contributions and leadership within the Canadian Cartographic Association, and her longstanding leadership of the Department's United Way Fundraising drive and Talent Show. [Western News](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Roger Wheate recently returned from the 26th Congress of the International Cartographic Association, as Canadian national delegate in Rio de Janeiro

Western PhD Graduate Marylynn Steckley discusses agrarian displacement and food (in)security in Haiti on CBC Radio's Ideas Show. A recipient of a PhD SSHRC doctoral scholarship during her studies, Marylynn spent over six years in Haiti, both as an aid worker and researcher. [Western Geography News](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Patricia A. Beddows, Magda Mandić, Derek C. Ford and Henry P. Schwarcz. 2015. [Oxygen and hydrogen isotopic variations between adjacent drips in three caves at increasing elevation in a temperate coastal rainforest, Vancouver Island, Canada](#). *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. DOI: 10.1016/j.gca.2015.08.017

Andrew R. Bell, Derek T. Robinson, Ammar Malik and Snigdha Dewal. 2015. [Modular ABM development for improved dissemination and training](#). *Environmental Modelling and Software* 73:189-200.

Juliane Collard. 2015. [Into the archive: Vancouver's Missing Women Commission of Inquiry](#). *Environment and Planning D. Society and Space*. DOI: 10.1177/0263775815596170

E.E. Guillem, D. Murray-Rust, D.T. Robinson, A. Barnes and M.D.A. Rounsevell. 2015. [Modelling farmer decision-making to anticipate tradeoffs between provisioning ecosystem services and biodiversity](#). *Agricultural Systems* 137:12-23.

Marit Heideman, Brian Menounos and John J. Clague. 2015. [An 825-year long varve record from Lillooet Lake, British Columbia, and its potential as a flood proxy](#). *Quaternary Science Reviews* 126:158–174.

Umesh K. Haritashy, Mark S. Pleasants and Luke Copland. 2015. [Assessment of the evolution in velocity of two debris-covered valley glaciers in Nepal and New Zealand](#). *Geografiska Annaler: Series A, Physical Geography*. DOI:10.1111/geoa.12112

Craig A. Jones and Michael D. Smith. 2015. [War/Law/Space Notes toward a legal geography of war](#). *Environment and Planning D. Society and Space*. DOI: 10.1177/0263775815600599

Merje Kuus. 2015. [For slow research](#). *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. DOI:10.1111/1468-2427.12257

Sean B. O'Hagan and Murray D. Rice. 2015. [The geography of Canadian interlocking directorates: how do they relate to brain circulation?](#) *Urban Geography* 36:823-843.

Stephanie Pyne and D.R. Fraser Taylor. 2015. [Cybercartography, transitional justice and the residential schools legacy](#). *Geomatica* 69:173-187.

Cristina Temenos and Tom Baker. 2015. [Enriching urban policy mobilities research](#). *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. DOI: 10.1111/1468-2427.12258

Jaison Ambadan Thomas, Aaron A. Berg and William J. Merryfield. 2015. [Influence of snow and soil moisture initialization on sub-seasonal predictability and forecast skill in boreal spring](#). *Climate Dynamics*. DOI:10.1007/s00382-015-2821-9

Mary Thornbush. 2015. [Geography, urban geomorphology and sustainability](#). *Area*. DOI:10.1111/area.12218

Katarzyna B. Tokarska and Kirsten Zickfeld. [The effectiveness of net negative carbon dioxide emissions in reversing anthropogenic climate change](#). *Environmental Research Letters* 10:

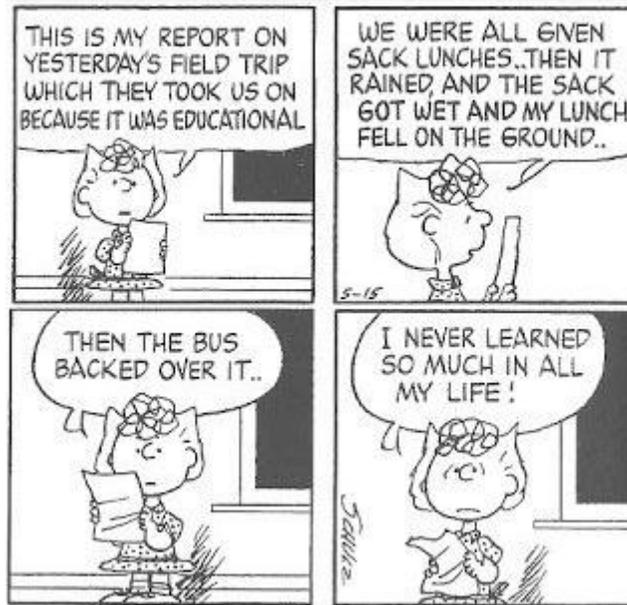
Lanying Wang, Wei Li, Shiqian Wang and Jonathan Li. 2015. [Examining urban expansion in the Greater Toronto Area using Landsat imagery from 1974–2014](#). *Geomatica* 69:161-172.

Other “Geographical” News

World has lost three percent of its forests since 1990: The globe's forests have shrunk by three per cent since 1990 -- an area equivalent to the size of South Africa -- despite significant improvements in conservation over the past decade. [ScienceDaily](#)

Melting Arctic sea ice accelerates methane emissions: Methane emissions from Arctic tundra increase when sea ice melts, according to a new study. This connection has been suspected before, but has lacked strong evidence until now. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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