



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Compiled by Dan Smith <cag@geog.uvic.ca>

U Guelph's Evan Fraser and Samantha Pasco argue we are ignoring food security at our peril:

Without a doubt, global food security sits close to the top on any list of major challenges facing the planet over the next generation. But for Canada, and Canadian politicians, this issue barely resonates. We are blessed with abundant farmland and (mostly) wealthy consumers. We may even benefit from the earth's changing climate in the form of a longer growing season. But ignoring food security would be a mistake. In a number of ways, Canada has taken major steps backwards over the past 10 years. For instance, One of the negative consequences of the large trading agreements that our federal government has embraced has been a loss in our food processing industry. Because our vegetable farmers are relatively uncompetitive when compared with California, New Mexico or Florida, liberal trade agreements have allowed North America's fruit and vegetable processing industry to move south. This means that Canada has lost more than 143 food manufacturing plants and shed 24,000 jobs since 2008. It also means fewer markets for vegetable producers. We have committed ourselves to a global food system that, despite all its considerable benefits, has harmed our capacity to process fruits and vegetables close to home. This means that fruit and vegetable prices in particular are vulnerable to economic factors like a low Canadian dollar or the California drought, and the evidence suggests that the Canadian food system now struggles to provide adequate nutritious food for all its citizens. [Toronto Star](#)

U Victoria's Ian Walker warns Esquimalt Lagoon, Beacon Hill bluff in Victoria vulnerable in big storms: Extreme weather will bring erosion and flooding to coastlines around the Pacific, and B.C. will be hit hard. Prof. Ian Walker of the University of Victoria geography department, a study participant, said: "By all indications, this year is shaping up to be one of the strongest El Niños we have seen in years." But Walker also said nobody can be certain until December and January, when El Niño tends to peak. Nevertheless, he said, the new study results indicate B.C. will take hard hits during both El Niño and La Niña, weather events that tend to follow each other, never occurring in the same season. So in Victoria, low-lying coastal areas, gradually sloping beach zones or steep bluffs are likely to lose shoreline during extreme weather events. Those areas might include Esquimalt Lagoon, Witty's Lagoon, Beacon Hill bluffs along Dallas Road, Mount Douglas beach and bluff areas, Cadboro Bay and Cordova Bay. With higher sea levels, a normal winter storm can cause much more erosion to a shoreline. "With past El Niños, we have seen lots of flooding and erosion from British Columbia down to California because of the higher ocean levels," Walker said. Meanwhile, in La Niña years when temperatures are cooler, sea levels tend to fall. But for B.C. the dangers don't diminish because severe

storms tend to move farther north. Normally they are centred over Washington and Oregon. But during a La Niña they move to the mid-point of Vancouver Island. “The reality is in British Columbia we have a lot of coastal infrastructure from cities to airports to highways and shipping terminals in areas that are vulnerable to coastal erosion,” Walker said. “They were developed at a time, the 1950s mostly, when we had no knowledge of climate change or of sea-level rise,” he said. [Victoria Time-Colonist](#)

Thompson Rivers U’s Michael Mehta concerned about institution’s new branding that could link it to the proposed Ajax mine: A Thompson Rivers University professor is concerned the institution’s new branding could link it to the proposed Ajax copper and gold mine south of the city. Michael Mehta, a professor of geography and environmental studies, has begun an online petition calling on TRU to drop its “unearthing” reference in its brand-strategy documentation. Mehta said he was alerted through Twitter to the language being used. Documentation on the branding process — one initiated when TRU decided to replace the tagline “Now, that’s university” last year — includes the sentence, “We believe that everyone has the right to unearth their potential.” Mehta said he believes there is an expectation at senior administrative levels on campus that the university needs to move in the direction of trades courses dealing with mining, pipelines and liquid natural gas and that government money will help fuel that move. He said had TRU used “pipeline to your dreams,” the message would have been clear it is trying to appeal to pro-pipeline funders. [Kamloops This Week](#)

Western Geography's Chantelle Richmond selected to RSC's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists: Professor [Chantelle Richmond](#) has been named a member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Chantelle's research is based on a participatory model that explores the intersection of Indigenous people’s health, knowledge systems and connection to land. With a greater goal of improving Indigenous health equity, she engages in community-based methodologies that empower Indigenous voice and vision in health and social research. The members of the College will address issues of particular concern to new scholars, artists and scientists, for the advancement of understanding and the benefit of society, taking advantage of the interdisciplinary approaches fostered by the establishment of the College. [Western News](#)

Ryerson U’s Dr. Harald Bauder, recipient of Royal Society of Canada award: Harald Bauder @RyersonGeo is receiving the 2015 [Konrad Adenauer Research Award](#) from the Royal Society of Canada. Bauder is the founding director of the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement; a professor in immigration and settlement studies, and geography and environmental studies, in the Faculty of Arts; and has written several books, dozens of popular and academic articles about immigration. Promoting academic collaboration between Canada and Germany, the Konrad Adenauer Research Award recognizes a scholar’s entire academic record, and provides €50,000 in funding for a six to 12-month research project in Germany. He is starting a new book project, made possible by the Adenauer Award, is tentatively titled Migration Borders Freedom: “The key words are in there – migrations, borders and freedom – but there is also the idea that migration and freedom are bordered. “I’m pursuing the idea that open borders are something we should take seriously,” he continued. “When looking at various researchers and politicians that have argued from various ideological positions that open borders are the way to go, some economists argue for open borders because it’s a distortion of the labour market. On the opposite of the political spectrum, people argue that we need to support refugees, and that closed borders are an infringement on fundamental human rights. Across the spectrum, people are arguing for open borders, and yet we have very concrete borders.” [Ryerson Today](#)

Simon Fraser U’s Meg Krawchuck provides her thoughts on proposed forest fire initiatives: Fire experts have long called for action to meet the challenge of forest fires in a changing climate. Restoring forests that have burned is expensive, and not always effective in the face of changing climates. Those problems have led to high-level discussions about topics like climate adaptation and planting species

that might be better suited to emerging environmental conditions — a process that goes by such names as “assisted colonization” and “assisted migration.” Meg Krawchuk, an assistant professor of geography at Simon Fraser University, noted that such initiatives would be expensive, and contentious as well. Theoretically, she said, it might be attractive to shift species to areas where they might be expected to do well. “Given enough time and limited tinkering from humans,” she said, “one would think an appropriate response to changes in climate and to fire would be proposed by mother nature.” [New York Times](#)

U Victoria’s Reuben Rose-Redwood on John Randel Jr’s hidden bolt in Manhattan’s Central Park: It is almost impossible to imagine a grid-less and uncrowded Manhattan. Before the now famous concrete jungle was erected, New York’s central island held just 100,000 people who lived among fields, shrubs and briars. But authorities foresaw an influx. In 1808, John Randel Jr was radically commissioned to reorganize the city into a symmetrical, Cartesian format to accommodate an extra 900,000 residents. To do so, the surveyor hammered up to 1,000 iron bolts at various potential intersections - hacking through the unkempt farmland with an ax. More than 200 years later, just one rusty reminder of his arduous endeavor lingers: a single bolt. Though more may lie undiscovered, and many claim to have found some, this one-inch-square, six-inch-tall stump is the only one confirmed by academics such as Reuben Rose-Redwood, a University of Victoria geography professor, and Marguerite Holloway, of Columbia University, who specialize in Manhattan history. Rose-Redwood found the bolt after years spent pouring over maps and scouring the city with a metal detector. Randel Jr 'hiked the island's hills, waded through its creeks and marshes, and let the tide rise up to his shoulders for more than a decade as he laid down the grid plan.' Indeed, the two-centuries-old system is still hailed as one of the most forward-thinking and innovative concepts in the history of urban planning. The distinctive structure also created the New York state of mind, according to Rose-Redwood's analysis. Symmetry was 'thought to discipline the mind', [he remarked](#), 'such that one would take "the course which reason indicates".' [Mail Online](#)

Western U's Jason Gilliland and Emily Van Kesteren talk to Board of Health about Active & Safe Routes to School: Western Geography Professor Jason Gilliland and alumni Emily Van Kesteren were invited to the Middlesex-London Board of Health meeting on September 17th to speak about their university-community collaboration around Active & Safe Routes to School (ASRTS). Emily is a Public Health Nurse on the Healthy Communities and Injury Prevention Team with the Middlesex-London Health Unit and co-chair of ASRTS committee, a community partnership with representation from numerous organizations throughout the Ontario counties of Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford, and the cities of London and St. Thomas. Emily completed her MA in Geography with Dr Gilliland in the Human Environments Analysis Lab at Western, where she conducted thesis research on children’s active transportation. The two main goals of ASRTS are to promote physical activity and to improve safety of children on their journey to and from school, using comprehensive health promotion strategies such as engineering, engagement, education, research, and policy development. The HEAL Team, under the guidance of Gilliland and Dr Andrew Clark, leads the critical elements of data analysis and program evaluation for ASRTS activities. See [Board of Health report](#) on ASRTS by Dr Mackie, Medical Officer of Health.



Trent U’s Mark Skinner launches new co-edited book [Ageing Resource Communities: New frontiers of rural population change, community development and voluntarism](#) at the Trent Centre for Aging and Society's open house. [Ageing Resource Communities](#) explores new frontiers of aging through rural

population change, community development and voluntarism. "The reason that we call it a new frontier of aging is that we understand very well what's happening in urban and conventional rural places like Peterborough and Peterborough County. What we don't very much about is what's happening in those small very isolated communities," Skinner said. [Peterborough Examiner](#)

Queen's U Geography Ph.D. student Ashley Rudy in video about [TD Bank Group Fellowship](#) making life safer in the Arctic.

Part-Time Concordia U Faculty Member, Colleen Gray, publishes [book on the Study School for Girls](#) with McGill-Queen's University Press. Her book traces the The Study's history through both world wars, the Great Depression, the Quiet Revolution, the feminist movement as well as its transformation from an English-language institution to a bilingual and multicultural one. [Concordia News](#)

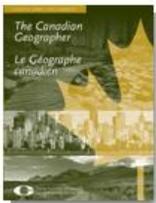
Western U PhD graduate Marylynn Steckley (PhD 2015) discussed agrarian displacement and food (in)security in Haiti on CBC Radio's Ideas Show. Marylynn suggests some of the development initiatives promoted by wealthy nations is contributing to food insecurity in Haiti. A recipient of a PhD SSHRC doctoral scholarship during her studies, Marylynn spent over six years in Haiti, both as an aid worker and researcher. [CBCNews](#)

U British Columbia Geography PhD Candidate Dan Cohen discusses Detroit metro school markets in short film by Detroit filmmaker/activist, Kate Levy. [UBC Geography](#)

McGill U Geography extends its condolences to the family and friends of [Olav Heldge Loken](#), who earned his doctorate in Geography from McGill in 1962, and who made significant contributions to Canadian Arctic science. [McGill Geography](#)

U British Columbia's Derek Gregory received an Honorary Fellowship from King's College London. The Honorary Fellowship "recognises the exceptional distinction achieved on the part of the holder through their public and professional life". [UBC Geography](#)

New in [The Canadian Geographer](#)



Élianne Carrier, Marie-Soleil Cloutier and Johanne Charbonneau. 2015. [Cities, villages, and suburbs: What sets them apart when it comes to giving blood?](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI: 10.1111/cag.12219

Michelle Ruty, Daniel Scott, Peter Johnson, Eric Jover, Marc Pons and Robert Steiger. 2015. The geography of skier adaptation to adverse conditions in the Ontario ski market. [The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#). DOI: 10.1111/cag.12220

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Leah Vanden Busch. 2015. The delivery, seasonal storage, and trophic transfer of marine-derived nutrients within a stream-riparian ecotone. MSc thesis in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies (Environmental Science), University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, BC. Co-supervisors: . Ellen Petticrew and John Rex.

Alessandro Gitt. 2015. [Representative point-integrated suspended sediment sampling in rivers](#). MSc thesis. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Jeremy Venditti.

Christopher Lamb. 2015. NeoLiberal scripts: Settler colonialism and the British Columbia school curriculum. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen's University, Kingston. Supervisor: Dr. Anne Godlewska.

Randi Newton. 2015. Exploring the factors that support cooperative and equitable municipal-First Nation Relationships: A case study of the City of Calgary and the Tsuu T'ina Nation. MPL thesis. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen's University, Kingston. Supervisors: Dr. Leela Viswanathan and Dr. Graham Whitelaw.

Andrew Perkins. 2015. [Refining the pattern and style of deglaciation on the southern Fraser Plateau and environs](#). PhD dissertation. Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Tracy Brennand.

Trevor Wideman. 2015. (Re)assembling "Japantown": A Critical Toponymy of Planning and Resistance in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. MA thesis. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen's University, Kingston. Supervisors: Audrey Kobayashi and Jeff Masuda

Other "Geographical" News

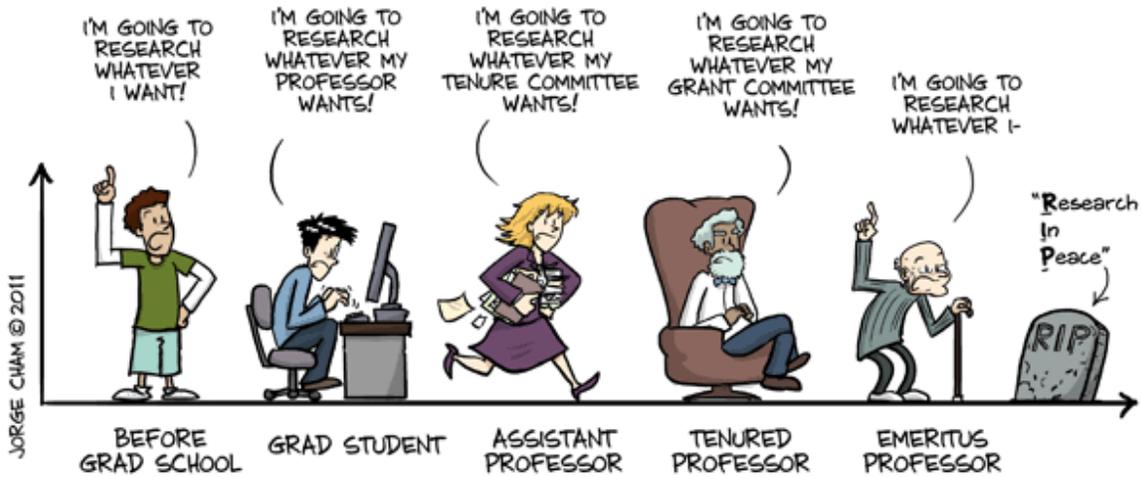
This Canadian lake is about to fall off a cliff: A small lake in Canada is about to burst through the shrinking barrier of earth holding it back, before falling off a cliff. The doomed lake, which for some reason doesn't have a name, was previously held back by a headwall containing ice that has been there for 20,000 years. As the wall has been slowly eroded away, the ice has melted, leaving the wall increasingly more exposed leading to massive slumps of debris. This is what has led the unlucky lake to its precarious position on the precipice of a cliff and one more slump could literally push it over the edge. While the phenomenon is dramatic, it's certainly not unique. [Tumblr](#) | [Northern Journal](#)

Canada lags on carbon cuts as oceans suffer: In the struggle to spare Earth the worst ravages of global warming, the oceans are our ally. They have buffered climate change by absorbing nearly 30 per cent of the carbon dioxide we have generated by burning fossil fuels and have absorbed 90 per cent of the industrial heat. But as marine scientists warn, the cost has been heavy, and it is growing. This call to action is an implicit rebuke to climate laggards, including Canada. [Toronto Star](#)

N.W.T. aboriginal leaders call on Nunavut to restrict caribou harvest: Representatives from the Tlicho government and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation say the Nunavut government needs to end commercial harvesting of the rapidly declining Bathurst and Bluenose caribou herds.. Population surveys done in June and July show the Bathurst caribou herd dropped to between 16,000 and 22,000 animals this year from 32,000 in 2012. The Bluenose-East herd has declined to between 35,000 and 40,000 this year from about 68,000 in 2013. [CBCNews | North](#)

Some not so "Geographical" News

THE EVOLUTION OF INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM



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