



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 376, October 22, 2015**

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

U Northern British Columbia's Brian Menounos and Matt Beedle report glacier melt in B.C. mountains has reached 'shocking' levels: For B.C. glacier researcher Matt Beedle, returning to the Castle Creek glacier every year inspires a mixture of excitement and dread. "At first, it's just exciting to see this brand-new landscape that wasn't here before it was exposed," says Beedle. "But then it's shocking ... when we started coming here, it was so much larger than it is today." You've heard about glaciers melting for years, but what happened last summer across Western Canada is different, because it's much faster — giving what one researcher calls a "sad window" into our future, where the glaciers are gone. In the past decade the terminus of the glacier has receded over 200 metres, at a rate of roughly 15 metres a year. This summer though, the melt rate accelerated dramatically to about two and half times that pace, says Brian Menounos, a geography professor and glacier researcher at the University of Northern B.C." This particular year has been quite a bad one," he says. "It's really a one-two punch." "We had a warmer than average summer, and a much warmer spring for the southern part of the province, but we also had a record low snowpack." Menounos says it's discouraging that much of Western Canada's ice fields won't last the century. "If you want a window into the future if you will — sort of a sad window — then this particular summer, at least in the southern portion of B.C., is a good example." [CBC News](#)

U Victoria Post-Doc Heather Bryan on grizzly bear conservation in B.C.: It's been a challenging year for wildlife in B.C. "The population data that are being used to support the allocation of grizzly bear trophy hunting permits are not always based on actual field data and often are not peer reviewed," said Heather Bryan, a Hakai Institute post-doctoral biologist with the Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Department of Geography at University of Victoria. Bryan added that while the government insists their management plans work, they have yet to produce any peer-reviewed data to support that hunts and culls do anything positive for wildlife. Rather, Bryan quoted data, which indicated that a recent cull of 700 wolves in Alberta had no measurable effect on caribou populations. "This is because cougars are the biggest source of caribou predation, not wolves," Bryan said. [Vancouver Sun](#)

U Fraser Valley's Lenore Newman wins UFV Research Excellence Award: Academia, applied research, and activism are all connected in the eyes of Dr. Lenore Newman. When she accepted the role of [Canada Research Chair in Food Security in the Environment](#) at the University of the Fraser Valley, she knew she'd be focusing on research that is extremely relevant to the UFV region, and on topics that are at times contentious. Her staunch defense of the principle of maintaining farmland placed in British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR), a position solidified after formal research into the 40-year history of the ALR, makes her a popular source for media commentary. Newman is receiving the [2015 UFV Research Excellence award](#) for her success in building a core of research activity focused on food security and agricultural issues. "Before taking this job at UFV, my research never landed in the daily news," recalls Newman, who is a faculty member in the UFV Geography and the Environment department. "But preserving farmland is so valuable economically and important culturally that it is a topic for major debate. Farmland is a big part of the identity of this valley. [UFV Today](#)

U Guelph MA graduate and researcher Kelly Hodgins runs [Feeding Nine Billion Challenge](#): Kelly Hodgins could pack up and head back to the farm in Powell River, British Columbia, anytime. "My heart is on the farm and in agriculture," says the Guelph grad and staff member. She grew up on several farms in Canada and New Zealand before coming to Guelph to study geography for her master's degree. "Farming is an incredibly noble endeavour," she says. "Providing food for your community and working with ecosystems to grow food and raise animals in a way that respects and contribute to a healthy environment." So why is she still here in Guelph? Hodgins says working at her alma mater — billed as "Canada's food university" — allows her to make a bigger impact. She's project coordinator for Feeding Nine Billion based at U of G. That project, run by geography professor Evan Fraser, is intended to develop ideas for feeding the world's growing population, expected to reach nine billion people by 2050. In Canada, about four million people, or 13 per cent of the population, lack access to affordable, nutritious food, says Hodgins. It's not that we lack enough food, she says. The problem is a dysfunctional food system that effectively favours well-off consumers and stigmatizes low-income Canadians forced to rely on food banks and other donations. "Food insecurity is a problem of poverty, and poverty is a problem of politics," says Hodgins. "All Canadians should be able to access adequate nutritious diets." Hodgins studied geography at the University of the Fraser Valley. For her master's degree with Fraser at Guelph, she studied the role of businesses in food security for Canadians. She joined the Feeding Nine Billion project as a staff member earlier this year. [U Guelph Campus News](#)

Western U's Adam Yates leading research that could change the way watersheds are managed around the world: Adam Yates wants to know when a good stream can go bad. Leading research studies that colleagues say could change the way watersheds are managed around the world, the Western University geography professor believes he can find the answer in specially-designed tanks behind a wastewater treatment plant in London. Yates and his research team have started with phosphorus, the nutrient blamed for a massive toxic algae bloom in Lake Erie that forced the shutdown of municipal water intakes and beach closings in 2014. Called the Thames River Experimental Stream Sciences Centre (TRESS), Yates's six tanks are designed to replicate conditions in streams that feed the Thames River, which drains into Lake Erie. The tanks are fed with water from Lake Huron, which supplies much of London, and have stones added that have spent four weeks in Medway Creek collecting bacteria, algae and aquatic life. The researchers then add different levels of phosphorus to the tanks and watch what happens. The goal of the studies is to be able to provide organizations such as the city and the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority with scientific advice on managing rivers, Yates said. "Rivers have a lot of varying capacity but they can also change in a hurry with a very small addition. "Those thresholds can be very tightly bound where you are fine, you are fine, you are fine and all of a sudden very much not fine."[London Free Press](#)



U Calgary Geography Department welcomes David Goldblum and Scott Jasechko. [David Goldblum](#) is a biogeographer whose research interests focus on both natural disturbances and anthropogenic impacts on forest and woodland plant communities. [Scott Jasechko](#)'s research focuses on hydrology, large data, geochemistry and global change. [Calgary U Today](#)

York U Geography celebrated its brightest and best undergraduate students at the 2015 Undergraduate Awards Ceremony. See the [slide show](#).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Stefania Bertazzon, Markey Johnson, Kristin Eccles and Gilaad G. Kaplan. 2015. [Accounting for spatial effects in land use regression for urban air pollution modeling](#). Spatial and Spatio-temporal Epidemiology 14–15:9–21.

Shawn M. Chartrand, Marwan A. Hassan and Valentina Radić. 2015. [Pool-riffle sedimentation and surface texture trends in a gravel bed stream](#). Water Resources Research. DOI:10.1002/2015WR017840

Katrina Krievins, Julia Baird, Ryan Plummer, Oliver Brandes, Allen Curry, Jack Imhof, Simon Mitchell, Michele-Lee Moore and Åsa Gerger Swartling. 2015. [Resilience in a Watershed Governance Context: A Primer. Resilience in a Watershed Governance Context: A Primer](#). St. Catharines, ON: Environmental Sustainability Research Centre.

Shannon L. Sibbald, Ross Graham and Jason Gilliland. 2015. [The public health response to 'do-it-yourself' urbanism](#). Global Health Promotion. DOI:10.1177/1757975915602632



CAGONT 2015 is being held at The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University on 23-24 October. Registration for attendees and field trips will be open until Tuesday 20 October. People who have not registered at that point may attend, but must bring their registration fees in cash (\$40 for students, \$60 for others), and must send an email to [Chris Burn](#) before the end of the day on 20 October, to allow suitable preparations to be made for their arrival.

Details are available on the [CAGONT2015 web site](#).

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Melanie Josee Davidson. 2015. Ensalada Mixta: Geographical explorations of food and Cuba. Master's thesis. Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. David McDonald.

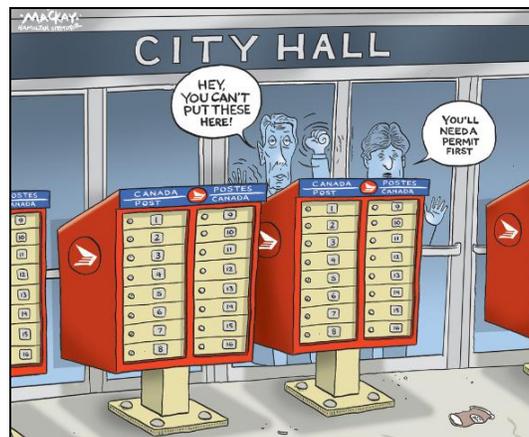
Katie Hemsworth. 2015. Carceral Acoustemologies: Sonic enactments of space and power in prisons. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Dr. Laura Cameron and Dr. Joyce Davidson.

Larissa Anna Vincenza Pizzolato. 2015. [Arctic shipping in Canada: Analysis of sea ice, shipping, and vessel track reconstruction](#). MSc thesis. Department of Geography, University of Ottawa, Ontario. Supervisors: Jackie Dawson and Luke Copland.

Other "Geographical" News

Why a career in Geography might be right for you: Almost every Vancouver bungalow has been replaced with a shiny high-rise condominium. Once an old heritage home is now an artisan cafe. Single neighbourhood streets are lined with both brand new sports cars and old run down wagons. Do you agree? If so, we're sure you've thought about why these changes happened so rapidly? What changes to expect in the future and how you fit in to all of it? Want to take these thoughts one step further? [Kwantlen Polytechnic University's](#) Bachelor of Applied Geography lets you do just that. This is not your grandparents' 'geography' class – theres no dusty atlases, colouring in maps, or memorizing place names. This is a geography course for today's world and its people. [VanCityBuzz](#)

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>
