



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Carleton University's Jeremy Schmidt awarded 2015 SSHRC Talent Award:** Jeremy Schmidt, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, has been awarded the 2015 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Talent Award for his work on water management, ethics and governance of natural resources. Schmidt's award, worth \$50,000, was announced at an awards ceremony at the National Arts Centre. Schmidt is a new faculty member at Carleton having recently come from Dalhousie University. The Talent Award recognizes outstanding achievement by an individual who maintains academic excellence, has a talent for research and knowledge mobilization and has demonstrated clear potential to be a future leader. [Carleton Newsroom](#)

**U Calgary's Scott Jasechko part of an international team who found that much of the Earth's groundwater isn't renewable within a human lifetime:** "The goal of this study was to calculate, for one of the first times, how much groundwater we have on this planet," said Scott Jasechko, an assistant professor in the U of C's department of geography who co-authored the study. "This is water that is held within pore spaces in rock and soils underneath our feet. "Of all of the fresh and unfrozen water on this planet, about 99 per cent is groundwater." The research estimates a total volume of nearly 23 million cubic kilometres of total groundwater. To put that into perspective, if you pooled all of the groundwater in the world on top of the land, it would be 180 metres deep — almost as tall as the Calgary Tower. Although the volume is immense, Jasechko said only a small, finite fraction of the resource is being replenished. The study showed that six per cent of water in the uppermost portion of the Earth's landmass is renewable within a human lifetime or 50 years. The research comes as the global demand for water grows, particularly with climate change. Jasechko said it provides important information for water managers and policy developers, as well as scientists, to manage groundwater resources in a more sustainable way. "This groundwater resource is finite," he said. "There's only so much and developing management time horizons on decade-old timeframes is important, but we need to make sure we have a strong understanding of just how much groundwater is available." Groundwater is an important resource, with about two billion people worldwide relying on it for drinking water. About 40 per cent of irrigation used for food production uses groundwater, said Jasechko. It's also supplies water and nutrients sustaining aquatic ecosystems in lakes and rivers. "We should use a longer time horizon when making decisions because the amount of modern groundwater is finite, vulnerable to climate change, susceptible to pollution, and needed by natural ecosystems," he said. [Calgary Herald](#) | [AmeriPublications](#)

**GeoMatters, Autumn 2015:** Featured in the Autumn Newsletter of the U Winnipeg Department of Geography are items about: *Geographers in a Cemetery*, by Chris Storie and Brad Russell; *Winter Walking: Evaluating Human Perception and Climatic Factors to Enhance Pedestrian Safety*, by Gina Sylvestre and Nora Casson; *Icelandic Rescue: Canadian Style*, by Weldon Hiebert; *BC Communities / Climate Change*, by Ian Mauro; *Geography and Environmental Studies & Sciences Students Association and the Community*, by Weldon Hiebert; *Grey Ghettos: Seniors' Experience of Inclusion and Exclusion in Winnipeg's North End*, Gina Sylvestre; and, *City Studio*, by Marc Vachon. [Download and read GeoMatters](#)

**U Lethbridge BSc Geography undergraduate student Theo Harvey** won the best poster presentation award for his poster "Quantifying the Extent of Arctic Fog over Glaciers using MODIS and Ground Observations" at the *11th Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) Student Conference* themed 'Due North: Next Generation Arctic Research & Leadership' (<http://arctic.ucalgary.ca/acuns-2015-student-conference>). The ACUNS ([acuns.ca](http://acuns.ca)) student conference is a triannual event, and was this time organised by the Arctic Institute of North America (AINA) and University of Calgary students. Theo Harvey was supervised by Dr Hester Jiskoot, University of Lethbridge, as part of their NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award (USRA) "Temporal and spatial patterns of Arctic fog in glacierized coastal zones from satellite imagery". Dr David Atkinson and the Geography Department at University of Victoria are thanked for the use of their computer lab space for part of this summer research project.

**Zach Vanthournout receives Royal Canadian Geographical Society's 2015 Geographic Literacy Award:** Though he moved away from the region years ago, Zach Vanthournout still fondly remembers growing up on a tobacco farm outside Blenheim. Now at age 53, he can add over two decades of memories serving with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry on tours of duty in Kosovo, Alert and Afghanistan. But his love of geography, instilled by high school teachers at Ursuline College Chatham, has led him to an acclaimed accomplishment. Since retiring from the military in 2002, Vanthournout found himself back in school studying his first love - geography. After graduation, he began teaching in high schools in New Brunswick and is currently on staff at Moncton High School. "Geography is so much more than getting out the colouring books and pencil crayons to colour maps and identifying places and naming lakes," he said. "It's about knowing why that lake is there and even why does that lake have that name." The geographic literacy award recognizes his adeptness to create a unique learning experience for his students by combining fieldwork and technology. Vanthournout has been described as a "lone voice" advocate for geographic education in New Brunswick. "His advocacy for increased geographic learning in the province is legendary," she added. [Chatham DailyNews](#)

**Celebrating the 'treasures' in McMaster's maps collection:** Shortly after arriving at McMaster in 1948, geography professor, Lloyd George Reeds, who would one day be regarded as one of the 'founding fathers' of Canadian geography, began looking for space to house his growing collection of maps. At that time, he settled for an old temporary building on campus, described by one observer as a 'war-time hut,' but he dreamed of one day creating a physical space that would contain and preserve his maps for the purposes of teaching and research. Members of the McMaster community gathered recently in Mills Library, which currently houses the collection, to mark the 50th anniversary of this important milestone and to celebrate the unique and extensive materials that now make up the collection. For 50 years, the Lloyd Reeds Maps Collection has been providing students and faculty with hand-on access to these rich research and teaching tools," says Dale Askey, Associate University Librarian. "As we look ahead, perhaps to the next 50 years, we look forward to acquiring more unique pieces, as well as finding new ways to connect scholars, both at McMaster and around the globe, with these treasures." The collection now consists of more than 130,000 sheet maps, 18,000 air photos, 3,000 atlases, and many more materials. [McMaster Daily News](#)

**Cross the Arctic in your sock feet during Geography Awareness Week at Memorial U:** A giant floor map of the Arctic that visitors can walk across is one of the activities during Geography Awareness Week at Memorial. The Arctic Alive floor map, measuring eight by 11 metres, will give participants a chance to “walk” across Canada’s Arctic and challenge their perceptions about the North in regards to what defines the region. All week long, Memorial’s Department of Geography will partner with local organizations to profile the diversity of research being undertaken by faculty members and graduate students in communities and regions throughout the Canadian Arctic, as well as to promote geographical knowledge of the Canadian Arctic to the public. During Arctic Alive floor map activities, students will learn what defines the Arctic, how Arctic society is different from southern societies, why the Arctic is more sensitive to climate change and more. The map extends from the northern regions of the Arctic archipelago, down to areas such as southern James Bay. About 20 terrestrial and aquatic ecozones are represented on the giant floor map, demarcated by specific colours. The goal is to show the North as a land of diversity and colour, rather than a land of bleak whites and greys dominated by snow and ice. The map was created by Canadian Geographic Education and the Canadian Museum of Nature and a copy was made for and transported to this province by Subsea 7, one of the world’s leading global contractors in seabed-to-surface engineering, constructions and services to the offshore industry. It is available for loan to schools around the province. [Today.MUN.CA](http://Today.MUN.CA)

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### **Recent Theses and Dissertations**

Christopher Bolduc. 2015. thermal evidence for surface and subsurface water contributions to baseflow in a High Arctic river. MSc thesis. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Dr. Scott Lamoureux.

Emma Buckley. 2015. Spatial and temporal patterns of net carbon exchange in the polar semi-desert vegetation community on Melville Island, Nunavut. MSc thesis. Department of Geography & Planning, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Dr. Paul Treitz and Dr. Neal Scott.

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**U Victoria’s** Phil Dearden gave the Keynote Address, “From Highlands to Island: Insights into Conservation and Culture from Thailand,” at Southeast Asia Symposium: Biological and Cultural Diversity in Malaysia and Thailand held at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington.

**Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division (CAGONT)** annual report is available for downloading at: [CAGONT Annual Report 2015](#)

**Carleton U’s Anna Crawford and Graham Clark**, PhD Candidates in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, recently returned from the eastern Canadian Arctic where they successfully installed two data collection systems on an ice island (large, tabular iceberg) off the coast of Baffin Island. This will be the highest temporal resolution ice island mass balance data-set yet recorded. The data will contribute to Anna’s graduate research into the deterioration of ice islands, which are hazards to offshore industry and have been observed frequently in the region since 2008. [Carleton Geography News](#)

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ammar Abulibdeh, Jean Andrey and Matthew Melnik. 2015. [Insights into the fairness of cordon pricing based on origin–destination data](#). Journal of Transport Geography 49:61–67.

Andrew F Clark, Emily A Bent and Jason Gilliland. 2015. [Shortening the trip to school: Examining how children’s active school travel is influenced by shortcuts](#). Environment and Planning B. Planning and Design. DOI:10.1177/0265813515614678

J.M.H. Cockburn, P.V. Villard and C. Hutton. 2015. [Assessing instream habitat suitability and hydraulic signatures of geomorphic units in a reconstructed single thread meandering channel](#). Ecohydrology. DOI:10.1002/eco.1705

Rosemary-Claire Collard, Jessica Dempsey and Juanita Sundberg. 2015. [The moderns' amnesia in two registers](#). Environmental Humanities 7:227-232.

Charis Enns and Brock Bersaglio. 2015. [Enclave oil development and the rearticulation of citizenship in Turkana, Kenya: Exploring ‘crude citizenship’](#). Geoforum 67:78–88.

Jim Glassman. 2015. Emerging Asias: [Transnational forces, developmental states, and “Asian Values”. The Professional Geographer](#). DOI:10.1080/00330124.2015.1099185

Arn Keeling and John Sandlos. 2015. [Introduction: Critical perspectives on extractive industries in Northern Canada](#). The Extractive Industries and Society. DOI:10.1016/j.exis.2015.10.005

Gavin K. Manson, Robin A. Davidson-Arnott and Donald L. Forbes. 2015. [Modelled nearshore sediment transport in open-water conditions, central north shore of Prince Edward Island, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, DOI:10.1139/cjes-2015-0090

Christina M. Neudorf, Olav B. Lian, Ian J. Walker, Dan H. Shugar, Jordan B.R. Eamer and Libby C.M. Griffin. 2015. [Toward a luminescence chronology for coastal dune and beach deposits on Calvert Island, British Columbia central coast, Canada](#). Quaternary Geochronology 30(Part B):275-281.

Jean-Sébastien Landry, H. Damon Matthews and Navin Ramankutty. 2015. [A global assessment of the carbon cycle and temperature responses to major changes in future fire regime](#). Climatic Change 133:179-192.

Caitlin Porter, Jeremy Lundholm, Tony Bowron, Ben Lemieux, Danika van Proosdij, Nancy Neatt and Jennie Graham. 2015. [Classification and environmental correlates of tidal wetland vegetation in Nova Scotia, Canada](#). Botany 93:825-841.

A.M. Rémillard, J.-P. Buylaert, A.S. Murray, G. St-Onge, P. Bernatchez and B. Hétu. 2015. [Quartz OSL dating of late Holocene beach ridges from the Magdalen Islands \(Quebec, Canada\)](#). Quaternary Geochronology 30(Part B):264-269.

E.-H. Yoo, D. Chen, Chunyuan Diao and Curtis Russell. 2015. [The effects of weather and environmental factors on West Nile virus mosquito abundance in Greater Toronto Area](#). Earth Interactions. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1175/EI-D-15-0003.1>

Xiaolu Zhou, Xiangdong Lei, Changhui Peng, Weifeng Wang, Carl Zhou, Caixia Liu and Zhenggang Liu. 2015. [Correcting the overestimate of forest biomass carbon on the national scale](#). *Methods in Ecology and Evolution*. DOI:10.1111/2041-210X.12505

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### Other “Geographical” News

**Polar bear numbers to fall as Arctic ice shrinks:** Polar bear populations are likely to fall by more than 30 per cent by around mid-century as global warming thaws Arctic sea ice, experts said on Thursday in the most detailed review of the predators to date. The report, by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), estimated there are between 22,000 and 31,000 polar bears in the Arctic and said they will be increasingly vulnerable as their habitat shrinks. "Climate change will continue to seriously threaten polar bear survival in the future," Inger Andersen, IUCN director general, said of the study, based on updated counts and new projections of sea ice since a previous review in 2008. It said there was a high probability that "the global polar bear population will decline by more than 30 per cent over the next 35 to 40 years," broadly reaffirming findings from 2008. [CBC News](#)

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### Some not so “Geographical” News



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