



GeogNews

**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 381, November 27, 2015**

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

Ryerson's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Celebrates Two Gold Medal Recipients:

The Ryerson Gold Medals are the University's highest honours, presented annually to one graduate of each Faculty. **Victoria Fast** (PhD in Environmental Applied Science and Management, supervised by Dr. Claus Rinner) received the Gold Medal for the interdisciplinary programs housed at the Yeates School of Graduate Studies, while **Daniel Liadsky** (MSA in Spatial Analysis, supervised by Dr. Brian Ceh) received the Gold Medal for the Faculty of Arts.

Victoria Fast's PhD research investigated the potential of novel geographic information techniques to reshape the interaction of government with community organizations and citizens through crowd sourcing and collaborative mapping. The study applied a VGI systems approach (Fast & Rinner 2014) to actively engage with urban food stakeholders, including regional and municipal government, NGOs, community groups, and individual citizens to reveal and map uniquely local and community-driven food system assets in Durham Region. The Durham Food Policy Council and Climate Change Adaptation Task Force are currently using the results to support informed food policy and program development. Victoria's research contributes to geothink.ca, a SSHRC Partnership Grant on the impact of the participatory Geoweb on government-citizen interactions. [See: Food Assets in Durham Region \(CartoDB project\)](#), and Fast and Rinner (2014). [A Systems Perspective on Volunteered Geographic Information](#); and

Daniel Liadsky's research in the Master of Spatial Analysis (MSA) examined how dietary intake is mediated by individual, social, and environmental factors. The Toronto-based study was stratified by gender and utilized self-reported data from the Canadian Community Health Survey as well as measures of the food environment derived from commercial retail databases. The results uncovered some of the complex interactions between the food environment, gender, ethnocultural background, and socioeconomic restrictions such as low income and limited mobility. In addition and as part of an unrelated investigation, Daniel undertook a feasibility study into a mapping and data analytics service for the non-profit sector. See: [Are Toronto's non-profits ready to embrace data analytics services?](#) | [Ryerson University News & Events](#)

Simon Fraser U's GEOG 451 students presented posters at ESRI Conference: Dr. Suzana Dragicevic and her undergraduate students enrolled in the GEOG 451 course on Spatial Modeling have completed the full day of activities at the 2015 Esri Canada User Conference held in Vancouver. Students presented posters about the research results from their GEOG 451 research projects on the development of geosimulation models funded by a [Simon Fraser University Teaching & Learning Centre Development Grant](#) intended to engage undergraduate students as researchers and scientists. [SFU Geography](#)

U Waterloo’s Daniel Scott on decarbonizing tourism: Global tourism is largely dependent on fossil fuel energy, and emits more CO₂ than all but five countries of the world. Recent estimates conclude that tourism, including transport, accommodation, and leisure activities contributed close to five per cent of total human-made emissions of CO₂ world-wide. “A dangerously warming world is not in the best interest of global tourism. Many of peoples’ favorite tourism destinations and activities are at risk to climate change, from the ski industry to tropical beaches, from iconic species to cultural heritage. So investing in low-carbon tourism is really in the interests of both the tourism industry and travellers alike,” said Professor Daniel Scott, from the University of Waterloo. “We have to ask ourselves, are we willing to pay less than the price of an extra checked bag to ensure future generations can marvel at the sights that inspire us today?” The [study](#), led by Professor Scott, found that the most cost effective strategy for the tourism industry to meet the United Nations’ recommended targets of reducing carbon emissions, includes a combination of strategic energy saving and renewable energy initiatives within the industry and buying carbon offsets from other parts of the global economy where emission reductions can be done at less cost. “Tourism is how billions of people explore new places and experience new cultures and the natural wonders of this world every year,” said Scott. “Tourism can be a force for immense good, but it needs to be done within the carbon limits being negotiated by world leaders at the UN climate summit in Paris or else it will be regulated to do so.” “It is not peak oil that is a risk to future tourism development, but peak carbon,” said Scott. “Our analysis shows that the tourism sector can be compatible with a decarbonized global economy, if governments and business leaders show collective leadership to make it happen.” [U Waterloo Environment](#)

U Victoria’s Rosie Child and Chris Dairmont show that large, dangerous prey evoke most satisfaction from trophy hunters: Trophy hunters are more likely to display a “true pleasure smile” when posing for photographs with large carnivores they have killed than hunters who pose with a dead animal they intend to eat, according to new research from the University of Victoria. In general, hunters’ smiles reveal a greater sense of satisfaction when posing with prey than without, large prey over small and carnivores such as wolves, grizzlies and cougars over herbivores such as deer or elk. Trophy hunting may tap into our evolutionary wiring from a time in human history when a man’s stature in the community was related to his prowess as a hunter, the researchers said. “In ancestral environments, killing large and dangerous animals would signal that you were a strong competitor,” said Rosie Child, lead author of the study. Behaviour that was adaptive — even millennia ago — apparently still evokes feelings of pleasure and satisfaction. “Displays of achievement — posing with large and dangerous prey — at least in part underlies the satisfaction of many hunters,” said co-author Chris Darimont, science director for Raincoast Conservation Foundation and UVic’s Hakai-Raincoast professor in the Department of Geography. However, boasts that were once shared around the ancestral campfire have moved onto social media, online hunting forums and websites where the researchers were able to find more than 2,500 pictures of hunters posing with prey for their study. So-called true pleasure smiles, in which the eye muscles are activated, are considered an honest indication of emotion and satisfaction, the researchers said. The purpose of the study was to better assess the motives of trophy hunters — something they are unable or unwilling to divulge in interview-based research — and add that information to the public debate, said Child. [The Vancouver Sun](#) | [Vancouver 24 hours](#)

School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan is now accepting applications for its new Master of Water Security program. The first of its kind in North America, this innovative, 12-month, project-based master’s degree prepares students to address sustainable water use in our communities. Students choose among three specialized tracks: hydrology, hydrogeology and socio-hydrology. This program pulls on the strengths of the U of S [Global Institute for Water Security](#) — an international destination point for those seeking integrated, comprehensive training in water research. [Application deadline: January 15.](#)



Simon Fraser U's Eugene McCann has been appointed University Professor for a 5-year. The purpose of the University Professorship is to recognize senior scholars of distinction who are active participants in all aspects of their discipline and who currently hold the rank of Professor. [SFU Geography](#)

Queen's U's John Holmes presented with the "Community Activist of the Year" Award by the Kingston and District Labour Council at the 9th Annual Oliver Doyle Activist Awards Banquet. [Queen's Geography](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Zoe Meletis interviewed on [CKPG News](#) about her involvement with founding *Inspiring Women Among Us* at [UNBC University of Northern British Columbia](#).

Queen's U graduate Anne Smith Mansfield was the recipient of the 2015 Award of Distinction from the Ontario Association for Geographical and Environmental Education (OAGEE). Anne has been a member of OAGEE for many years and currently represents Faculty of Education geography instructors on this voluntary organization. [Queen's Geography](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Gail Fondahl also presented a keynote lecture entitled, "The Russian North—A Nadir of Circumpolar Indigenous Self-determination? Twenty-first Century Developments" at a workshop on the Sovereignty and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as part of a conference on "Security and Governance in the Globalized Arctic: Nordic to International Perspectives" recently held in Aarhus, Denmark. [Matchpoints Seminar](#)

U Regina's Joe Piwowar reminded CAGList that a course in "Indigenous Knowledge" (defined as classes that develop familiarity with North American aboriginal cultures and societies) has been a requirement for the BA (including BA Geography) at the University of Regina for over three years.

U British Columbia's Simon Donner reports the Pacific 'Blob' has dissipated. Despite current cold snap, Godzilla El Niño still set to raise temperatures and melt North Shore snow. "I wouldn't say (the Blob is) gone, it's dissipated," said Simon Donner, a climate scientist in UBC's geography department, who in the summer was predicting the clash between the Blob and the intense El Niño and the ensuing warm and dry winter could be catastrophic for forests, reservoirs, fisheries, ski hills, tourism, agriculture and winemaking. "It's still mostly unusually warm out there," Donner said. [The Province](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Zainab Moghal. 2015. [A climate change vulnerability assessment of a tourism destination community \(A case-study of Oistins, Barbados\)](#). PhD Dissertation. Department of Geography and Environmental Management, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Daniel Scott

Christine Valancius. 2015. [Comparing the cooling ability of green spaces in suburban and urban areas using LST and NDVI](#). MSA major research paper. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario. Supervisor: Wayne Forsythe.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

N. Kettridge, A.S. Tilak, K.J. Devito, R.M. Petrone, C.A. Mendoza and J.M. Waddington. 2015. [Moss and peat hydraulic properties are optimized to maximise peatland water use efficiency](#). *Ecohydrology*. DOI:10.1002/eco.1708

C. M. Surdu, C.R. Duguay and D. Fernández Prieto. 2015. [Evidence of recent changes in the ice regime of lakes in the Canadian High Arctic from spaceborne satellite observations](#). *The Cryosphere Discussion* 9:6223–6274.

Amin Tayyebi, Amirhossein Tayyebi, Eric Vaz, Jamal Jokar Arsanjani and Marco Helbich. 2016. [Analyzing crop change scenario with the SmartScape™ spatial decision support system](#). *Land Use Policy* 51:41-53.

Meng Wang, Tuula Larmola, Meaghan T. Murphy, Tim R. Moore and Jill L. Bubier. 2015. [Stoichiometric response of shrubs and mosses to long-term nutrient \(N, P and K\) addition in an ombrotrophic peatland](#). *Plant and Soil*. DOI:10.1007/s11104-015-2744-6

Jin Xing and Renee E. Sieber. 2015. [A land use/land cover change geospatial cyberinfrastructure to integrate big data and temporal topology](#). *International Journal of Geographic Information Science*. DOI:10.1080/13658816.2015.1104534

Other “Geographical” News

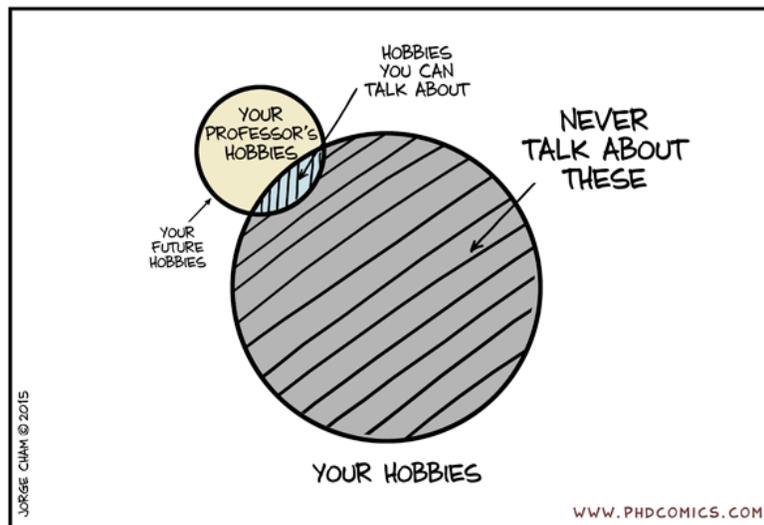
Map showcases ocean riches on B.C. North and Central Coast: [Marine plans](#) that are now in place for the North and Central Coast of B.C. A key part of the plans is identification of areas that should be conserved, known as Protection Management Zones (PMZs). Living Oceans has created an interactive online map that showcases their ecological treasure. Some zones are home to ancient glass sponge reefs while others contain rich eelgrass beds and kelp forests or noisy sea lion colonies. Zoom into the zones for details on the plants, animals and key habitats within each PMZ along with a description of the site and the recommended protection level. [Living Oceans](#) | [Ocean Planning for MaPP Region](#)

Northern lights moving south: The northern lights are shifting south from the Arctic. The reason: Earth’s magnetic field is becoming gradually weaker, and this affects how the solar wind — charged particles from the sun — bounces off it. In time, the aurora could reach as far as the southern United States. “The Earth’s magnetic field more or less keeps the solar wind at bay, and it’s the solar wind interacting with the field that contributes to the auroras,” said Dennis Kent Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory. “With a strong field, that interaction is pushed to high latitudes. With a weaker field more of the Earth is bathed in these charged particles. “So a consequence would be that the aurora would be visible at lower latitudes.” The same is expected with the southern lights. [Ottawa Citizen](#)

Segways could soon be legal on Nova Scotia roads: After passing a test run, Segways could soon be legal on roads and sidewalks in Nova Scotia, something a supporter of the standup motorized scooters hopes will lead to similar breakthroughs across the country. Nova Scotia’s transportation minister is among those who have taken the scooters for a spin, and he believes they can safely share the road. [Toronto Star](#)

Calgary researcher scours old ship logbooks for climate change clues: A researcher is taking a trip into the past in the hope that centuries of old sailing records will shed light on today's changing climate. The meticulous records kept by old whaling captains and resolute fur traders are a trove of three centuries worth of information on everything from weather and wind to sea ice and animals, said Maribeth Murray. "All of the ships that travelled had to keep logbooks and there were certain things that had to be recorded in log books, weather conditions being one of them," said Murray, director of the Arctic Institute of North America at the University of Calgary. Three centuries of whaling, sealing and fur traders has left a prodigious trail of records in at least five countries. [CBCNews|Calgary](http://www.cbc.ca/news/calgary)

Some not so “Geographical” News



The CAG works for geographers on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CanGeographers). Keep up-to-date by following [@CanGeographers](https://twitter.com/CanGeographers)
GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>
[@CanGeographers Weekly](https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315): <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
