



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**U Victoria's Reuben Rose-Redwood unearths city grid that would have been in Central Park:** On an overcast day two men dug a rather large hole in a lawn in Central Park and unearthed a roughly three-foot-tall, nine-inch-square white stone, two sides of which were inscribed with numbers. The stone marks an intersection that never came to be, one of many spliced out of the grand plan when city residents demanded an antidote to the grid. At some fifteen hundred and fifty intersections "monumental stones" like this one were set out; at nearly a hundred others where bedrock or boulders were intersected iron bolts were placed by 1817. One well-known bolt endures, embedded in a low rise of gray schist in the park's southern section. It was discovered and confirmed to be in the right location, in 2004, by Reuben Rose-Redwood, a geographer at the University of Victoria, and Lemuel Morrison, then of Mercator Land Surveying, who hunted for Randel bolts throughout Central Park when Rose-Redwood was conducting research on the 1811 plan for his master's thesis. "We never looked for monuments," Morrison said. "We just presumed they were all gone." As have most people who search for, or are intrigued by, survey markers and a landscape view of New York City history. [The New Yorker](#)

**U Regina's Dave Sauchyn use tree rings to explain past, predict future:** It's hard to predict the weather, but University of Regina researchers are using trees to trace weather patterns from the past and give insight into what Saskatchewan's climate might look like in the future. Dave Sauchyn, senior research scientist at the Prairie Adaptation Research Collaborative, said prairies trees have plenty of lights, carbon dioxide, good soil, and nutrients. What varies year-to-year is water. "The amount of tree growth each year depends on how much water was in the soil," he said. "There are trees that are hundreds, even thousands of years old," Sauchyn said. "So by measuring the growth every year, we can figure out how much water has been in the soil, the lakes, and the rivers over the past 1,000 years." To get information on Saskatchewan, researchers look to the Rocky Mountains in Alberta because they are older, but also because that's where most of the people in Saskatchewan get their water. "It's revealed that there are fairly consistent climate cycles. There is a cycle on the order of years and we know that's the result of El Niño and La Niña," he said. Sauchyn said the cycle that scientists are only starting to understand is in terms of decades. Typically there are a couple decades of drier weather and a couple of wetter weather, which researchers, using some tree ring data, have recently linked to the circulation of the Pacific Ocean. [CBCNews | Saskatchewan](#) | [The Western Producer](#)

**U Victoria's Trisalyn Nelson's Biketoria course gives students a chance to work on real-life project:** A City of Victoria cycling program has wheeled its way into the halls of academia as the subject of a new course offered by the University of Victoria. The course is officially known as Geography 491: Advanced Topics in Geography, and will provide an opportunity for students to look into the city's [Biketoria initiative](#). Biketoria was launched by the city in 2015 as a vision for creating an expanded cycling network that can accommodate people with a range of ages and abilities. The UVic course has been put together by Trisalyn Nelson and will take place downtown in the Capital Regional District boardroom. The setting is part of the experience, she said. "We wanted to give the students a sense that something different was happening to really get them thinking outside the box and feeling like a part of the community," said Nelson, whose work has included the creation of bikemaps.org, a website that maps cycling-safety incidents. Nelson said the Biketoria course evolved out of strong connections with the city. "It's really a great collaboration between the city and the community and UVic," she said. The course will include a series of student projects that delve into various aspects of the cycling system, Nelson said. "Many of the projects will hopefully be supporting the information needs of the city as they roll out the Biketoria project, so we'll be looking at a number of different kinds of evaluation projects we could do," she said. "We want to understand what happens to a city before and after you make these big infrastructure investments." Students could also talk to community groups or examine how replacing parking spots with bike lanes affect businesses, Nelson said. "So how many of their customers are driving, walking, riding and how does this change over time?" The city will be part of the teaching process, she said. "A lot of the city staff are going to come in and speak about historically what's been happening with cycling in Victoria, what is the Biketoria project what you need to consider when you actually put in bike lanes." [Times Colonist](#) | [UVicNews](#)

**U Lethbridge's Stefan Kienzle has an Alberta climate website that lets you compare temperature and other weather changes since 1950:** If you ask 10 Albertans how the weather has changed over the years, chances are you'll get 10 different answers — and a whole bunch of anecdotes. But now, a University of Lethbridge hydrologist wants us to put aside our perceptions and look at the actual data. "It's really important for all of us to understand the difference between weather and climate," said Stefan Kienzle, professor of geography at the U of Lethbridge. "Climate is the average weather of many years, typically 30 years. So climate is really just a statistic." By analyzing daily temperatures, Kienzle has created a simple, [interactive online map](#) that tracks temperature changes in Alberta between 1950 and 2010. Kienzle was able to break down temperature trends in 10-by-10 kilometre squares across the province. Users can zoom into the online map to see how the growing season, heat waves, days over 25 C, frost days, full days below 0°C, and days below -25 C have changed over time. And according to Kienzle, the records tell us the province is getting warmer. "The average annual temperature has increased in Alberta by between two and three degrees. Particularly in winter. The winters have warmed much, much faster than the summers have warmed." He says the weather records also reveal that overall, the number of heat waves in the province has doubled since 1950 — and he doesn't expect things to cool down anytime soon. "The trends we have detected will clearly continue into the future and potentially even accelerate further." [CBCNews](#) | [Calgary](#) | [Lethbridge Herald](#)

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Philip Camp. 2015. Human-fire interactions in British Columbia: varying constraints on Human-caused wildfire occurrence and geography of the wildland-development interface. MSc thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Meg Krawchuk

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Malcolm Araos, Stephanie E. Austin, Lea Berrang-Ford and James D. Ford. 2015. [Public health adaptation to climate change in large cities. A global baseline](#). International Journal of Health Services. DOI:10.1177/0020731415621458
- Lynn Barwin, Marjory Shawande, Eric Crighton and Luisa Veronis. 2015. [Methods-in-Place. "Art Voice" as a locally and culturally relevant method to study traditional medicine programs in Manitoulin Island, Ontario, Canada](#). Internat. J. Qualitative Methods. DOI:10.1177/1609406915611527
- Olivier Blarquez and Julie C Aleman. 2015. [Tree biomass reconstruction shows no lag in post-glacial afforestation of eastern Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Forest Research. DOI:10.1139/cjfr-2015-0201
- J.M.A. Coleman, F.S. Sosa-Rodriguez, L.D. Mortsch and P.J. Deadman. 2016. [Assessing stakeholder impacts and adaptation to low water-levels: the Trent-Severn waterway](#). Climatic Change 134:115-129.
- Matthew Evenden. 2015. [Space, time, and environment: The historical geography of Graeme Wynn](#). Historical Geography 43:175-176.
- K. Wayne Forsythe, Kimberly N. Irvine, David M. Atkinson, Mary Perrelli, Joseph M. Aversa, Stephen J. Swales, Adrian Gawedzki and Daniel J. Jakubek. 2015. [Assessing lead contamination in Buffalo River sediments](#). Journal of Environmental Informatics 26:106-111.
- Jason A. Gilliland, Andrew F. Clark, Patricia Tucker, Harry Prapavessis, William Avison and Piotr Wilk. 2015. [The ACT-i-Pass study protocol: How does free access to recreation opportunities impact children's physical activity levels?](#) BMC Public Health 201515:1286. DOI:10.1186/s12889-015-2637-x
- Daniel Germain. 2016. [Snow avalanche hazard assessment and risk management in northern Quebec, eastern Canada](#). Natural Hazards 80:1303-1321.
- Calvin Lakhan. 2015. [Modeling the economic impacts of increasing diversion in Ontario's Industrial, Commercial and Institutional \(IC&I\) sector](#). Advances in Recycling & Waste Management. 1. DOI:10.4172/arwm.1000101
- Gavin K. Manson, Robin G.D. Davidson-Arnott and Donald L. Forbes. 2016. [Modelled nearshore sediment transport in open-water conditions, central north shore of Prince Edward Island, Canada](#). Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences 53:101-118.
- Larry McCann. 2015. [Coming ashore: Graeme Wynn and the Canadian landscape](#). Historical Geography 43:188-192.
- Heather McLean, Katherine Rankin and Kuni Kamizaki. [Inner-suburban neighbourhoods, activist research, and the social space of the commercial street](#). ACME: An International E-Journal for Critical Geographies 14.
- S. Yvonne Prusak, Ryan Walker and Robert Innes. 2015. [Toward Indigenous planning? First Nation community planning in Saskatchewan, Canada](#). Journal of Planning Education and Research DOI: 10.1177/0739456X15621147
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## Other “Geographical” News

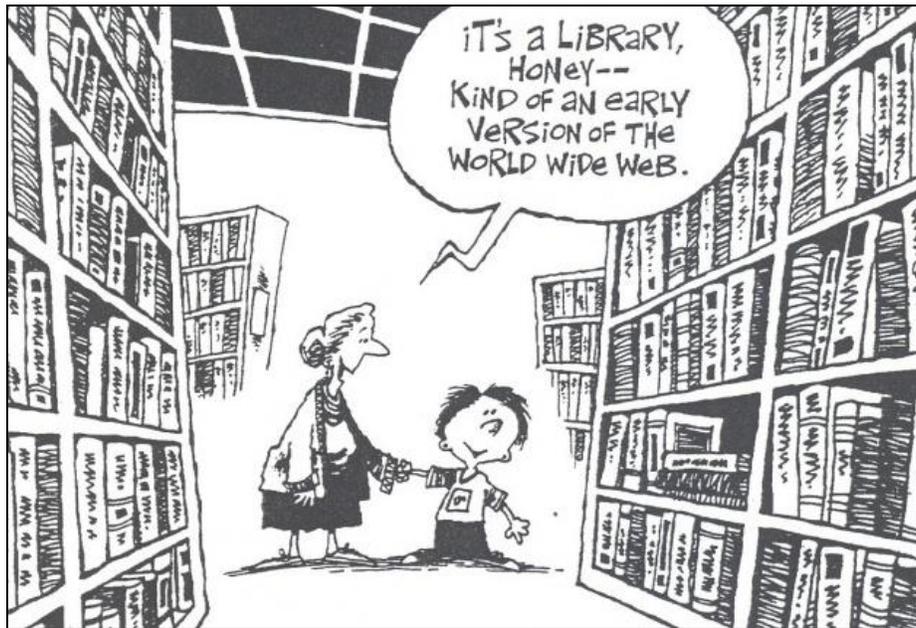
**Discarded goldfish are taking over Hamilton's harbour:** Have you ever dumped your goldfish in Hamilton Harbour? Here's the bad news: it's been breeding. Researchers at the Royal Botanical Gardens have counted as many as two million large and small goldfish this year, fish that are likely descendants of people dropping unwanted pets in the water. Now there are so many that they're throwing another wrench into attempts to rehabilitate the bay. This year, the RBG team has counted as many as 2,500 large goldfish and two million young, said Tys Theysmeyer, head of natural lands with the Royal Botanical Gardens. They seem to be thriving thanks to climate change, and poor water conditions that have discouraged native species from flourishing. [CBC | Hamilton](#)

**Are blue skies back for Canada's scientists?** Many scientists in Canada are immensely relieved that the Harper era is over. A common bone of contention was the Harper government's moves to put a greater emphasis on commercialisation of research. According to Jim Woodgett that aspiration was “clearly being enacted in terms of the types of funding programmes they wanted, the creation of a number of commercialisation centres and [the placing of] a lot more emphasis on research that would lead to product development. It was all really at the expense of a lot of basic science.” On 4 November, his first day as prime minister, Justin Trudeau restored the minister of science to a Cabinet-level position and gave the job to Kirsty Duncan, adjunct professor of medical geography at the University of Toronto. Her “overarching goal”, she says, “will be to support scientific research and the integration of scientific considerations in our investment and policy choices”. [Time Higher Education](#)

**Asian carp could become most common fish in Lake Erie:** A new study warns Asian carp could become the most common fish in Lake Erie if the ravenous invaders develop a breeding population there. The study, based on computer models, projects that Asian carp species could eventually make up about one-third of the total fish weight in Lake Erie, which has the most fish of the five Great Lakes. It was conducted by scientists with several universities and government agencies in the U.S. and Canada. The study says a successful Asian carp takeover could reduce numbers of popular sport species like walleye and rainbow trout, along with prey species including gizzard shad and emerald shiners. The research team plans similar modeling of potential Asian carp effects on Lakes Michigan, Huron and Ontario. Bighead and silver carp were imported to the southern U.S. from Asia decades ago and have migrated northward. They eat tiny plants and animals that other fish need. [CBCNews | Windsor](#)

**'Huge' Atlantic lobster washed up in Vancouver likely set free by animal lovers:** It's certainly not a typical sight on Vancouver beaches, or anywhere on the West Coast, in fact: The carcass of a large lobster, native to the Atlantic Ocean, with claws almost as big as a man's size 11 shoe. We showed the picture to Chris Harley, a marine ecologist at the University of B.C., who said Atlantic lobsters turn up in the Pacific from time to time. There have been decades of attempts to introduce Atlantic lobster to the Pacific, including federal government programs tossing thousands into the ocean as far back as the 1950s, but none has seemed to take, said Harley. One, for instance, was caught off Bowen Island that became a minor media sensation in 2014. Then, as now, Harley said, the lobster likely crossed the country destined for a dinner plate. "It was almost certainly brought over live through the live seafood trade for restaurants or the seafood markets," said Harley. "People will buy live seafood, including lobsters, and then through what they think is an act of kindness, release it into the wild here in Vancouver." Harley was struck by how big this particular one is, larger than what's normally seen in a live fish tank at the store. "Those claws are pretty huge," he said. "That suggests that if someone bought it in a store and released it ... then it may have been cruising around for quite a while to grow that big." [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

## Some not so “Geographical” News



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