



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Victoria's Michele-Lee Moore helps Highlands protect water supply: A group of Highlands residents are concerned about the future of their main water source. It's a concern that has caught the attention of the District's council. "There's basically one aquifer under all of the Highlands," said Val Fletcher, a member of the sustainable land-use select committee. "It's really important that we protect that." That's where the University of Victoria students come in, as the District has enlisted the help of department of geography assistant professor Michele-Lee Moore. Three groups of her third-year water resources management students are in a case study competition that will see them work with Golder's recommendations, to determine the best way to implement a public education and communication strategy. Fletcher is excited to see what the students will come up with and said Moore is "very enthusiastic about our project." Moore, who holds a case study competition every year and is always looking at engaging communities, thought it would be a good fit for her students, as they can learn about a real project. "It's a chance for them to start applying what they've learned," she said, adding it is not an easy project to undertake in the time frame of a semester. "A big part is just developing familiarity with a big time issue. It gives them a taste of how complex these issues are." [Goldstream News Gazette](#)

Western U's Elizabeth Hundey and Katrina Moser release 'frightening' findings that foretell ills for ecosystems: When it comes to determining the causes negatively affecting the biodiversity of our ecosystems, a new interdisciplinary study at Western is putting numbers behind the devastation. And it's not good. The study's lead author, recent PhD graduate Beth Hundey (Geography), showed, for the first time, that 70% of nitrates in high mountain lakes in Utah are from human-caused sources – with fertilizers having, by far, the most impact at 60%, along with another 10% caused by fossil fuels. The research suggests these findings could apply to other mountain ranges in western North America. "It's frightening that these remote areas are seeing such a large human impact," Hundey said. "We were surprised there has been such a large contribution from agriculture to these remote mountain sites. Hundey discovered nitrates can travel 100s of kms. The area she studied is approximately 150 kilometres from any urban area. "Systems like this are a warning, not only for protecting those resources and the biodiversity of that area, but also in populated regions," "If it's reaching an area as remote as this, then it should be no surprise that it's a problem. The systems that have evolved over such a long time have evolved with low levels of nitrates, or what has been made available. So, to suddenly put in all sorts of nitrates can causes huge ramifications." Hundey's research, co-authored by Geography professor Katrina Moser, was published this week in the journal Nature Communications. [Western News](#)

U Alberta's Jeffrey Kavanaugh has student monitor meteorological patterns on top of Tory Building:

A group of 24 University of Alberta undergraduate students are taking to the roof of the Tory Building during this unseasonably warm month of February. They are up there building research-grade weather stations to monitor a range of standard meteorological parameters, all part of their Environmental Instrumentation class, a core course for the Environmental Earth Sciences degree. "For a lot of students, this is their only practical experience building a weather station that measures meteorological variables before they go on to a career in environmental sciences," says Jeffrey Kavanaugh, professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. "It has been a good building block and take-off point for the students." The environmental instrumentation course mimics remote field installations. "I find that hands-on experience really drives home the theoretical information presented in the more typical lecture setting," says Kavanaugh. "There are definitely more 'a-ha' moments in labs or in the field. I think lab exercises represent that critical step where theory is made real. Students who get that hands-on experience are always a step ahead of their peers." In fact, the course has directly contributed to several students' placement in summer research programs and technical positions with industry. Kavanaugh has been running the environmental instrumentation course since his arrival at the U of A in 2005. [U Alberta Science](#)

Queen's U's John Andrew suggests developers poised to build low-rise sub-divisions in Toronto:

House hunters looking for single-family dwellings may find that the lack of supply eases in the coming years as developers switch towards building more low-rise sub-divisions again. John Andrew, a professor at Queen's University, says increased sales of developable land, along with rising applications for building permits and zoning bylaw variances, all point to more low-rise building. "Those are all signs that development is going to kick into higher gear." Prof. Andrew, who is also director of the Queen's real estate roundtable and executive seminars, notes that the shortage of single family housing has pushed up the premium that houses command over condo units to its highest level. Meanwhile construction starts in the multi-residential segment are finally beginning to slow down, he adds. For the past several years, the high cost of land has made it more profitable for developers to build condo towers. "It's just been difficult for them to get their hands on developable land." The greenbelt that constrains building around the GTA has been another factor, along with the costs that municipalities have been passing along. But Prof. Andrew says changing economics make it more appealing to developers to build houses now. Buyers are willing to pay higher prices and drive or take the GO Train farther to reach them. [The Globe and Mail](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont and B.C.'s Great Bear Rainforest agreement: Good news deserves to be announced more than once, but the parties associated with the Great Bear Rainforest agreement unveiled last week must have set some sort of record. The deal that saved the Great Bear Rainforest has been announced about 15 times over the years. But the great irony is that while it was repeated ad nauseam that the Great Bear Rainforest had been saved, it hadn't been – and it still isn't. Under the final deal, bear hunting is still allowed, which begs the question: Can you really say the Great Bear Rainforest is saved, if the great bears aren't? Logging continued during negotiations, and the deal allows for an annual cut of 2.5 million cubic metres. Still while the deal has some shortcomings says Chris Darimont, Hakai-Raincoast professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Victoria and science director at Raincoast Conservation, it should be praised for giving increased control over coastal ecosystems to First Nations. [The Globe and Mail](#)

U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki on TVO's *The Agenda* with Steve Paikin. The mayor, the city planner, and all three levels of government in stealth reinvented the transit vision for a key part of Ontario's capital city. The Agenda talks to three top planning professionals about their impressions of both the plan and the behind-the-scenes machinations. [Watch@TVO](#)



McGill U's [Nancy Ross](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Geo-Social Determinants of Health".

Nipissing U's [April James](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Watershed Analysis and Modeling".

Nipissing U's [Kirsten Greer](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Global Environmental Histories and Geographies".

Queen's U's [Heather Castleden](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Reconciling Relations for Health, Environments and Communities."

U Alberta's [Duane Froese](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Northern Environmental Change".

U Waterloo's [Sarah Burch](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Sustainability Governance and Innovation".

York U's [Deborah McGregor](#) awarded Canada Research Chair in "Socially Engaged Research in Race and Racialization".

Conference News

International conference Géohistory of the environment and landscapes Conférence internationale Géohistoire de l'environnement et des paysages

The Organizers of the International conference Géohistory of the environment and landscapes, 12-14 October 2016, University of Toulouse, France, invite papers and poster presentations in English, French or Spanish on themes examining the Geohistory of the environment and landscapes. For further information on the conference see the attached call for papers or go to the conference website: <http://blogs.univ-tlse2.fr/colloque-geohistoire/en/> The deadline for paper proposals is 31 March 2016. Proposals and inquiries in English or French should be sent to the conference conveners at: (philippe.valette@univ-tlse2.fr) as well as jeanmichel.carozza@univ-lr.fr, melodie.david@etu.univ-tlse2.fr, colloque_geohistoire@univ-tlse2.fr

Les organisateurs de la Conférence internationale Géohistoire de l'environnement et des paysages, 12-14 octobre 2016 à l'Université de Toulouse, France, invitent des communications et affiches en français, anglais ou en espagnol sur des thèmes examinant la Géohistoire de l'environnement et des paysages. Pour des informations supplémentaires sur la conférence, voir l'appel de communication ci-joint pour les papiers et affiches ou voir le site Internet de la conférence: <http://blogs.univ-tlse2.fr/colloque-geohistoire/> Date limite de dépôt des propositions : 31 mars 2016. Les propositions de communications (en français et en anglais) doivent être adressées par voie électronique à l'adresse du coordinateur du colloque (philippe.valette@univ-tlse2.fr) ainsi qu'aux membres du comité d'organisation (jmcarozza@yahoo.fr, melodie.david@etu.univ-tlse2.fr, colloque_geohistoire@univ-tlse2.fr).

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Beyhan Y. Amichev, Murray J. Bentham, Werner A. Kurz, Colin P. Laroque, Suren Kulshreshtha, Joseph M. Piwowar and Ken C.J. Van Rees. 2016. [Carbon sequestration by white spruce shelterbelts in Saskatchewan, Canada: 3PG and CBM-CFS3 model simulations](#). Ecological Modelling 325:35–46.

Peter U. Clark, Jeremy D. Shakun, Shaun A. Marcott, Alan C. Mix, Michael Eby, Scott Kulp, Anders Levermann, Glenn A. Milne, Patrik L. Pfister, Benjamin D. Santer, Daniel P. Schrag, Susan Solomon, Thomas F. Stocker, Benjamin H. Strauss, Andrew J. Weaver, Ricarda Winkelmann, David Archer, Edouard Bard, Aaron Goldner, Kurt Lambeck, Raymond T. Pierrehumbert and Gian-Kasper Plattner. 2016. [Consequences of twenty-first-century policy for multi-millennial climate and sea-level change](#). Nature Climate Change. DOI:10.1038/nclimate2923

Matthew J. Cohena, Irena F. Creed, Laurie Alexander, Nandita B. Basu, Aram J. K. Calhoun, Christopher Craft, Ellen D'Amico, Edward DeKeyser, Laurie Fowler, Heather E. Golden, James W. Jawitz, Peter Kalla, L. Katherine Kirkman, Charles R. Lane, Megan Lang, Scott G. Leibowitz, David Bruce Lewis, John Marton, Daniel L. McLaughlin, David M. Mushet, Hadas Raanan-Kiperwas, Mark C. Rains, Lora Smith and Susan C. Walls. 2016. [Do geographically isolated wetlands influence landscape functions?](#) PNAS. DOIS:10.1073/pnas.1512650113

Jackie Dawson, Emma J. Stewart, Margaret E. Johnston and Christopher J. Lemieux. 2016. [Identifying and evaluating adaptation strategies for cruise tourism in Arctic Canada](#). Journal of Sustainable Tourism. DOI:10.1080/09669582.2015.1125358

Nick Eyles and Mike Doughty. 2016. [Glacially-streamlined hard and soft beds of the paleo- Ontario ice stream in Southern Ontario and New York state](#). Sedimentary Geology. DOI:10.1016/j.sedgeo.2016.01.019

Yuxia Liu, Chaoyang Wu, Dailiang Peng, Shiguang Xu, Alemu Gonsamo, Rachhpal S. Jassal, M. Altaf Arain, Linlin Lu, Bin Fang and Jing M. Chen. 2016. [Improved modeling of land surface phenology using MODIS land surface reflectance and temperature at evergreen needleleaf forests of central North America](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 176:152–162.

Thomas K. Rudel, Oh-Jung Kwon, Birthe K. Paul, Maryline Boval, Idupulapati M. Rao 3, Diana Burbano, Megan McGroddy, Amy M. Lerner, Douglas White, Mario Cuchillo, Manuel Luna and Michael Peters. 2016. [Do smallholder, mixed crop-livestock livelihoods encourage sustainable agricultural practices? A meta-analysis](#). Land 5. DOI:10.3390/land5010006

Anne L. Soerensen, Daniel J. Jacob, Amina Schartup, Jenny A. Fisher, Igor Lehnerr, Vincent L. St. Louis, Lars-Eric Heimbürger, Jeroen E. Sonke, David P. Krabbenhoft and Elsie M. Sunderland. 2016. [A mass budget for mercury and methylmercury in the Arctic Ocean](#). Geochemical Biogeochemical Cycles. DOI:10.1002/2015GB005280View

Mark Thomas and Steven Tufts. 2016. [‘Enabling dissent’: Contesting austerity and right populism in Toronto, Canada](#). The Economic and Labour Relations Review. DOI:10.1177/1035304616628409

Sarah Jane Wilson and Jeanine M. Rhemtulla. 2015. [Acceleration and novelty: community restoration speeds recovery and transforms species composition in Andean cloud forest](#). Ecological Applications. DOI:10.1890/14-2129

Other “Geographical” News

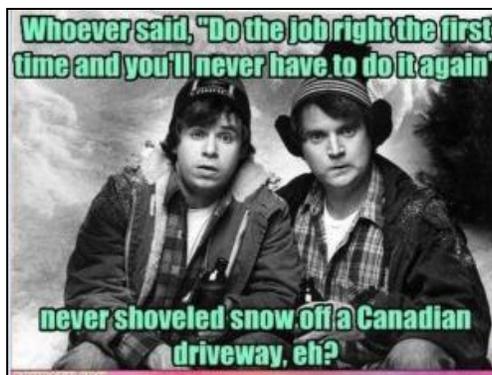
This great map lets you explore the history of migration for every single country: The [International Organisation for Migration](#) has a visualisation which allows users to see at a glance the multinational make-up of countries' populations. Using data taken from the World Bank in 2010, it built a tool which helps users comprehend the numbers for inward and outward migration in each individual country. [I100](#)

Study finds bias in how male students view female STEM students: Male students appear to consistently and significantly overrate the abilities of other male students, whereas female students showed no such bias, according to a new study. The authors of the paper suggest that this bias in the male students' estimation of one another could translate to a lack of affirmation and support for female students in the science, technology, engineering and mathematical fields, which in turn may contribute to the high rate of female attrition in those fields. [Inside Higher Ed](#)

Maps of forests, fields and soils to aid climate change forecasts: Detailed maps of the world's natural landscapes could help scientists to better predict the impacts of future climate change. The complex charts of forests, grasslands and other productive ecosystems provide the most complete picture yet of how carbon from the atmosphere is reused and recycled by Earth's natural habitats. [ScienceDaily](#)

Catastrophic failure of South American Ice Age dam changed Pacific Ocean circulation and climate: The catastrophic release of fresh water from a vast South American lake at the end of the last Ice Age was significant enough to change circulation in the Pacific Ocean according to new research. The study reveals that the lake drained several times between 13,000 to 8,000 years ago. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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