



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 395, March 14, 2016**

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U Victoria's Reuben Rose-Redwood co-authors study on street numbering in the US: New York wasn't the first major U.S. city to configure its streets with numbers. Philadelphia's 1682 plan used numbered streets, as did the 1791 plan for Washington, D.C. Together these three places set a precedent for spatial logic and efficiency that many American cities came to follow—roughly half of them, according to the “first comprehensive, nationwide account” of street numbering. “There are a number of potential reasons why so many cities and towns in the United States adopted the spatial practice of street numbering,” geography scholar Reuben Rose-Redwood of the University of Victoria tells CityLab via email. “The most obvious explanation is that it was an effort to satisfy the utilitarian desire for spatial legibility by making it harder to get lost, even in a city where one had never been before.” For their analysis reported in [The Professional Geographer](#), Rose-Redwood and independent scholar Lisa Kadonaga have been collecting data since 2007 on the street systems of all 22,930 incorporated places in the U.S. They assessed these cities on six metrics, including the existence of street numbering, its extent across the city, and any resemblance to the plans of Philadelphia (one numbered direction), New York (two numbered directions), or D.C. (directional quadrants). Only local streets counted—not numbered highways. [The Atlantic CityLab](#)

U Waterloo's Sarah Burch awarded national funding for sustainability policy lab: Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan announced more than \$23 million in funding for 95 projects at 26 universities across Canada. Included in this, is funding for researcher Sarah Burch to build a Sustainability Policy Research on Urban Transformations (SPROUT) Lab at the University of Waterloo. “The reality of urban environmental and social sustainability problems clashes with the traditional role that researchers play in building knowledge,” says Burch, who also teaches in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management. “It reveals a puzzle that remains to be solved: after more than two decades of attempting to address issues like climate change, successes have been largely incremental and piecemeal. It is clear that new mechanisms and tools are required to foster knowledge sharing, meaningful engagement of stakeholders to explore development pathways, and collaboration amongst a global network of sustainability innovators.” The Sustainability Policy Research on Urban Transformations (SPROUT) Lab will demonstrate how environmentally sustainable building materials and communications technology can come together with multi-disciplinary research methods to foster innovative, action-oriented, scholarly work that deeply engages multiple stakeholders. The physical design and technology embedded in SPROUT will directly enable Dr. Burch's team to uncover innovative partnerships between local, provincial/state and national governments that respond to climate change, the role that small businesses can play in sustainability transitions, and the ingredients of transformative change. [UWaterloo Environment](#)

WDCAG 2016 Conference at the University of Northern British Columbia



The geographers at the University of Northern British Columbia organized a fantastic annual meeting for the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers. Be sure to watch the online slide show to get a sense of the scholarly excitement that benchmarked the conference. Watch [WDCAG2016_Final](#)

U Victoria's Cam Owens was awarded the [J. Alistair McVey Award for Teaching Excellence](#) at the Annual Meeting.

Vancouver Island U's Jim Windsor was awarded the [J. Lewis Robinson Award for Meritorious Service](#) at the Annual Meeting.



Simon Fraser U PhD graduate Sai Latt appointed to **Technical Committee, Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace & Dialogue**. Sai Latt, who was a Vanier Fellow and recently defended his PhD in geography, has been Research Director since 2013 at the Pyidaungsu Institute for Peace & Dialogue, an NGO devoted to supporting the process of ceasefire agreements between the many ethnic armies in Burma and the Burmese government. [SFU Geography](#)

U British Columbia's Brett Eaton has been awarded a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund to support a Mobile Channel Dynamics Monitoring Laboratory. [UBC News](#)

Simon Fraser U's Roger Hayter invited to the University of Santiago, Chile, to participate in their graduate program on resource conflict and governance that is organized out of the University of Heidelberg. [SFU Geography](#)

York U's Raju Das has received a Distinguished Scholar Award from the American Association of Geographers in recognition of his contributions to the field of development, planning and policy issues. [York Geography](#)

Carleton U Graduate Student Anna Crawford has written a blog titled "[On Thick Ice](#)" that details with real world imagery and descriptive prose her experiences as a graduate student. Anna completed her Masters of Science under the supervision of Professor Derek Mueller and has continued on in pursuit of her PhD. [Carleton Geography](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jamal Jokar Arsanjani, Amin Tayyebi and Eric Vaz. 2016. [GlobeLand30 as an alternative fine-scale global land cover map: Challenges, possibilities, and implications for developing countries](#). Habitat International. DOI: 10.1016/j.habitatint.2016.02.003

K. Wayne Forsythe, Chris H. Marvin, Christine J. Valancius, James P. Watt, Joseph M. Aversa, Stephen J. Swales, Daniel J. Jakubek and Richard.R. Shaker. 2016. [Geovisualization of mercury contamination in Lake St. Clair sediments](#). Journal of Marine Science and Engineering 4. DOI:10.3390/jmse4010019

Fangfang Huang, Chenglu Wen, Huan Luo, Ming Cheng, Cheng Wang and Jonathan Li. 2016. [Local quality assessment of point clouds for indoor mobile mapping](#). Neurocomputing. DOI:10.1016/j.neucom.2016.02.033

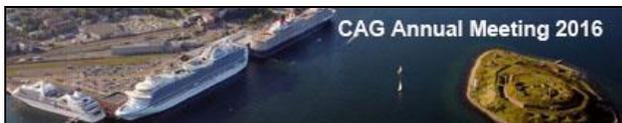
John M. Jaeger and Michele N. Koppes. 2016. [The role of the cryosphere in source-to-sink systems](#). Earth-Science Reviews 153:43-76.

W.C. Mahaney, C.C.R. Allen, P. Pentlavalli, A. Kulakova, J.M. Young, R.W. Dirszowsky, A. West, B. Kelleher, S. Jordan, C. Pulleyblank, S. O'Reilly, B.T. Murphy, K. Lasberg, P. Somelar, M. Garneau, S.A. Finkelstein, M.K. Sobol, V. Kalm, P.J.M. Costa, R.G.V. Hancock, K.M. Hart, P. Tricart, R.W. Barendregt, T.E. Bunch and M.W. Milner. 2016. [Biostratigraphic Evidence relating to the age-old question of Hannibal's invasion of Italy, I: History and geological reconstruction](#). Archaeometry. DOI:10.1111/arc.12231

Graham McDowell, James Ford and Julie Jones. 2016. [Community-level climate change vulnerability research: trends, progress, and future directions](#). Environmental Research Letters. 11:033001.

Shanley D. Thompson, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Ian Giesbrecht, Gordon Frazer and Sari C. Saunders. 2016. [Data-driven regionalization of forested and non-forested ecosystems in coastal British Columbia with LiDAR and RapidEye imagery](#). Applied Geography 69:35–50.

Miriam Stewart, Joshua Evans, Nicole Letourneau, Jeffrey Masuda, Amanda Almond and Jocelyn Edey. 2016. [Low-income children, adolescents, and caregivers facing respiratory problems: support needs and preferences](#). Journal of Pediatric Nursing. DOI: 10.1016/j.pedn.2015.11.013



[CAG/ACG 2016](#) will take place at Dalhousie University (May 30 - June 1) and Saint Mary's University (June 2 - 3) in downtown Halifax. The opening reception will take place at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 (May 30). The conference banquet will take place at Murphy's on the Water June 2). Registration is [open](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Know your geography: quantitative skills aren’t just about maths: By providing a subject-specific context, geography enables the application of numerical and statistical methods to real-world contexts and issues. Such an approach – whether examining flood return periods, determining net migration flows or comparing life expectancy and incomes – helps students become both more precise in their geographical studies and also to understand more fully why data and data skills matter. [Times Higher Education](#)

50 insane facts about Canada we bet you didn’t know: Here are 50 amazing insane wonderful and otherwise incontrovertible facts about Canada we bet you didn’t know. Like how many cars hit a moose each year. [Canada.com](#)

Chart shows 5 worst countries in world for house prices versus income: "According to the latest data from the OECD, which measures house prices against incomes for 24 of its 34 members, Belgium, New Zealand and Canada are currently the world’s least affordable markets, whilst home ownership is most accessible in South Korea and Japan." [Yahoo Finance](#)

In Napa Valley, future landscapes are viewed in the past: More than 20 years ago, the San Francisco Estuary Institute, a non-profit scientific advisory group, began an ambitious effort to guide the restoration of this landscape. In a painstakingly complex process the myriad data gleaned from thousands of historical sources are winnowed and fed into a geographical database, small bits that, like pixels, come together to create images of a forgotten landscape. [The New York Times](#)

Some not so “Geographical” News



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