



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Toronto's Steven Farber on how transit can fix access to jobs in Toronto: Toronto is a sprawling city – one that keeps growing in all directions to accommodate the growing number of people who come to live here. But its vastness has made it hard to connect every part of the city with public transportation. That, in turn, has created inequalities in opportunity, especially between high and low income households. Steven Farber, assistant professor of Geography and Planning at University of Toronto, set out to find the link between transportation and opportunity by creating a series of maps with the help of U of T students Jeff Allen and Maria Grandez. “I showed the levels of opportunities in terms of how easily people can access jobs in the city by the different modes of transportation,” he says. People who have cars have greater access to a larger selection of jobs, Farber says. Those who do not have cars have a much smaller geographical area to find employment. Those without cars who live in downtown Toronto or along the subway line, he says, can access 30 per cent of the jobs car owners can. The number gets even smaller when you move away from the city centre. “As you get further and further out from there, the accessibility ratios really drop off really really quickly – down to 5 to 10 per cent for much of the city and less than 5 per cent outside the city of Toronto,” Farber says. The key to closing the gap in accessibility is in beefing up Toronto’s public transportation, says Farber. “When we’re trying to use transit to address these accessibility differences, you have to think about which low income neighbourhoods need transit investment more,” he says. “The map clearly shows there’s huge swathes of suburban Toronto – Scarborough, North Etobicoke, North York, that are really lacking in transit connectivity to jobs in the region.” One of the maps Farber and his students created evaluates the effectiveness of some of the proposed transit expansions – including the Scarborough LRT and subway extension as well as the Eglinton Crosstown – to increase accessibility to opportunity for transit users. [U Toronto News](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U master's student Catherine Reining identifying perceived health and well-being benefits associated with park visitor experiences: It's no secret that Canada's landscape is graced with pristine natural treasures. Millions of outdoor explorers frequent national and provincial parks year round to appreciate dense forests, sprawling shorelines and unique species. But what makes these park visitors happy — and what are the benefits of immersing oneself in such environments? Laurier graduate student Catherine Reining has been spending her summer days in Pinery Provincial Park, on

the shores of Lake Huron, working to identify just that: the perceived health and well-being benefits associated with park visitor experiences. As part of her master's research in environmental studies, she has identified 15 different ecosystems housed within the Pinery, where she'll ask visitors to complete a five-minute, tablet-based survey about how their experience affects their health and well-being. "When the opportunity came up to work on this project, it was the perfect combination of being able to relate human experiences in different natural environments to park planning and management," says Reining. With an interest in natural resource planning, management and education, particularly in parks and protected areas, Reining is motivated to strengthen peoples' relationships with the natural environment. Her research builds on findings by her master's co-supervisor, Christopher Lemieux, assistant professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Lemieux found that perceived health and well-being benefits from visiting parks and other forms of protected areas are substantial and a highly positive life experience. His work in Ontario and Alberta explores this work in detail. "[WLU Headlines](#)

Wilfrid Laurier U's Alison Blay-Palmer helping organize workshop on agroecology: Agroecology may not be a household word in Canada, but it should be, says Erin Nelson, a project researcher with the research and knowledge sharing partnership [Food: Locally Embedded, Globally Engaged](#) (FLEdGE), hosted by Wilfrid Laurier University's Centre for Sustainable Food Systems. As part of the FLEdGE project, Nelson is working with Alison Blay-Palmer, an associate professor in Laurier's Department of Geography and Environmental Studies and the Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) chair in Sustainable Food Systems, to organize a three-day workshop on agroecology beginning on August 15. The workshop is titled, "[Agroecology Knowledge Exchange Workshop: Building a South-North Partnership.](#)" The workshop will bring experts from Latin America and Cuba to discuss the practice of agroecology, which involves farming practices designed to, for example, increase biodiversity and improve long-term soil health. Agroecology has a lot in common with what is referred to as "sustainability" in North America. In addition to ecological considerations, agroecology is also often linked to the concept of food sovereignty, which focuses on people having the power to make decisions about their food systems. Although the language may be different between the north and south, the objective is a common one – to create food systems that are more ecologically sustainable, and both socially and economically just. The goals of the workshop are based in the research program of Blay-Palmer. Her work aims to involve communities, practitioners and policy-makers in research projects to create transformative, sustainable food systems that are socially just and supportive of local economies, as well as being ecologically regenerative. [WLU Headlines](#)

[The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien](#)



Marina Jones, Tayyab Shah, Alyssa Hayes, Gerry Uswak and Scott Bell. 2016. [Dental service disparities in Canada: A Saskatoon, Saskatchewan case study.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12286

Prestige Tatenda Makanga, Nadine Schuurman, Charfudin Sacoer, Helena Boene, Peter von Dadelszen and Tabassum Firoz. 2016. [Guidelines for creating framework data for GIS analysis in low- and middle-income countries.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12295

2016 CAG-ACG Attendees

Over 35 posters were presented at the 2016 Canadian Association of Geographers Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Tuesday May 31, 2016. Students and Geographers from across Canada presented their brilliant, interesting and wide range of geographic topics. The CAG/ACG conference was a great success this year. The sessions that took place sparked high levels of discussions and questions causing many of the attendees to miss out on the well-received posters on Tuesday. As a result we have requested from the authors of the posters to post their research online to facilitate knowledge mobilization. All poster presentations have been invited to share a copy of their work through the conference website. We now have many posters on the 2016 CAG-ACG website where you can view the research conducted from far away as Victoria BC right through to the Atlantic Coast.

Please take the time to view the research that was presented at the 2016 Canadian Association of Geographers conference. We would like to congratulate everyone who presented at the conference and their contributions were very appreciated and well-done.

<http://cag-acg2016.ca/index.php/poster-presentations/>

The 2016 CAG/ACG Committee

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Ayana A. Aden; Steve A. Wolfe, Jeanne B. Percival and Alain Grenier. 2015. [Characteristics of glacial Lake McConnell clay, Great Slave Lowland, Northwest Territories](#). Geological Survey of Canada Current Research 2015-7.

Harald Bathelt and Jingyuan Zhao. 2016. [Conceptualizing multiple clusters in mega-city regions: The case of the biomedical industry in Beijing](#). Geoforum 75:186–198.

Gregory R. Brooks. 2016. [Evidence of late glacial paleoseismicity from submarine landslide deposits within Lac Dasserat, northwestern Quebec, Canada](#). Quaternary Research. DOI:10.1016/j.yqres.2016.06.005

William C. Mahaney, Ronald G.V. Hancock, Peeter Somelar and Alison Milan. 2016. [Iron and aluminum soil/paleosol extractions as age/environment indicators: Some examples from a catchment in southern Ontario, Canada](#). Geomorphology 270:159–171.

Audrey M. Rémillard, Guillaume St-Onge, Pascal Bernatchez, Bernard Héту, Jan-Pieter Buylaert, Andrew S. Murray and Benoit Vigneault. 2016. [Chronology and stratigraphy of the Magdalen Islands archipelago from the last glaciation to the early Holocene: new insights into the glacial and sea-level history of eastern Canada](#). Boreas. DOI:10.1111/bor.12179

Olga N. Solomina, Raymond S. Bradley, Vincent Jomelli, Aslaug Geirsdottir, Darrell S. Kaufman, Johannes Koch, Nicolas P. McKay, Mariano Masiokas, Gifford Miller, Atle Nesje, Kurt Nicolussi, Lewis A. Owen, Aaron E. Putnam, Heinz Wanner, Gregory Wiles and Bao Yang. 2016. [Glacier fluctuations during the past 2000 years](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 149:61–90.



Memorial's Department of Geography is co-sponsoring the event *Refugees, Migration and Arrival by Water: A Public Symposium*, to mark the 30th anniversary of the rescue of the Tamil refugees on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Sheraton Hotel in St. John's. The symposium will bring together Canada's leading refugee rights experts, as well as a range of practitioner, legal, and community voices. Its aim is to reflect on and contest the narratives of humanitarianism in Canadian refugee policies, and situate these discourses within the context of contemporary global refugee crises. [Memorial U Gazette](#)

Jean-Francois Rousseau, a former PhD student in the Department of Geography at McGill University and now a Post-Doctoral researcher at Simon Frasier University has been hired for a tenure-track position in the School of Development and Global Studies at the University of Ottawa.

Other "Geographical" News

B.C. firefighters add drones to their toolkit: The B.C. Wildfire Service is officially adding drones to its firefighting toolkit. Provincial Fire Information Officer Erin Catherall explained that the service had been testing drones for the past two years, mainly for mapping and scanning. "Based on the feedback we've received from crews and our fire line operations staff, it has been of great benefit for our fire line operations." Drones can do what low-flying helicopters have previously done — thermal imaging, hot-spot detection and fire perimeter mapping — but much more cheaply, she said. Best of all, drones do not require on-board personnel and can work overnight and in more dangerous situations. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

The earthquake risk of Vancouver's condo boom: Driven by rising demand for condos amid soaring home prices, a new wave of costly – and often architecturally beautiful – high-rises is transforming the Vancouver skyline. But engineers say what some condo owners can't see could potentially cost them more than they expected. Two plates of earth deep below the Pacific's surface about 100 kilometres off the British Columbia coast are threatening to cause a quake that would likely amount to the worst natural disaster in Canada's history. According to Natural Resources Canada, there is a one-in-three chance that massive earthquake will hit the West Coast in the next 50 years. While Vancouver's skyscrapers adhere to a code designed to safely get people out of buildings in the event of an earthquake, engineers say that some structures could become uninhabitable after a powerful quake strikes. "The problem is, in my mind, that people are buying condos in these new buildings and don't realize that," said Perry Adebar, noting that the less uniform and more irregular the structure of a high-rise building is, the more likely it will be damaged. [Globe and Mail](#)

Federal Government to fund Experimental Lakes Area: The Trudeau government is spending \$1.7 million over the next two years on environmental research at the Experimental Lakes Area, the northwestern Ontario scientific facility once threatened with closure by the former Harper government. The ELA encompasses hundreds of lakes in a rectangle of Crown land between Ontario Highway 17 and Dryberry Lake as well as a field station on the north shore of Boundary Lake. It is the only place in the world where scientists conduct whole-ecosystem experiments on near-pristine lakes in order to obtain results that can not be obtained via single-variable laboratory research. [CBCNews | Manitoba](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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