



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**York U's Qiuming Cheng elected President of International Union of Geological Sciences:** York Geography Professor Qiuming Cheng has been elected to the position of President of the International Union of Geological Sciences for a 4 year term. The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) is one of the largest and most active non-governmental scientific organizations in the world representing 121 nations and a million geoscientists. Founded in 1961, IUGS promotes and encourages the study of earth science problems, and supports and facilitates international and interdisciplinary cooperation in the earth sciences. [York Geography](#)

**U Calgary's Brian Moorman teams up with Canadian Space Agency to measure ice loss of glaciers:** University of Calgary geography professor Brian Moorman is working with the Canadian Space Agency on a new project using satellite imagery to try to measure the ice loss of glaciers in the Canadian Arctic due to the process known as dry calving. "Our goal with this project is to figure out how much of this ice is breaking off from the glaciers due to dry calving," says Moorman. "Secondly, we need to develop methods to figure out how big of an impact this ice calved off glaciers has on rising sea levels when it melts." Working with the Canadian Space Agency and data collected from a radar satellite (RADARSAT II), Moorman hopes to determine whether or not satellite imagery will be able to measure the dry calving process and its contribution to rising sea levels. "The satellite sends out a beam of radar towards the earth," explains Moorman. "That beam reflects off the earth and goes back to the satellite. We refer to it as an active satellite because it's actively emitting energy. It operates night and day and it is not dependent on sunlight, which is important in the Canadian Arctic where it's dark for much of the year." This radar satellite enables scientists to collect very detailed measurements that a simple visible light satellite never could. For example, when oil spills occur in the ocean, the radar satellite can determine how heavy the spillage has been by measuring changes in the waves due to the oil in the water. It is hoped that this same intricate imaging can be used to measure dry calving process. The importance of being able to measure all the contributors to sea level rise can't be underestimated, Moorman says. "If sea levels rise over the next 1,000 or so years, it's not a big problem," Moorman explains. "Cities like London and New York will gradually move to higher ground. But if those same rises occur over the next 30 years then there could be trouble, and that's what we're starting to see. We had predicted a certain amount of sea level rise and now we're exceeding that. Most of Miami is now, technically, below sea level." [Calgary UToday](#)

**U of Toronto students tackle climate change in Southeast Asia:** From rising waters to erratic weather, we're starting to feel the wrath of climate change. But taking the necessary precautions in order to keep people safe and prevent worsening conditions is easier said than done – especially in developing countries where high-risk areas are often the most impoverished and the most urban. "Cities are both the cause of and the solution to environmental change," says Nathan Stewart, a University of Toronto urban planning graduate student. Since April, he has been conducting research in Thailand on the effects of climate change on the population of a city called Khon Kaen, located in one of the poorest regions of the country. Stewart is part of a team of researchers participating in the Urban Climate Resilience in Southeast Asia (UCRSEA) Partnership, a collaboration between academics in Canada and four Asian countries: Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar. The project uses a multi-disciplinary approach to looking at the risks of climate change to vulnerable urban populations – taking into consideration social, geographical, political, planning and economic issues. [U Toronto News](#)

**How U Toronto's E.C. Relph took stock of urban planning's unprecedented international boom:** In the late 1940s, not long after the end of the Second World War, the profession of town planning experienced an unprecedented international boom. Ideas that had been germinating in some cases since the 19th century, like "garden cities," suddenly became fashionable. The growth of cities seemed to call out for rational planning, which prosperity made possible. In Europe saturation bombing had levelled huge districts in many urban centres, and something had to be created to fill all those empty spaces. E.C. Relph, a University of Toronto professor of geography, surveyed the results of this boom in an ambitious and intelligent book, *The Modern Urban Landscape: 1880 to the Present* (Johns Hopkins University Press). It appeared three decades ago and has now been re-published with Relph's new preface. Relph takes seriously the ideals and intentions of those who have created the urban landscapes in which most of us now live. He's not written a satire. Still, the story he's telling is heavy with irony. Never in the history of human hopes have so many high-minded men and women worked so hard, and dreamed so passionately, with such dubious results. Architects, scholars, professional planners and city councils intended to build a New Jerusalem in each city they created, but again and again their vision was thwarted. Even Relph's good-heartedness sometimes fails him and he comes close to admitting that the whole business of planning deals in false hopes. [National Post](#)

**York U's Jennifer Korosi reports that in-situ oilsands extraction techniques also introduce contaminants into the environment:** The first study of pollution from unconventional oilsands mines has concluded that so-called in-situ techniques also introduce contaminants into the environment. The results suggest governments should increase monitoring of oilsands plants that rely on steam injection instead of open-pit mining, said lead author [Jennifer Korosi](#), an Assistant Professor in the York University Department of Geography. "It's our hope that this study stimulates that kind of work." In-situ mining involves injecting high-pressure, high-temperature steam underground to soften bitumen enough that it can be pumped up. Korosi and her colleagues took sediment cores from a small lake adjacent to the CNRL site near Cold Lake, Alta. The area has seen in-situ oilsands activity since the mid-1980s. Their analysis found little trace of heavy metals normally associated with bitumen. But the sediment cores revealed the presence of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons — a class of chemicals considered carcinogenic — beginning in 1985, about the same time as oilsands development in the area began. As well, the specific types of the hydrocarbons they found are closely associated with petrochemicals and not other possible sources such as forest fires. "There are certain PAH compounds that we know are released by forest fires, from traffic emissions, and we don't see those compounds increasing," said Korosi. "We have a number of different ways we can fingerprint hydrocarbons to know where they're coming from and consistently, the different metrics were suggesting a petroleum-based source." The levels are still too low to have environmental impacts. But they are real — and growing — and raise questions about how they're getting into sediments. [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

Check out the new CAC-ACG Website - <http://www.cag-acg.ca/>!



Many thanks to Professor [Wayne Forsythe](#) (Ryerson University) for his time and energy to provide the CAG's website with a refreshed and professional look. The renewal of the CAG webpages, which went live on September 1, has been an ongoing project for the past 15 months, and the CAG is very grateful to Wayne for this major contribution (as well as his other involvement with the CAG, including several years as President of CAGONT). The CAG also appreciates the support from the [Department of Geography and Environmental Studies](#) at Ryerson University which agreed to host the CAG's email system. Ryerson's IT Technician, Mike MacDonald, helped with many of the last minute details that arose and we thank him for sharing his expertise with us.

[CAG President Dan Shrubsole](#)

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



Blake Byron Walker. 2016. [Special Issue: Introduction. Making connections in a tough data scene.](#) The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien 60:285-287.



**U Toronto's Tammara Soma on CTV Your Morning.** To help shed some light on how Canadians could do more to help curb food waste, food and social justice advocate Tammara Soma sat down with Your Morning host Anne-Marie Mediwake. Among other things, she recommends not buying items in bulk at the grocery store, and learning how to cook. [CTV Morning](#)

At **University of Toronto, Mercedes Sharpe-Zayas** (MScPI 2016) to receive the ACSP Marsha Ritzdord Award for the Best Student Work on Diversity, Social Justice and the Role of Women in Planning at the November 2016 ACSP annual meeting in Portland, Oregon. The award recognizes superior scholarship reflecting concern with making communities better for women, people of color and/or the disadvantaged. [U Toronto Geography & Planning News](#)

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At **Wilfrid Laurier University**, **James McLaughlin**, a forest soils research scientist from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, will join the Cold Regions Research Centre for an extended collaboration as visiting research fellow beginning in fall 2016. [WLU News](#)

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Peter Grant Anderson. 2016. [Comparing Nineteenth and Twenty-first Century ecological imaginaries at Ottawa's Central Experimental Farm](#). Canadian Journal of Urban Research 25:38-48.

Gary Martin and Patricia Ballamingie. 2016. [Faith missions and church redevelopment in Ottawa, Ontario](#). Canadian Journal of Urban Research 25:80-87.

Colin A. Chapman, Sagan Friant, Kathleen Godfrey, Cynthia Liu, Dipto Sakar, Valérie A. M. Schoof, Raja Sengupta, Dennis Twinomugisha, Kim Valenta and Tony L. Goldberg. 2016. [Social behaviours and networks of vervet monkeys are influenced by gastrointestinal parasites](#). PLOS|One. DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0161113

C.H. Fox, P.D. O'Hara, S. Bertazzone, K. Morgan, F.E. Underwood and P.C. Paquet. 2016. [A preliminary spatial assessment of risk: Marine birds and chronic oil pollution on Canada's Pacific coast](#). Science of The Total Environment 573:799–809.

Kenneth Hewitt. 2016. Disaster risk reduction in the era of “Homeland Security”: [The struggle for precautionary, preventive, and non-violent approaches](#). In: [Identifying Emerging Issues in Disaster Risk Reduction, Migration, Climate Change and Sustainable Development. Shaping Debates and Policies](#). Editors: Karen Sudmeier-Rieux, Manuela Fernández, Ivanna M. Penna, Michel Jaboyedoff, and J.C. Gaillard. Springer International Publishing. 35-51.

Scott J. Ketcheson and Jonathan S. Price. 2016. [Comparison of the hydrological role of two reclaimed slopes of different ages in the Athabasca oil sands region, Alberta, Canada](#). Canadian Geotechnical Journal 53:1533-1546.

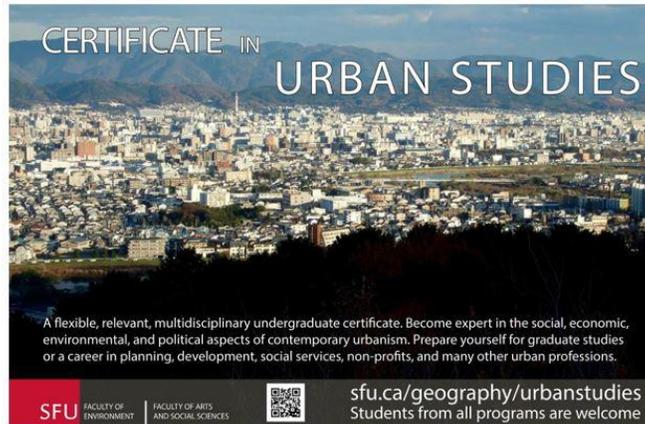
Scott J. Ketcheson, Jonathan S. Price, Sean K. Carey, Richard M. Petrone, Carl A. Mendoza and Kevin J. Devito. 2016. [Constructing fen peatlands in post-mining oil sands landscapes: Challenges and opportunities from a hydrological perspective](#). Earth-Science Reviews 161:130–139.

Mohammed K. Osman, David W. Tarasick, Jane Liu, Omid Moeini, Valerie Thouret, Vitali E. Fioletov, Mark Parrington and Philippe Nédélec. 2016. [Carbon monoxide climatology derived from the trajectory mapping of global MOZAIC-IAGOS data](#). Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics 16:10263-10282.

Renée E. Sieber, Pamela J. Robinson, Peter A. Johnson, and Jon M. Corbett. 2016. [Doing public participation on the geospatial web](#). Annals of the American Association of Geographers 106:1030-1046.

Andrew W. Sims, Clare E. Robinson, Charles C. Smart, James A. Voogt, Geoffrey J. Hay, Jeremy T. Lundholm, Brandon Powers and Denis M. O'Carroll. 2016. [Retention performance of green roofs in three different climate regions](#). Journal of Hydrology. DOI:10.1016/j.jhydrol.2016.08.055

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Growth of university tuition in Canada continues to outpace inflation:** The cost of post-secondary education increased by 2.8 per cent this year, rising at a slightly slower pace than what students saw in 2015. Statistics Canada reported that the average university undergraduate will pay \$6,373 in tuition costs for this school year. That's up from an average of \$6,201 in the previous school year. Costs increased in every province except Newfoundland and Labrador, which included a tuition freeze in the last budget. In all other provinces, tuition rose by anywhere from 0.2 per cent in Alberta to 5.6 per cent in Nova Scotia. Even before the freeze, students in Newfoundland and Labrador paid the lowest average tuition in the country, at \$2,759 this year. At the opposite end of the spectrum, students in Ontario pay the highest tuition, on average, at \$8,114. [CBCNews | Business](#)

**B.C. students say they are #textbookbroke:** Some students in B.C. are taking to social media to show that they are #textbookbroke. The student societies at UVic, UBC and SFU are running awareness campaigns to show just how much of a student's budget is now eaten up by purchasing textbooks. "Over the last 10 years, prices have risen four times the rate of inflation in the textbook industry," said Maxwell Nicholson, the director of campaigns and community relations for the University of Victoria Student Society. UVSS is posting photos of students with their textbook bill on social media to draw attention to the issue. Students were surveyed this week as they left the campus bookstore at UVic, and the average textbook bill was about \$500, Nicholson said. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

**Canadian Geographic Education, the educational network of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS)** annually recognize an educator who has gone above and beyond their job description to further geographic literacy with the Innovation in Geography Teaching award. This award will be given to a Canadian educator currently working in a K-12 setting who is fostering geographic engagement and increasing the geographic literacy of their students. The Innovation in Geography Teaching Award consists of a \$2,500 prize; \$1,250 to the recipient, \$1,250 donation made in the winner's name to support geographic education and a trip for the recipient to the RCGS College of Fellow's Annual General Meeting to receive their award. [RCGS Award](#)

**Future fisheries can expect \$10 billion revenue loss due to climate change:** Global fisheries stand to lose approximately \$10 billion of their annual revenue by 2050 if climate change continues unchecked, and countries that are most dependent on fisheries for food will be the hardest hit, finds new research. [ScienceDaily](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News

**Academic Rejection Letter**

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_, We don't know if you have a Ph.D. but it's better to stroke your ego just in case.

Thank you for submitting your manuscript titled “ Cut and paste title here .”

We regret to inform you (not really) that your manuscript will not be included for publication in our Journal at this time. \* awesome \*

After careful consideration and extensive discussion among the editorial staff, we feel this paper would be more appropriate for publication in another journal. Actually, it was just me. a lesser They were pretty bad, though.

Although the reviews are not entirely negative, it is evident that the manuscript does not meet our criteria for novelty and impact. (i.e. your topic isn't trendy enough)

Although you could address these issues in a revised manuscript, we must decline without further review so that you may submit it elsewhere without delay. After you pick up the pieces of your shattered soul. We don't want to read it again. See how considerate we are?

I am sorry our response could not be more positive. (or negative)

Our decision in no way reflects any criticism or doubt about the quality of the work submitted or your work in general. Ok, maybe just a little.

Due to the high volume of submissions we receive and the constraints of space, we must limit the number of articles we select for publication. Not really. Paper is cheap and websites don't have a size limit. Just rubbing that in your face.

We hope that you will continue to consider our journal for future manuscript submissions. i.e. We are not desperate enough to publish you now, but we might be in the future.

Sincerely,

The Journal's Editor's Assistant

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