



# GeogNews

**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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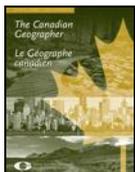
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**U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy and expansion of the Water Research Centre:** Canmore is becoming a global hub for water research to allow more scientists to study extreme weather and how we can prepare for it. "We have to manage things differently so we proposed to start to do this with Global Water Futures," said John Pomeroy. Grants totalling \$143 million make the program the largest university-led water research program in the world. The program will involve 18 universities across Canada and allow 700 scientists to study ways to improve disaster warnings, water quality and find innovative ways for local and regional governments to adapt to change and manage risk. The research that will be conducted in Canmore, and across the country, will help municipalities become more prepared for major storms, such as the heavy rains that caused the 2013 flooding in Kananaskis. "Our expectation is that those types of storms will be more typical and that means that as a society we design lots of things, such as bridges and culverts," said Pomeroy. "We need to be building the 2050 world at this point." [Crag and Canyon](#)

**U Alberta's John England and vital lessons from a half-century of Arctic research:** By studying the Canadian Arctic's glaciers, shorelines and lakes, John England has spent his 50-year scientific career piecing together what the region looked like many thousands of years ago. It's only with an understanding of this deep history that we're able to put today's fast-warming Arctic in its proper context. "Northern Ellesmere Island has some of the oldest sea ice on the planet, certainly in the northern hemisphere. These ice shelves are these thick, beautiful, spectacular aprons of sea ice that have remained attached to the shore for about 5,000 years. If you look at a satellite image, it looks like a washboard. The ridges are white and then the troughs between them are filled with the melt-water from the summer, it's beautiful turquoise, and then they refreeze. There are 50 or 100 of these ridges and troughs that go in ribbons to the shore along the ice shelves, and the ice shelves are 40 meters thick. These are our Egyptian pyramids. They're our dawn redwoods. And they've broken up enormously rapidly. They used to stretch along the whole northern top of Ellesmere Island – it was like the island would be a hinge, and this very thick sea ice floated. It went out about 10, 20, 30 kilometers when the explorers traveled along them in the early 1900s and described them. That beautiful apron has been just completely devastated during the 20th century, slowly picked away to about half its size by 1950. But since around 2000, they've been radically reduced to little remnants that now constitute about 300 square kilometers." [Arctic Deeply](#)

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## New in The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien



Olav Slaymaker. 2016. [Physical geographers' understanding of the real world](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12334

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### Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Dominique Berteaux, Gilles Gauthier, Florent Domine, Rolf A. Ims, Scott F. Lamoureux, Esther Lévesque and Nigel Yoccoz. 2016. [Effects of changing permafrost and snow conditions on tundra wildlife: critical places and times](#). Arctic Science.

Jean-François Bernier, Najat Bhiry and Daniel Gendron. 2016. [Butchering site evolution induced by past and recent snowmelt runoff: The Saunitarlik Site \(JiEv-15\), Aivirtuuq Peninsula, Nunavik, Canada](#). Geoarchaeology. DOI:10.1002/gea.21607

Kathryn Bremner, Rob J. Gordon, Jacqueline Powers, Neil Rooney and Ali Madani. 2016. [Partial or fully restricted cattle watering access: Water quality considerations](#). Applied Engineering in Agriculture 32:811-821

Masoumeh Shojae Ghias, René Therrien, John Molson and Jean-Michel Lemieux. 2016. [Controls on permafrost thaw in a coupled groundwater-flow and heat-transport system: Iqaluit Airport, Nunavut, Canada](#). Hydrogeology Journal. DOI:10.1007/s10040-016-1515-7

Kanishka Goonewardena. 2016. [Theory and politics in Karatani Kōjin's \*The Structure of World History\*](#). Journal of Japanese Philosophy 4:77-105.

Vincent Lecours, Craig J. Brown, Rodolphe Devillers, Vanessa L. Lucieer and Evan N. Edinger. 2016. [Comparing selections of environmental variables for ecological studies: a focus on terrain attributes](#). PLOS|One. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0167128

Larissa Pizzolato, Stephen E.L. Howell, Jackie Dawson, Frédéric Laliberté and Luke Copland. 2016. [The influence of declining sea ice on shipping activity in the Canadian Arctic](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2016GL071489

Tayyab Ikram Shah, Scott Bell and Kathi Wilson. 2016. [Spatial accessibility to health care services: Identifying under-serviced neighbourhoods in Canadian urban areas](#). PLOS|One. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0168208

Xiaoyong Xu, Bryan A. Tolson and Jonathan Li. 2016. [Assimilation of synthetic remotely sensed soil moisture in environment Canada's MESH model](#). IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing. DOI:10.1109/JSTARS.2016.2626256

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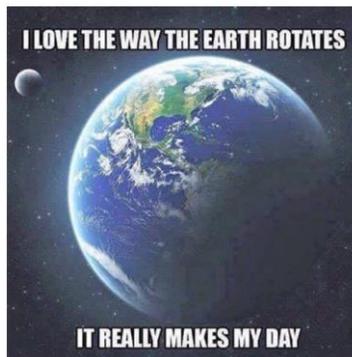
## Other “Geographical” News

**Climb into Athabasca Glacier leads to discoveries:** Will Gadd has climbed mountains and ice columns around the world, but his latest adventure saw him tackle something completely different. The Canmore ice climber and a team of scientists from the University of Alberta and the Canada Science and Technology Museums, along with a film crew from Discovery Canada, made their way inside the Athabasca Glacier. "The idea was to get underneath... and have a look around from a different perspective". "It was really quiet except occasionally the ice would make these amazing gonging, settling noises, which were a little unsettling when we were down there," he said. "I think we were all surprised by how beautiful it was." The team made some potentially important discoveries. "The last thing you'd expect to find in a glacier, at -30 C, would be a flying insect," he said. "But these were flying around quite happily. The other thing we found, which isn't a hazard to our health as far as we know, but it's very, very unusual and may not have been seen under the glacier surface ever before are these things called biofilms." [CBSNews | Calgary](#)

**Conservationists concerned about free entry to Canada's national parks in 2017:** The government predicts visits to national parks, historic sites and marine conservation areas will top last year's attendance of about 24.5 million. The expected surge of visitors to Canada's national parks has conservationists concerned about possible harm to the ecological integrity of some of the nation's natural treasures. Ben Gadd, a retired nature guide and author of Handbook of the Canadian Rockies, said he is worried about increased vehicle traffic. "Clearly the highway system in the mountain parks — it is going to be terrible next summer all summer long," said Gadd. "When you have that situation and animals trying to cross, there are going to be more accidents, more animals killed." Gadd said he is also concerned about crowded attractions, trash and people feeding or getting too close to wildlife. [CBCNews](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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