



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 445, May 24, 2017**

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U Saskatchewan’s John Pomeroy and new Canmore lab studying flood prediction and climate change impacts on water: At a new research lab in Canmore, Alta., scientists are studying the impact of climate change on water, glaciers and snow, and developing tools to predict and warn people about future floods. The Coldwater Laboratory, led by the University of Saskatchewan’s John Pomeroy, recently moved from the Barrier Lake Field Station in Kananaskis Country to the Bow Valley. The expanded lab in Canmore opened earlier this month and is part of the University of Saskatchewan-led Global Water Futures Program, funded in part by a \$77.8-million grant from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. Its a large initiative that’s looking to develop improved flood and drought forecasting systems and to start to look at the impacts of climate change on our water supplies and the quality of that water in 50 years, 100 years time. Pomeroy, who is also the Canada Research Chair in water resources and climate change, and director of the Centre for Hydrology at the University of Saskatchewan. [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

U Victoria’s Phil Dearden ask “Who is the hostage in pipeline issue?”: Who would disagree that hostage-taking is a bad thing? Hence the brilliance of the politician-speak gifted to us by Rachel Notley, the premier of Alberta: “But I fundamentally disagree with the view that one province or even one region can hold hostage the economy of another province, or in this case, the economy of our entire country,” she thundered. And it seems so right, because taking hostages is plain wrong. But in this case, it is not clear who is the hostage. I would argue that it is us, the people of B.C., all other provinces, regions and the entire country and the world that are being held hostage, not the poor people of Alberta. We, the people, are being held hostage because Alberta wants the right to continue and increase the production of oil that is a major contributor to global climate change. Every day around the world, climate records are being broken. Record high temperatures, record lows, record droughts, record floods have become a matter of routine. Climate scientists have been telling us unequivocally for decades that these changes are the result of increased emissions of gases related to human activities. If these changes are undesirable, expensive, life-threatening, we should be doing everything in our power to ensure that we are not making the problem worse and that we are investing in ways to adapt to these changes. Instead, we simply aim to burn more oil. Who is the hostage and why do we let this happen? We are hostages to the oil barons of Alberta, who reap the economic benefit of increased oil production while the rest of us collect all the problems. We let this happen because politicians have persuaded us that the most important word in the world is “economics.” Anything that threatens to impinge upon economic growth, such as not burning more oil, is a villain. We don’t even question it. Politicians know this and are eager to play to that weakness. [Victoria Times-Colonist](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Emily Sohanna Acheson, Eleni Galanis, Karen Bartlett, Sunny Mak and Brian Klinkenberg. 2017. [Searching for clues for eighteen years: Deciphering the ecological determinants of *Cryptococcus gattii* on Vancouver Island, British Columbia](#). Medical Mycology. doi.org/10.1093/mmy/myx037
- Cayla Albrecht and John Smithers. 2017. [Reconnecting through local food initiatives? Purpose, practice and conceptions of 'value'](#). Agriculture and Human Values. DOI:10.1007/s10460-017-9797-5
- Kevin M. Befus, Scott Jasechko, Elco Luijendijk, Tom Gleeson and M. Bayani Cardenas. 2017. [The rapid yet uneven turnover of Earth's groundwater](#). Geophysical Research Letters. DOI:10.1002/2017GL073322
- Nathan J. Bennett, Lydia Teh, Yoshitaka Ota, Patrick Christie, Adam Ayers, Jon C. Day, Phil Franks, David Gill, Rebecca L. Gruby and John N. Kittinger. 2017. [An appeal for a code of conduct for marine conservation](#). Marine Policy 81:411–418.
- Vanessa Cuervo, Leif Burge, Hawley Beaugrand, Megan Hendershot and Stephen G. Evans. 2017. [Downstream geomorphic response of the 2014 Mount Polley tailings dam failure, British Columbia](#). Workshop on World Landslide Forum. WLF 2017: Advancing Culture of Living with Landslides. 281-289. DOI:10.1007/978-3-319-53483-1_33
- Juan Felipe Gomez, Mary-Louise Byrne, James Hamilton and Federico Isla. 2017. [Historical coastal evolution and dune vegetation in Isla Salamanca National Park, Colombia](#). Journal of Coastal Research 33:632–641.
- Amanda Hooykaas. 2017. [Token girl: reflections of an emerging feminist's journey through music](#). Gender, Place & Culture. doi.org/10.1080/0966369X.2017.1328663
- Nilum Panesar, Yolande Pottie-Sherman and Rima Wilkes. 2017. [The Komagata through a media lens: Racial, economic, and political threat in newspaper coverage of the 1914 Komagata Maru Affair](#). Canadian Ethnic Studies 49:85-101.
- S. Sutton, C.M.O'D. Alexander, A. Bryant, A. Lanzirotti, M. Newville and E.A. Cloutis. 2017. [the bulk valence state of Fe and the origin of water in chondrites](#). Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta. doi.org/10.1016/j.gca.2017.05.021
- Adrian Treves, Kyle A. Artelle, Chris T. Darimont and David R. Parsons. 2017. [Mismeasured mortality: correcting estimates of wolf poaching in the United States](#). Journal of Mammalogy. doi.org/10.1093/jmammal/gyx052



Simon Fraser U's Geography 310 Field Course returns from the central Okanagan. After a whirlwind of mapping, surveying, navigating, coring, positioning, sampling, and measuring capped off by an enthusiastic canoe race, the adventurous team of students and staff have returned to generate field reports summarizing research on a major landslide site in the Central Okanagan. Check out the [Geography Facebook](#) page for pictures of field school activities.

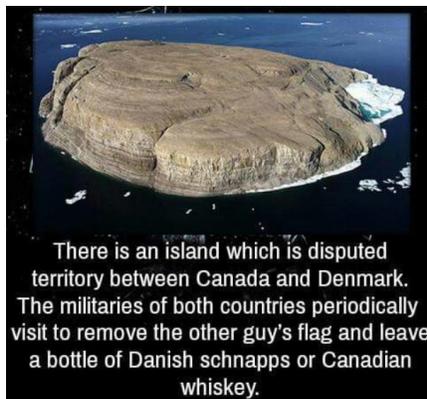
Other “Geographical” News

Stolen Wood - how thousand-year-old trees became the new ivory: Global timber theft has grown into a “rapidly escalating environmental crime wave” according to a 2012 report by the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) and Interpol, titled Green Carbon, Black Trade. The report estimates that somewhere between 15 to 30 per cent of the global timber trade is conducted through the black market and linked to organized crime outfits that wouldn’t balk at trading weapons or humans. Now with armed “timber cartels” as part of their operation, these groups have identified profit in the immense value of ancient nature. Smithsonian.com

Some Gatineau homeowners in flood zone will not be allowed to rebuild: Gatineau homeowners whose residences need to be demolished and are located in a certain flood zone will not be able to rebuild under provincial law. Residents whose homes are located in a 0 to 20 year flood zone will not be able to rebuild. Of the more than 1,800 homes that were flooded, about 75 per cent are located in the most high-risk, low-lying areas. CBCNews | Ottawa

When grades aren't enough, how to sell your academic brilliance: Academia is nice work, if you can get it. It quickly became clear to me, as a PhD student, that completing the PhD was just the beginning. Unless you publish open access, most scholars won’t read your work – more than half of published papers are never cited – and that means you’ve got to be more creative about displaying your expertise. Master’s and PhD students eyeing up an academic career need to accept that self-promotion is a major part of academia. Selling yourself in academia isn’t really about icky branding: it’s about defining your academic identity and building a strategy to communicate that to future colleagues in your field. You need to understand what you want to accomplish with an online presence, because it will be worthless if you’re simply doing it for its own sake. An academic brand should convey who you are as a researcher and what you aspire to become. The Guardian

Some Not So “Geographical” News



There is an island which is disputed territory between Canada and Denmark. The militaries of both countries periodically visit to remove the other guy's flag and leave a bottle of Danish schnapps or Canadian whiskey.



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