



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**Memorial U's Chris Sharpe presents photos in Canada 150 photo exhibit:** Produced by the Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia, this Canada 150 exhibit features photos of a wide array of structures that were built in the years leading up to Confederation. Chris Sharpe, a retired geography professor with Memorial University of Newfoundland, moved to Shelburne two years ago. After joining the Heritage Trust's board of directors, Sharpe learned of plans for a juried exhibit of buildings that were around at the time of Confederation and have survived to present day. Photographs of "any structure that was built in or prior to 1867" qualified for submission, Sharpe explains. "I identified 65 buildings in the Town of Shelburne that qualified by age, so, I took pictures of them and sent them all off." Of the 65 photos Sharpe submitted, five were accepted for the exhibit: Humphreys House (circa 1784), on the corner of Water and George Streets, now houses an antique and art shop; the former Joseph McGill Shipbuilding and Transportation Company office (circa 1857), on the corner of Dock and John Street, now houses the Beandock coffee shop; Shakespear House (circa 1784), on the corner of George and Water Street; Tottie's Store (circa 1800), on Ann Street, now serves as the Orderly Room for the Shelburne Re-enactment Association; and, White-Irwin House (circa 1784), on Water Street. [Chronicle Herald](#)

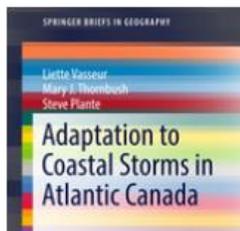
**U British Columbia's Andreas Christen co-authors study showing how trees can make or break city weather:** Even a single urban tree can help moderate wind speeds and keep pedestrians comfortable as they walk down the street, according to a new study that also found losing a single tree can increase wind pressure on nearby buildings and drive up heating costs. The researchers used remote-sensing laser technology to create a highly detailed computer model of a Vancouver neighbourhood down to every tree, plant and building. They then used computer simulation to determine how different scenarios -- no trees, bare trees, and trees in full leaf -- affect airflow and heat patterns around individual streets and houses. The researchers compared the simulated scenarios against a decade of measured wind data from a 30-metre-tall research tower operated by UBC in the same Vancouver neighbourhood. They discovered that even bare trees in the winter months can moderate airflow and wind pressure, contributing to a more comfortable environment. The model, piloted last year, is the first to simulate a real urban neighbourhood in extreme detail, added study co-author and UBC geography professor Andreas Christen. . "Information from such models can improve weather forecasts in order to predict the effects of a storm on a building and pedestrian level," said Christen. "It could also help city planners in designing buildings, streets, and city blocks to maximize people's comfort and limit wind speed to reduce energy loss." [EurekaAlert](#)

**Wilfrid Laurier U's Colin Robertson and master's student Lauren Yee enlist Ontario farmers to help protect threatened migratory songbirds:** Wilfrid Laurier University researchers are enlisting farmers to help track and protect two threatened bird species in Ontario. The citizen science project, dubbed GrassLander, is an online platform where farmers can record sightings of the bobolink and eastern meadowlark. Their help will contribute valuable data on the migratory songbirds that would otherwise be tough to gather because it's private land. "It's important to work with the farmers. It's the main habitat for the birds," said geography master's student Lauren Yee. The project is being led by Prof. Colin Robertson, in Laurier's department of geography and environmental studies, and Yee in partnership with the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Farmers are already doing conservation work, Yee said, and "they're really keen to track these things and contribute." Bobolink and eastern meadowlark nest in grasslands, and the commonly tall grasses are now found on farms as natural grasslands decline. "Farmers make up the majority of the grassland habitat, their hayfields and pastures," Yee said. "It's an important habitat for them." Both species build their nests on the ground in dense vegetation, which works well to hide from predators, but makes them vulnerable to farming activities such as haying. Cutting hay during breeding or hatching can destroy the nests, eggs and baby birds. Educating farmers and changing some of their practices is part of the project's aim, along with collecting data. Delaying haying can give the birds a better chance at survival. [TheRecord.com](http://TheRecord.com)

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## New Book

Liette Vasseur, Mary J. Thornbush and Steve Plante. 2018. [Climate Change Adaptation to Coastal Storms in Atlantic Canada](#). Springer Briefs in Geography. Springer. ISBN: 978-3-319-63491-3 (Print) 978-3-319-63492-0 (Online)



In late 2010 and early January 2011, Atlantic Canada experienced a series of severe winter storms with high winds and surge that caused important damage in several coastal communities. Some people experienced flooding, while others coastal erosion. Subsequently, in 2011, a large multisite longitudinal project was initiated to (1) better understand people's experiences with storms and (2) co-construct with these communities adaptation plans for the future, thus improving their resilience to climate change. Interviews were conducted in 2011–2012 and again in 2014 as a follow-up to examine changes in perception over time. This brief seeks to present the findings from the second set of interviews in 2014 compared to the initial findings. Based on in-depth semi-structured interviews and focus groups in 10 studied communities in Québec and New Brunswick, it was discovered that people felt resilient, but at the same time vulnerable to storms and other extreme events. While they may have been involved in the longitudinal project, the lessons learned extracted from the findings show that much more remains to be done in order to ensure that communities are prepared for future environmental and climate changes. As this project used a participatory action research approach, this brief conveys the importance of integrating local actors from various sectors and their existing knowledge when developing adaptation plans and proactive coastal management strategies.

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## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Matthew D. Adams and Weeberb J. Requia. 2017. [How private vehicle use increases ambient air pollution concentrations at schools during the morning drop-off of children](#). Atmospheric Environment 165:264-273.

Derek Congram, Michael Kenyhercz and Arthur Gill Green. 2017. [Grave mapping in support of the search for missing persons in conflict contexts](#). Forensic Science International. doi.org/10.1016/j.forsciint.2017.07.021

Alexa J. Dugan, Richard Birdsey, Sean P. Healey, Yude Pan, Fangmin Zhang, Gang Mo, Jing Chen, Christopher W. Woodall, Alexander J. Hernandez, Kevin McCullough, James B. McCarter, Crystal L. Raymond and Karen Dante-Wood. 2017. [Forest sector carbon analyses support land management planning and projects: assessing the influence of anthropogenic and natural factors](#). Climate Change. DOI:10.1007/s10584-017-2038-5

Marco G. Giometto, Andreas Christen, P.E. Eglic, M.F. Schmid, R.T. Tooke, N.C. Coops and Marc B. Parlange. 2017. [Effects of trees on mean wind, turbulence and momentum exchange within and above a real urban environment](#). Advances in Water Resources 106:154-168.

Micah J. Hewer and William A. Gough. 2017. [Thirty years of assessing the impacts of climate change on outdoor recreation and tourism in Canada](#). Tourism Management Perspectives. doi.org/10.1016/j.tmp.2017.07.003

C. Holtz, J. Gilliland, A. Thind, P. Wilk and M. K. Campbell. 2017. [Inequitable health service use in a Canadian paediatric population: A cross-sectional study of individual- and contextual-level factors](#). Child: Care, Health and Development. DOI:10.1111/cch.12489

Olympia Koziatek and Suzana Dragičević. 2017. [iCity 3D: A geosimulation method and tool for three-dimensional modeling of vertical urban development](#). Landscape and Urban Planning 167:356–367.

Karen Neil and Konrad Gajewski. 2017. [Impacts of late-Holocene climate variability and watershed-lake interactions on diatom communities in Lac Brule, Quebec](#). Ecosphere. DOI:10.1002/ecs2.1886

Sébastien Nobert and Mark Pelling. 2017. [What can adaptation to climate-related hazards tell us about the politics of time making? Exploring durations and temporal disjunctures through the 2013 London heat wave](#). Geoforum 85:122-130.

Ana Espinosa Seguí, Barbara Maćkiewicz and Marit Rosol. 2017. [From leisure to necessity: Urban allotments in Alicante Province, Spain in times of crisis](#). ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies 16:276-304.

Dinesh Babu Irulappa Pillai Vijayakumar, Frédéric Raulier, Pierre Bernier, Sylvie Gauthier, Yves Bergeron and David Pothier. 2017. [Fire disturbance data improves the accuracy of remotely sensed estimates of aboveground biomass for boreal forests in eastern Canada](#). Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment. doi.org/10.1016/j.rsase.2017.07.010

Bradley B Walters. [Explaining rural land use change and reforestation: A causal-historical approach](#). Land Use Policy 67:608-624.

Carlee J. Wright, Jan M. Sargeant, Victoria L. Edge, James D. Ford, Khosrow Farahbakhsh, RICG, Inez Shiwak Charlie Flowers, IHACC Research Team and Sherilee L. Harper. 2017. [Water quality and health in northern Canada: stored drinking water and acute gastrointestinal illness in Labrador Inuit](#). Environmental Science and Pollution Research. DOI:10.1007/s11356-017-9695-9

Jiacheng Zheng, Torsten Geldsetzer and John Yackel. 2017. [Snow thickness estimation on first-year sea ice using microwave and optical remote sensing with melt modelling](#). Remote Sensing of Environment 199:321–332.

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## Other “Geographical” News

**Tracking bergs: Holyrood company uses drone to put GPS on iceberg:** It was a tricky operation in heavy fog, but a company based in Holyrood recently used a drone to place a GPS tracker on an iceberg about two kilometres outside Petty Harbour. Brian Lundrigan's company, RPM Aerial Services, partnered with a GPS manufacturer in Nova Scotia for the pilot project, which aimed to find a safe way to place a tracker on an iceberg without getting too close to the often unpredictable masses of floating ice. Lundrigan said perfecting the process for other applications — such as attaching sensors to measure the heave, pitch and roll of icebergs — would be beneficial for the offshore oil industry. "When an iceberg is a threat, understanding how big that iceberg is, its properties, would be very valuable," said Lundrigan. [CBCNews | Newfoundland & Labrador](#)

**B.C. woman files private charges over Mount Polley tailings spill:** An Indigenous woman has filed private charges in the 2014 collapse of the tailings dam at the Mount Polley mine, days after British Columbia's government announced that provincial charges would not be laid. Bev Sellers has filed court documents alleging that Mount Polley Mining Corp. polluted the environment when a tailings dam burst, sending 24 million cubic metres of mine waste into local waterways. Sellers was the acting chief of the Xat'sull First Nation, located near the gold and copper mine in B.C.'s Cariboo region, when the dam collapsed on Aug. 4, three years ago. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

**A future with more fires:** The first half of B.C.'s summer has been filled with wildfires, and as the climate continues to change, things could get a lot worse. In B.C. alone, 501 wildfires larger than 0.1 hectares have burned as of Wednesday, burning an estimated 426,000 hectares - the third worst fire season on record. Dr. John Innes, dean of UBC Vancouver's Faculty of Forestry, conducted a study on the impact of climate change on wildfires in the Kelowna area back in 2007. "What we've seen and what we're predicting is that the fire season is going to get longer at either end ... and we are also seeing increased severity being predicted, so the fires will burn hotter," Dr. Innes said. "That was about 10 years ago we did that and we predicted exactly what's happening." Dr. Innes says that while the weather's impact on wildfires fluctuates from year to year, there has been a trend of longer and more intense fire seasons since his study 10 years ago. [Castanet](#)

**Melting glaciers in Swiss Alps could reveal hundreds of mummified corpses:** Swiss police say hundreds of bodies of mountaineers who have gone missing in the Alps in the past century could emerge in coming years as global warming forces the country's glaciers to retreat. Alpine authorities have registered a significant increase in the number of human remains discovered last month, with the body of a [man missing for 30 years](#) the most recent to be uncovered. Rescue teams in Saas Valley in the Valais canton were called after two climbers spotted a hand and two shoes protruding from the Hohlaub Glacier. [The Guardian](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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