



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
No. 452, August 11, 2017**

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U Toronto's Alemu Gonsamo and Jing Chen co-author study suggesting Canada's boreal forests could absorb more carbon than they release as climate change progresses: As one of the largest forest ecosystems on the planet, the boreal forest plays a significant role in the global carbon cycle, simultaneously being a "sink," "stock," and "source" of carbon. As sinks, forests absorb carbon by converting carbon dioxide from the atmosphere into organic material. As stocks, forests store carbon over long periods of time, for example, in deep organic soils, peatlands, and permafrost. As sources, forests release carbon, for example, through wildfires, organic matter decomposition, or melting permafrost. The relationship between these factors creates the "carbon balance." Boreal forests are expected to feel the effects of climate change proportionally more than other regions because higher latitudes are projected to warm more than lower latitudes. With this concern, boreal ecosystems have been widely studied, but [Gonsamo et al.](#) found a gap, the unmanaged forests of the Far North of Ontario (FNO) in Canada. Focusing on a forested area of more than 170,000 km², mostly in the southern and southwestern parts of FNO, the researchers sought to build a picture of the area's carbon balance. The team used the [Integrated Terrestrial Ecosystem Carbon Cycle model](#) to understand the carbon dynamics of this type of forest. The model uses data on soil texture, drainage, land cover, leaf area index, and forest stand age. The authors projected changes in carbon stocks of soil, vegetation, and soil and vegetation combined for 10 simulation scenarios. Their simulations of the past showed stable vegetation carbon stock and declining soil carbon stock, the overall net effect being a decrease in total carbon stored in the region. This was predominantly linked to a steady increase in mean air temperature over the period, causing increased soil carbon release through organic matter decomposition. [EOS](#)

U Saskatchewan's John Pomeroy awarded John Tuzo Wilson Medal: John Pomeroy was awarded the prestigious J. Tuzo Wilson Medal for outstanding contributions in the field of geophysical sciences. Pomeroy is a U of S Tier-1 Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change, Director of the Centre for Hydrology, Associate Director of the Global Water Futures program, Canada First Research Excellence Fund, and a regular guest and leading expert to Canadian media for his vast understanding of water systems. Since 2010, Pomeroy has published 94 research contribution, been awarded almost \$7 million in personal research grants, trained 70 highly qualified personnel who have won over 40 scholarships and awards, and his papers have been cited nearly 10,000 times. [Global Institute for Water Security](#)

Simon Fraser U Professor Emeritus Tom Poiker awarded Waldo-Tobler GIScience Prize: The Austrian Academy of Sciences through its Commission for GIScience is awarding the GIScience Prize named after Prof Waldo Tobler to a scientist having demonstrated outstanding and sustained contributions to the discipline worthy of inspiring young scientists in Geoinformatics or Geographic Information Science, and having accomplished significant advances in research and education. Thomas Poiker received his Ph.D. in Theoretical Economic Geography in 1966 from Heidelberg, and then joined Simon Fraser University's Geography department in 1967. He quickly became interested in the emerging fields of computer cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and became one of the pioneers in GIS research. He has published widely on GIS methods, and held a joint appointment with Computer Science. In addition to GIS, 'Tom' also taught economic and quantitative geography and cartography. Quoting from the evaluators letters of appreciation: "Thomas Poiker has contributed very significant foundational concepts to the field of GIScience since its very early days ... one of the most widely adopted algorithms for generalizing lines. The TIN structure similarly has become a foundational digital representation for digital surfaces at different granularities ... He has made significant contributions to core GIScience research and to GIScience education...". And, "Pioneering, and serving as a beacon in the early days of what was to become Geographic Information Science ... significantly influencing many generations of researchers, and highly regarded as an academic teacher". Thomas Poiker also had played an important role in educational innovation: already in the 1990ies he joined the UNIGIS distance learning network of universities as its first North American partner, where he is remembered for introducing 'collaborative assignments' fostering teamwork long before the days of the MOOC, and for his dedication to individually advising students. [Z-GIS](#)

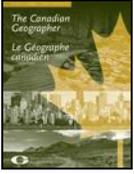


Simon Fraser U's Samantha Thompson receives Michael Geller Graduate Scholarship in Urban Development. The Michael Geller Graduate Scholarship in Urban Development provides financial support to one Master's or PhD student each year. [SFU Geography](#)

U British Columbia's James Rhatigan wins Canadian Studies Network best thesis prize: James Rhatigan was awarded the CSN-RÉC Prize for the Best MA Thesis or Major Research Paper in Canadian Studies. The jury adjudicating the competition wrote this about the thesis: "Afterlife of a Mine: The Tangled Legacies of the Britannia Mine" examines the complicated environmental and social legacy of the Britannia copper mine and examines efforts to remediate the space polluted by the mine and to commemorate the history of mining in the area. Drawing on a wide range of theoretical approaches and grounded in a variety of primary sources, this thesis is an impressive piece of work, one that all committee members agreed was a pleasure to read." [Canadian Studies Network](#)

Simon Fraser U's PhD student Taylor Anderson receives ECCE Student Associate Achievement Award: Esri Canada has awarded Taylor Anderson the Esri Canada Center of Excellence (ECCE) Student Associate Achievement Award based on her extraordinary accomplishments during the past year. She participated in the ECCE activities in various ways: giving talks at the GIScience 2016 Conference in Montreal (September 2016); GIS Day at SFU (November 2016); the ASPRS Tec Exchange conference in Burnaby (March 2017); contributing a well-articulated ECCE blog entry; and being a member of the SFU team participating in the 2017 Esri Canada App Challenge competition. She also participated in a SFU TLDG project as a research assistant and worked closely with undergraduate students to assist them develop their research posters using GIS software tools. In addition, during the last year Taylor has published two peer-reviewed papers in international journals. She is also the recipient of an NSERC CGS-D graduate scholarship for PhD studies. [SFU Geography](#)

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



Sarah de Leeuw. 2017. [Writing as righting: Truth and reconciliation, poetics, and new geo-graphing in colonial Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12395

This paper is anchored in two recent and concurrent openings, openings that offer opportunities for geographers to consider new modes of engaging colonial violence. The first opening is the release, in Canada, of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report and calls to action. By demanding new types of settler-subject attention to Indigenous peoples and places, it opens new spaces for extending reflection about anti-Indigenous racism and colonial violence in Canadian consciousness. The second opening is geography's growing uptake of creative and humanities-informed theories and practices. These manifest in new knowledges and practices with consequent possibilities for addressing colonial violence. I consider these two openings first by proposing changes to conversations about settler-normalized violences lived by Indigenous peoples, and, second by engaging poets working to radically re/configure language and written expression. Specifically, the paper ends with a call for geographers—particularly non-Indigenous settler geographers—to rethink ways (and forms) by which we produce knowledge, especially about colonialism and Indigenous geographies and especially in and through writing practices. The paper is experimental in form, meant to disrupt easy uptake or digestion of ideas that must remain—for settler subjects—fundamentally ragged, upsetting, and always beyond conclusion, coherence, or closure.

Andrea Olive and Katrina Jansen. 2017. [The role of accredited zoos in the recovery process for species at risk in Canada](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12394

Zoos and aquariums are responding to the worldwide biodiversity crisis through major conservation initiatives like captive breeding for assurance populations and reintroduction programs. These institutions also fundraise, offer education programs, and provide critical research on biodiversity. Through a case study inside three accredited Canadian zoos, this paper illustrates that zoos and their staff members are being incorporated into many official species-at-risk recovery efforts on provincial, federal, and international levels. Specifically, the zoos studied are involved in every stage of the recovery process, from providing valuable research and habitat analyses, to captive breeding animals for reintroduction, to writing recovery strategies and creating recovery policy for multiple jurisdictional levels. Zoo staff indicate that zoos are uniquely suited to conservation because zoos have space, expertise, apolitical status, and the ability to connect with the public. Overall, the paper suggests that zoos can significantly contribute to species-at-risk protection and recovery in Canada and beyond.

Tim Reiffenstein. 2017. [Ramen restaurant clusters in Japan: Geographical variety, locational lore, and evolutionary characteristics](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12396

Ramen noodle shops are Japan's most popular category of restaurant. Yet within this ubiquitous, diverse, and highly competitive segment of the dining sector, particular clusters of restaurants stand out. These agglomerations are known as ramen gekisenku—ramen restaurant fierce battle zones. Through an examination of ramen-specific media and maps (magazines, comics, food blogs, university student handbooks, etc.) the paper classifies these clusters into three types: i) regional ramen-style

agglomerations typical of small cities; ii) metropolitan neighbourhoods with concentrated diverse clusters of restaurants; and iii) purposely planned ramen theme parks. Each type has different morphological characteristics with divergent potentials for variation, innovation, and evolution. The paper argues that ramen's variety is a product of its geography, while suggesting that the circulation of place-based vernacular ramen knowledge, in the form of lore, stories, and other geographic cues sustains its capacity for innovation, most noticeably in the crucible of metropolitan ramen clusters.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Benjamin Amann, Scott F. Lamoureux and Maxime P. Boreux. 2017. [Winter temperature conditions \(1670–2010\) reconstructed from varved sediments, western Canadian High Arctic](#). Quaternary Science Reviews 172:1–14.

Peggy A. Desserud and Chris H. Hugenholtz. 2017. [Restoring industrial disturbances with native hay in mixedgrass prairie in Alberta](#). Ecological Restoration 35:228-236.

Gillian K.A. Harvey, Trisalyn A. Nelson, Caroline H. Fox and Paul C. Paquet. 2017. [Quantifying marine mammal hotspots in British Columbia, Canada](#). Ecosphere. DOI:10.1002/ecs2.1884

Pamela Moss and Avril Maddrell. 2017. [Emergent and divergent spaces in the Women's March: the challenges of intersectionality and inclusion](#). Gender, Place & Culture 24:613-620.

Lyna Lapointe, Julie Talbot, Daniel Fortier, Bianca Fréchette, Jens Strauss, Mikhail Kanevskiy and Yuri Shure. 2017. [Middle to late Wisconsinan climate and ecological changes in northern Alaska: Evidences from the Itkillik River Yedoma](#). Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology. doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2017.08.006

Jesse Proudfoot. 2017. [Drugs, addiction, and the social bond](#). Geography Compass. DOI:10.1111/gec3.12320

John Sandlos and Anr Keeling. 2017. The Giant Mine's long shadow: Arsenic pollution and native people in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. In: [Mining North America: An Environmental History since 1522](#). Edited by: John R. McNeill and George Vrtis. University of California Press. 280-312.

Joshua R. Thienpont, Cyndy M. Desjardins, Linda E. Kimpe, Jennifer B. Korosi, Steven V. Kokelj, Michael J. Palmer, Derek C.G. Muir, Jane L. Kirk., John P. Smol and Jules M. Blais. 2017. Comparative histories of polycyclic aromatic compound accumulation in lake sediments near petroleum operations in western Canada. Environmental Pollution 231:13-21.

Trevor J. Wideman and Jeffrey R. Masuda. 2017. [Assembling "Japantown"? A critical toponymy of urban dispossession in Vancouver, Canada](#). Urban Geography. DOI:10.1080/02723638.2017.1360038

Hussein Wazneh, M. Altaf Arain and Paulin Coulibaly. 2017. [Historical spatial and temporal climate trends in Southern Ontario, Canada](#). Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology. doi.org/10.1175/JAMC-D-16-0290.1

Other “Geographical” News

How do you finish a PhD when, as a working-class student, you don't feel you belong? University can be intimidating for less-privileged students, no matter how much encouragement we receive. I'm in the fourth year of my PhD. My funding runs out in less than two months. I do not have a thesis to submit. How did this happen? Nobody told me that a PhD was a trial by assertiveness. And, as I will explain, I'm about as assertive as a rice-pudding. [The Guardian](#)

NOAA, USGS and partners predict third largest Gulf of Mexico summer ‘dead zone’ ever: Federal scientists forecast that this summer's Gulf of Mexico dead zone – an area of low to no oxygen that can kill fish and other marine life – will be approximately 8,185 square miles. This would be the third largest dead zone recorded since monitoring began 32 years ago – the average Gulf dead zone since then has been 5,309 square miles. [NOAA News](#)

Ready, Set, Eclipse. NOAA offers a cloudiness map to improve the experience: One of the biggest shows of the summer won't require a ticket. However, the rare total solar eclipse crossing the country on August 21, from Oregon to South Carolina, must contend with the bane of sun seekers: the potential for cloudy weather. Historically speaking, cloudiness may factor into each location's chance for a good viewing. NOAA's NCEI and the CICS-NC reviewed past cloud conditions for August 21. We found that the coasts could be susceptible to cloudier conditions and that increased cloud cover may be possible as the eclipse travels across the country east of the Mississippi River. [NOAA News](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



If you build it, they will come.



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