



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Thompson Rivers U's Michael Mehta led project for Canada's first solar sidewalk at University:

A new walkway is laying the ground for a greener campus at Thompson Rivers University. Over the summer, the university in Kamloops, British Columbia, installed 16 solar modules into a 14-metre stretch of sidewalk on campus. It's touting the solar sidewalk as the first of its kind in Canada. The panelled walkway is wired into the university's sustainability office. In a year, the panels should produce nearly 1,300 kWh, according to project lead Michael Mehta, a professor of geography and environmental studies at TRU. That would be enough to power all the lights, computers and appliances in the nearby office. The slip-resistant modules have been specially designed and reinforced to be walked and driven on. As part of the experiment, the walkway was intentionally installed in a high-traffic, tree-lined area. Each module is less than a quarter-of-an-inch thick, with solar cells optimized to respond to shade patterns that change throughout the day – when a set of cells drops in its ability to generate power the others make up the difference to maintain a consistent output. "If it can work in this location, solar sidewalks and perhaps even solar roads can work almost anywhere," Dr. Mehta wrote in a recent blog post about the build. The sidewalk is a prototype for Dr. Mehta's [Solar Compass](#) project, a compass-shaped path made of 64 solar modules. Solar Compass installation is scheduled to begin outside TRU's Arts and Education building in late September. Once in operation, the solar road should offset the use of up to 40 computers eight hours a day over the course of a year. Dr. Mehta says his bright idea is leading the way for energy-generating infrastructure – roads, sidewalks, parking lots, bridges – to eventually pay for its own construction, use and maintenance. [University Affairs](#)

Simon Fraser U's Lance Lesack research team featured via Smithsonian.com: Lesack and his research team have been working on the Mackenzie Delta as members of a larger international collaboration, in part trying to measure the quantity of methane (greenhouse gas) fizzing out of the lakes. The team is taking a uniquely collaborative approach that includes U.S. and Canadian researchers in geology, microbiology, limnology and oceanography. All of these researchers are in close connection with native communities within the Canadian Northwest Territories. Scientists like Lesack are starting to reach out to non-scientist natives like Albert Elias, an elder who is Inuvialuit, or Western Canadian Inuit, Elias who live in the region year round, have already felt the impacts of warming, and have their own intimate knowledge of the land that will help tie the pieces of the warming puzzle together. [SFU Geography](#) | [Smithsonian.com](#)

U Northern British Columbia's Greg Halseth and Laura Ryser delves into rapid pace of change resource-dependent communities are facing: A new book written by University of Northern British Columbia researchers delves into the increasingly rapid pace of change resource-dependent communities are facing in the global economy. Geographer Greg Halseth and Research Manager Laura Ryser collaborated on [Towards a Political Economy of Resource-dependent Regions](#). The book explores how the pace of change has increased in resource-dependent communities over the past three decades due to complex and interwoven economic, political, social, demographic, cultural, environmental and community changes. "This book is a major product from our long-term research work and it describes the broader context for the changes that are impacting resource-dependent communities and economies," says Halseth, the Canada Research Chair in Rural and Small Town Studies. "All of it builds from our experiences and research engagement with the changes and issues that are important for Northern B.C." The book identifies critical matters of context to help explain the changes in regions ranging from Northern B.C. to the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and the Nordic countries. By looking at the trajectories of the changes in different regions around the world, Halseth and Ryser are identifying local solutions with global impact. "The acceleration of change is linked, in part, with the greater connectivity provided by new transportation and communications technologies as well as the increasing interconnectedness of the global economy," Halseth explains. [UNBC Newsroom](#)

Western U Geography PhD candidate Paul van der Werf studies scrap food waste fallacies: For Paul van der Werf, it's not about food waste. It's about food. "It's not just your banana peels and egg shells and coffee grounds. You should see what ends up thrown away – untouched and left-over food, like a \$12 roast. At that point, you're just rolling up a ball of money and throwing it into the garbage," said van der Werf, a Geography PhD candidate with 25 years of experience in environmental consulting. Through his consulting company, 2CG, van der Werf measures residential and commercial waste composition and provides and analyzes data to a wide variety of municipal and provincial governments. It's information local governments use to put together reports and make informed decisions about environmental initiatives. "What I've now been able to do is combine my expertise in waste management, organic waste management and measurement with the food piece, which I have been interested in for a long time," van der Werf said. Part of his doctoral research is examining food waste in London, looking to find why Londoners throw away significant amounts of food and what can be done to reduce the organic haul that ends up in landfills. He hopes to offer the city data it can use to initiate waste reduction or intervention initiatives. Such a study has not only environmental implications, but fiscal and social, as well, van der Werf stressed. "When I'm looking at intervention, all I want to do is reconnect people to what's always very important. Your resources are really important to you. That's the thrust of my messaging and research," he said. For his research, van der Werf is looking at the individual household in London, exploring what's generated in waste and developing metrics around that. What is the worth of food waste per household? What is that worth in a city like London? What sort of greenhouse gas implications are there? What are the social implications? How many meals – which could potentially feed individuals in need – does our food waste amount to? [Western News](#)

U Toronto announces Jennifer Keesmaat will be joining the Department of Geography & Planning as a Bousfield Distinguished Visitor in Planning for the 2017-2018 academic year: Ms. Keesmaat is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario (double major in Politics and Planning) and York University (Masters of Environmental Studies – (urban and regional planning). Jennifer served as the Chief Planner for the City of Toronto from 2012 to 2017 and is perhaps best known for her advocacy of density, walkability, complete streets, and active transportation, as well as for a national urban agenda. While in residence, Jennifer will have multiple points of contact with students and faculty including coffee-break/brown-bag sessions with planning students through the Fall term, and as the instructor of a graduate planning course in the Spring term, 2018. [U Toronto Geography](#)

Queen's U's Warren Mabee discusses Canada's lesser-known carbon-fighting policies: Canada's environment commissioner Julie Gelfand delivered a stern warning to the federal government this week, declaring that to deal with climate change Ottawa needs to move "from a seemingly endless planning mode into an action mode." That will mean more than just putting a price on carbon — to date the only element in the Liberals' pan-Canadian climate change framework that's received much attention. The government's plan also includes a suite of lesser-known policies, including a proposed clean fuel standard that some say amounts to a second carbon tax. The new standard, likely unknown to most Canadians, could actually have more of an impact than a carbon price in cutting Canada's carbon emissions to 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030, according to some experts. "I think that the clean fuel standard will drive change faster than carbon pricing," said Warren Mabee, director of the Queen's Institute for Energy and Environmental Policy, in an email. "In fact, (it) will essentially create a 'de facto' price on carbon which is higher than the national price that the government has talked about, by forcing companies to invest and to make changes in the fuel supply chain." [Globe and Mail](#)

U Toronto's Tammara Soma on the challenges of reducing food waste: Underripe tomatoes. Misshapen carrots. In the food world, these are sometimes referred to as "below seconds" – still safe and edible, but unacceptable to retailers. Producing food only to have it wind up in landfill means already limited resources such as land, water and fertilizer have been squandered. And as that food decomposes, it releases methane, a greenhouse gas – about 3.3-billion tonnes of it each year, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. As a result, waste has emerged as a cause célèbre in recent years for the food world. Last year, France passed a law banning retailers from throwing out still-edible products. Celebrity chefs introduced food waste "pop-up" restaurants. Vancouver launched its "Love Food Hate Waste" consumer awareness campaign. And neighbours banded together to set up "community refrigerators" to share leftovers. But experts say that well-meaning, smaller and local initiatives are little defence against an ever-growing and complicated problem. Some of the initiatives – especially those aimed at just one level in the supply chain – can cause further problems. For example, retailers suddenly diverting large quantities of perishable products to charities that aren't equipped to handle them can leave those charitable groups responsible for their disposal. "What we're doing is basically putting little Band-Aid solutions in bits and pieces everywhere," said Tammara Soma, the lead researcher at the University of Toronto's Food Systems Lab. "What we need are systemic changes," she said. "That's why they're so difficult to do. Because they require sacrifice." [Globe and Mail](#)

CAGONT

Canadian Association of Geographers - Ontario Division



The Canadian Association of Geographers-Ontario Division annual meeting will be hosted by Queen's University on **October 20-21, 2017**. The theme of the conference is Geographical Perspectives: Approaching a Complex World.

Please see the [conference website](#) for more details

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Stefania Bertazzon and Fox Underwood. 2017. [Canada: Climate change, air pollution and health](#). In: Climate Change and Air Pollution. Edited by: R. Akhtar and C. Palagiano. Springer Climate. Springer, Cham. 89-98.

Sarah Burch, Carrie Mitchell, Marta Berbes-Blazquez and Johanna Wandel. 2017. [Tipping toward transformation: progress, patterns and potential for climate change adaptation in the global South](#). Journal of Extreme Events. doi.org/10.1142/S2345737617500038

Xiangnan Chai, Yujiro Sano, Moses Kansanga, Jemima Baada and Roger Antabe. 2017. [Married women's negotiation for safer sexual intercourse in Kenya: does experience of female genital mutilation matter?](#) Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare. doi.org/10.1016/j.srhc.2017.09.003

Evan Cleave, Godwin Arku and Merlin Chatwin. 2017. [Are they surgeons? or are they plumbers? assessing the role of private sector consultants in place branding and other place-based economic development strategies](#). Public Organization Review. doi.org/10.1007/s11115-017-0396-0

Yue Dou, Peter Deadman, Derek Robinson, Oriana Almeida, Sergio Rivero, Nathan Vogt and Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez. 2017. [Impacts of cash transfer programs on rural livelihoods: a case study in the Brazilian Amazon estuary](#). Human Ecology. doi.org/10.1007/s10745-017-9934-1

Ian S. Evans, Derek T. Robinson and Rebecca C. Rooney. 2017. [A methodology for relating wetland configuration to human disturbance in Alberta](#). Landscape Ecology 32:2059–2076.

Alemu Gonsamo, Jean-Michel Walter, Jing M. Chen, Petri Pellikk and Patrick Schlepp. 2018. [A robust leaf area index algorithm accounting for the expected errors in gap fraction observations](#). Agricultural and Forest Meteorology 248:197-204.

Yanpeng Jiang, Nalini Mohabir, Renfeng Ma and Pengyu Zhu. 2017. [Sorting through neoliberal variations of ghost cities in China](#). Land Use Policy 69:445-453.

Germana Manca and Nigel Waters. 2017. [Maps and beyond: An excursus on Sixteenth-Century maps of American coastlines, collected in Italy, a GIS Approach](#). Cartographica: The International Journal for Geographic Information and Geovisualization 52:238-250.

A. McMahon and R.D. Moore. 2017. [Influence of turbidity and aeration on the albedo of mountain streams](#). Hydrological Processes. DOI:10.1002/hyp.11370

Ryan Plummer, Steven Renzetti†, Ryan Bullock Maria de Lourdes Melo Zurita, Julia Baird, Diane Dupont, Timothy Smith and Dana Thomsen. 2017. [The roles of capitals in building capacity to address urban flooding in the shift to a new water management approach](#). Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space. doi.org/10.1177/2399654417732576

Nasrin Saleh, Margaret Penning, Denise Cloutier, Anastasia Mallidou, Kim Nuernberger and Deanne Taylor, 2017. [Social engagement and antipsychotic use in addressing the behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia in long-term care facilities](#). Canadian Journal of Nursing Research. doi.org/10.1177/0844562117726253

T. Stephens, S.C. Wilson, F.Cassidy, D. Bender, D. Gummer, D.H.V. Smith, N. Lloyd, J.M. McPherson and A. Moehrensclager. 2017. [Climate change impacts on the conservation outlook of populations on the poleward periphery of species ranges: A case study of Canadian black-tailed prairie dogs \(*Cynomys ludovicianus*\)](#). Global Change Biology. DOI:10.1111/gcb.13922

Prasamsa Thapa, Yvonne E. Martin and E.A. Johnson. 2017. [Quantification of controls on regional rockfall activity and talus deposition, Kananaskis, Canadian Rockies](#). Geomorphology. doi.org/10.1016/j.geomorph.2017.09.039

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Sherifat Adekola. 2017. [From brain drain to brain train – a transnational case analysis of Nigerian migrant health care workers](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Margaret Walton-Roberts.

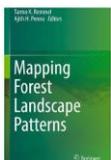
Katherine Diane Dearborn. 2017. [Landscape-scale variability in the composition, growth and pattern of alpine treeline vegetation](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography and Planning, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisor: Ryan Danby.

Emmanuel Ole Kileli. 2017. [Assessment of the effectiveness of a community-based conservation approach used by pastoralist villages in Loliondo Division, northern Tanzania](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia. Supervisor: Philip Dearden.

Luisa Ramirez. 2017. [Marine protected areas in Colombia: Re-connecting social, ecological, and policy aspects through a governance perspective](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Scott Slocombe.

New Book

Tarmo Rimmel and Ajith Perera (Eds.) 2017. [Mapping Forest Landscape Patterns](#). Springer-Verlag New York. 326 p. ISBN:978-1-4939-7329-3



This book explores the concepts, premises, advancements, and challenges in quantifying natural forest landscape patterns through mapping techniques. After several decades of development and use, these tools can now be examined for their foundations, intentions, scope, advancements, and limitations. When applied to natural forest landscapes, mapping techniques must address concepts such as stochasticity, heterogeneity, scale dependence, non-Euclidean geometry, continuity, non-linearity, and parsimony, as well as be explicit about the intended degree of abstraction and assumptions. These studies focus on quantifying natural (i.e., non-human engineered) forest landscape patterns, because those patterns are not planned, are relatively complex, and pose the greatest challenges in cartography, and landscape representation for further interpretation and analysis.

Other “Geographical” News

The Mackenzie basin, Canada's largest watershed, in the midst of a rapid and uncertain transformation: Bringing together the work of 12 separate Indigenous organizations from across the Mackenzie and its tributaries, the report documents impacts that are related to resource development, environmental contamination and the growing demand for hydroelectric energy in the basin's headwaters. And while the various causes and effects are difficult to disentangle, the result makes clear how climate change acts as a multiplier by exacerbating the increasing pressure on a river system that drains one fifth of Canada's total land area and helps sustain dozens of communities with tons of fish harvested annually. [Globe and Mail](#)

Overrun by rodents? St. John's named 'rattiest' city in Atlantic Canada: St. John's is number one in Atlantic Canadian cities when it comes to rats, according to Orkin Canada. Halifax, Saint John, Moncton and Dartmouth round out the top five. Mount Pearl and Paradise came in at number six and seven on the list, respectively. The dubious distinction is based on the number of commercial and residential treatments the pest control company provided for rats and mice in Atlantic Canada from Sept. 1, 2016 to Aug. 31, 2017, according to a news release from the company. [CBCNews | Newfoundland & Labrador](#)

Plenty of ways to bring an end to plagiarism in university essays: The answer to plagiarism at the undergraduate level is quite simple: revert to the old fashioned method of assessing each student by a written examination at the end of each term, course or degree. Unless the student is very lucky in their choice of plagiarised essays or examination questions, and also has a photographic memory, they will not succeed. Indeed, if they have bought some answers, to learn them, they might even have learnt something of the subject. [The Guardian](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>

@CanGeographers Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
