



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers  
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**2017 Camsell Medal awarded to Jody Decker and Philip Howarth:** The Royal Canadian Geographical Society Camsell Medal was awarded to Jody Decker, Professor Emeritus of geography, Wilfrid Laurier University and Phil Howarth, Professor Emeritus of geography, University of Waterloo. The RCGS awarded **Dr. Jody Decker** the 2017 Camsell Medal in recognition of her support for the Society's educational mission. Decker joined the Research and Grants Committee in 2005, and in 2009, began chairing the committee. She also played an instrumental role in the Maxwell Human Geography Sub-Committee, and served on the Board of Governors from 2009 to 2014. During a period when the Society was functioning under severe financial constraints, Decker was a passionate and constant advocate for the funding of the research and grants program, emphasizing its importance to university students over the course of their geography studies. As a result of her diligent efforts, underscored by her personal investment of time and resources, the research and grants program was reinstated and continues to this day, providing critical financial support to graduate and undergraduate students in the field of geography. The RCGS awarded the 2017 Camsell Medal to **Dr. Philip Howarth**, who served the Society in a variety of capacities with dedication and distinction since 2000. As a long-standing member and chair of the Lectures Committee, Howarth delivered a national outreach program that engaged Canadians, served the Society's educational mission, and raised the profile of the RCGS by establishing innovative new partnerships. While chair of the Lectures Committee, Howarth also served on the Policy and Planning Committee from 2004 to 2009, as well as two terms on the Board of Governors. More recently, Phil has joined the Awards Committee, where he continues to contribute insightful views to further support geography leaders, innovators, and educators. [2017 RCGS Camsell Medal](#)

**U British Columbia undergraduate geographer Henry Flanagan believes that, with another cold winter ahead, Vancouver needs to rethink road-salting:** Last year's winter weather was highly unusual for the Lower Mainland, and cities and residents struggled to cope. Part of Vancouver's response was to spread large quantities of salt over roads in the city. The city purchased an unprecedented volume of salt, more than 9,000 tons, for de-icing, spending more than a million dollars in the process. On the surface, the practice of salting appears to be a safe and responsible way of dealing with snowy and icy surfaces. Why else would the city of Vancouver have used so much of it last winter? However, research shows the salt from roads runs off into nearby bodies and can lead to lethal concentrations of salt for various types of fish, insects, and trees. The City of Vancouver should further explore ways in which it can limit the amount of salt used on roads during winter in order to minimize the damages that it causes. Vancouver prides itself on being a "green" and sustainable city, and these values shouldn't be thrown out during winter storms. [Georgia Straight](#)

### **Kwantlen Polytechnic U's John Rose calls Metro Vancouver's housing shortage a 'myth':**

Politicians and developers have long pointed the finger at a shortage in supply as a root cause of Metro Vancouver's skyrocketing home prices. John Rose, a geographer at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, however, is now challenging what he calls the myth that simply adding more units will help solve the problem. Rose studied the housing supplies in Canada's 33 largest municipalities between 2001 and 2016. "The prices (in Metro Vancouver) escalated dramatically over that 15-year period. You might expect that supply might have shrunk during that period of time. In fact, the opposite is true," he says. In a report he plans to release Friday, Rose uses figures from Statistics Canada census reports in his analysis. His number crunching found that for every 100 individuals or families who moved to the region since 2001, 119 housing units were also added to the market. According to those numbers, the professor said, the Vancouver area had the fifth largest housing supply of the 33 cities he studied. "The market has provided a lot of units, yet at the same time, we've seen affordability get degraded," Rose said. "We look back at this and we say, 'If you're trying to figure out what the cause of the housing crisis is, it doesn't seem to be the product of adding enough units to the market.'" Instead, Rose contends that "speculative investment" has resulted in tens of thousands of empty homes and led to the region's sky-high prices. He says as of 2016, the Metro Vancouver region had more than 60,000 vacant units. "We've got all this available supply that's just sitting there unoccupied," Rose said. Rose's findings haven't been without controversy, however. Critics argue that adding to the housing supply will nevertheless put downward pressure on home prices. The professor said he's not opposed to building more units, but hopes his study will highlight the need for a "multi-pronged attack" that involves adding types of housing that are less likely to be snatched up by investors. "My word to policy-makers is that we need to be really measured and careful about how we go forward, but I think we really do need to go forward in a different fashion from what we've been doing," he said. [CTVNews | Vancouver](#)

### **U Alberta's John England reminds us that the 'Arctic, fragile vessel of nature, sustainable heritage':**

England has spent over 50 summers across Canada's Arctic, painstakingly surveying its ecosystem and evolution from the Ice Age to present day. The U of Alberta professor emeritus described being there as a sort of "religious experience." "Going to the Arctic is like taking a 'behavioral bath,' shedding all life's problems," he said. "You come with your body covered with life's 'barnacles,' the tensions, discontents and baggage. Amid the Arctic's vast emptiness and silence, you sweep them away and experience who you truly are deep underneath the trappings of modern life, the distractions, noise, fragmentation and industrialization." "In the environment of sacredness," he added, "You appreciate what matters the most." England stressed that the polar zone is under threat of climate and environmental changes more acutely than any other place on earth. He asked for the global community's "shared love" of the natural environment over material aggrandizement. His research has focused on the history of ancient ice sheets, ocean and lake sediments, ocean currents and sea levels, providing a long-term perspective on climate change. [The Korea Herald](#)

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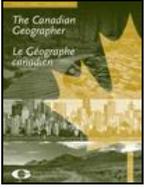
### **Recent Theses and Dissertations**

Daniel Haught. 2017. [Acoustically derived suspended sediment concentrations and flux: Fraser River, Canada](#). PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Jeremy Venditti

Nazie Naraghi. 2017. The aesthetic unconscious and post-migrant Iranian subjectivity in Los Angeles. PhD dissertation. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Paul Kingsbury.

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



Anne Godlewska, Laura Schaepli, Jennifer Massey, Sheila Freake and John Rose. 2017. [Awareness of Aboriginal peoples in Newfoundland and Labrador: Memorial's first-year students \(2013\) speak](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12427

As part of the Assessing Student Awareness of Indigenous Peoples survey of Newfoundland and Labrador and before exposing them to any Indigenous content, we asked first-year students at Memorial University the three most important things they knew about Aboriginal people. At the end of the survey we asked them another open-ended question: did they consider the test a valid measure of their knowledge, and why or why not. The responses to these two questions taught us a great deal about what students know and think. Overwhelmingly their thinking is marred by racism, stereotypes, and an inability to access language to express the specificity and diversity of Aboriginal peoples in Canada. In some cases, these views and attitudes are reinforced rather than dispelled in primary, middle, and secondary education. Despite a poor performance on the test, more than 78% of students considered the test a valid measure of their knowledge. Both the answers in the positive and negative are revealing of student attitudes about Aboriginal people and topics.

Kylee van der Poorten and Byron Miller. 2017. [Secondary suites, second-class citizens: The history and geography of Calgary's most controversial housing policy](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12425

Secondary suites have been a contentious topic in Calgary's municipal politics for the past three decades—despite a physical location that is, in a granular sense, often concealed. To date, policymakers in Calgary have opted to retain strict zoning restrictions for suites in established suburban areas. Using municipal spatial data and mapping techniques, we locate a considerable number of these rental units and foreground these findings with a qualitative analysis of the historical politics and policies that have shaped Calgary's approach to secondary suite management. A significant finding is that practices of neighbourhood governance have worked in tandem with zoning controls to discipline and/or exclude “unwelcome” neighbours, producing a distinct geography of unauthorized secondary suites concentrated in low-income and immigrant-oriented neighbourhoods. Evidence suggests that long-standing material interests, including but not limited to class, continue to shape Calgary's most controversial housing policy.



**U Waterloo's Monica Varga**, a coop student in Geography and Environmental Management, recognized for a report on *GIS-Based Habitat Suitability Modelling for Gray Ratsnakes in Southern Ontario*. [U Waterloo Environment](#)

## Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jesse B. Abrams, Heidi R. Huber-Stearns, Christopher Bone, Christine A. Grummon and Cassandra Moseley. 2017. [Adaptation to a landscape-scale mountain pine beetle epidemic in the era of networked governance: the enduring importance of bureaucratic institutions](#). Ecology and Society 22. doi.org/10.5751/ES-09717-220422

K. Bahadur, N. Bond, E.D.G. Fraser, V. Elliott, T. Farrell, K. McCann, N. Rooney and C. Bieg. 2017. [Exploring tropical fisheries through fishers' perceptions: Fishing down the food web in the Tonlé Sap, Cambodia](#). Fisheries Management and Ecology. DOI:10.1111/fme.12246

Alison Gill. 2017 [Reflections on institutional and paradigmatic changes in tourism geography: a Canadian perspective](#). Tourism Geographies. doi.org/10.1080/14616688.2017.1399441

Dalal E.L. Hanna, Stephanie A. Tomscha, Camille Ouellet Dallaire and Elena M. Bennett. 2017. [A review of riverine ecosystem service quantification: research gaps and recommendations](#). Journal of Applied Ecology. DOI:10.1111/1365-2664.13045

Eduardo Loos, Maycira Costa and Sophia Johannessen. 2017. [Underwater optical environment in the coastal waters of British Columbia, Canada](#). Facets 2:872-891.

Shezhou Luo, Jing M. Chen, Cheng Wang, Alemu Gonsamo, Xiaohuan Xi, Yi Lin, Mingjie Qian, Dailiang Peng, Sheng Nie and Haiming Qin. 2017. [Comparative performances of airborne LiDAR height and intensity data for leaf area index estimation](#). IEEE Journal of Selected Topics in Applied Earth Observations and Remote Sensing 99. DOI:10.1109/JSTARS.2017.2765890

Jonathan Peyton and Matt Dyce. 2017. [Colony on Main: history and the ruins of imperialism in Vancouver's restaurant frontier](#). Cultural Geographies 24:589-609.

B.D. Plumb, W.K. Annable, P.J. Thompson and M.A. Hassan. 017. [The impact of urbanization on temporal changes in sediment transport in a gravel bed channel in Southern Ontario, Canada](#). Water Resources Research 53:8443–8458.

Emily Rosenman. 2017. [The geographies of social finance. Poverty regulation through the 'invisible heart' of markets](#). Progress in Human Geography. doi.org/10.1177/0309132517739142

Jonathan Salerno, Colin A. Chapman, Jeremy E. Diem, Nicholas Dowhaniuk, Abraham Goldman, Catrina A. MacKenzie, Patrick Aria Omeja, Michael W. Palace, Rafael Reyna-Hurtado, Sadie J. Ryan and Joel Hartter. 2017. [Park isolation in anthropogenic landscapes: land change and livelihoods at park boundaries in the African Albertine Rift](#). Regional Environmental Change. doi.org/10.1007/s10113-017-1250-1

Caroline M. Preston, Martin Simard, Yves Bergeron, Guy Bernard and Roderick Wasylishen. 2017. [Charcoal in organic horizon and surface mineral soil in a boreal forest postfire chronosequence of Western Quebec: stocks, depth distribution, chemical properties and a synthesis of related studies](#). Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution. DOI:10.3389/feart.2017.00098

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Pamela E. Tetford, Joseph R. Desloges and Dimitri Nakassis. 2017. [Modelling surface geomorphic processes using the RUSLE and specific stream power in a GIS framework, NE Peloponnese, Greece](#). Modeling Earth Systems and Environment. doi.org/10.1007/s40808-017-0391-z

Jesse C. Vermaire, Zofia E. Taranu, Graham K. MacDonald, Katherine Velghe, Elena M. Bennett and Irene Gregory-Eaves. 2017. [Extrinsic versus intrinsic regimes shifts in shallow lakes: Long-term response of cyanobacterial blooms to historical catchment phosphorus loading and climate warming](#). Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution. DOI:10.3389/fevo.2017.00146

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## Other “Geographical” News

**What it’s like to be an under-paid Ontario college instructor:** While I was studying for my PhD in 2016, I was looking for opportunities to develop my teaching skills. I had already designed and taught one course at a university, an experience that whet my appetite for teaching. I was eager to try another course. I applied for and was offered a college course. I was told that I would be teaching two sections of 25 students, each for two hours a week. This sounded perfect for me. What I did not realize was that this course was very heavy in marking time. In total I worked on this course for 102 hours and was paid for just 24 hours. So I worked 78 hours of unpaid overtime. Although most of my work was as a “volunteer,” it was good experience. Because of this, I accepted a second course, in the last year of my PhD. As this course neared completion, I asked for a meeting to discuss permanent employment. It was then I learned that the time I spent teaching at the college would not provide any advantages to me if I did apply to a full-time position there. [Maclean’s](#)

**Academic colleagues, where was your support for my chronic illness?** During my part-time PhD studies, I developed a rare degenerative, chronic medical condition. I didn’t want my condition to prevent the completion of my PhD, nor influence my global academic ambition and culturally nomadic existence. I knew it wasn’t going to be easy, but I didn’t realise how hard the lack of support I was given from colleagues would make it. [The Guardian](#)

**Added Arctic data shows global warming didn't pause:** Missing Arctic temperature data, not Mother Nature, created the seeming slowdown of global warming from 1998 to 2012, according to a new study. [ScienceDaily](#)

**Smithers, B.C., looks at bylaw to avoid future 'sidewalks to nowhere':** The northern B.C. town of Smithers is hoping a small bylaw change will avoid future concrete controversies. Mayor Taylor Bachrach is planning on introducing a motion next council meeting to change the town's rules around infrastructure upgrades by businesses. He's hoping it would mean small stretches of sidewalks won't automatically be built in places where they aren't needed — as happened in 2016 in an area where the nearest sidewalk was about half a kilometre away. [CBCNews | British Columbia](#)

**Get ready for Winterpeg:** Winnipeggers be prepared, the rest of Canada is going to be calling you that nickname you hate so much. “It looks like Winnipeg will be earning its name Winterpeg,” Weather Network meteorologist Brad Rousseau said winter will be unkind to Friendly Manitoba. A La Nina weather pattern in the Pacific Ocean off South America, where ocean temperatures are colder than normal, is what the Weather Network is attributing to its forecast, which calls for a blustery and colder-than-normal winter throughout Canada. These types of patterns tend to favour a lot more cold spells spilling into the prairies.” [Winnipeg Sun](#)

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## Some Not So “Geographical” News



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