



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Victoria’s Denise Cloutier a passionate advocate for quality of life as people age: Research starts in the brain but works its way to the heart, says a University of Victoria health geographer whose studies of dementia and care across the lifespan have made her a passionate advocate for quality of life as people age. “One of the wisdoms I hold is that communities that care for the most vulnerable persons are healthier for everyone who lives in them,” says Denise Cloutier, whose research into how people experience life—and death—in long-term care is done in partnership with residents, families, health authorities and other academic researchers. Health geographers like Cloutier specialize in exploring the impact of physical surroundings and communities on our lives and sense of well-being. Nobody dreams of spending their last years in a care facility, acknowledges Cloutier. But much could be done to increase the feeling of “home” in those facilities, which house almost a third of Canadians over age 85. “So much of the residential-care system is focused on quality of care not quality of life, on tasks instead of time spent with residents,” says Cloutier. “Personally, I think that having someone to talk to—to hold your hand, take you to social activities, help with meals—may be more important than other tasks.” The trend to contracting out food services is a perfect example, she says. It might make budgetary sense, but denies residents the familiar aromas of food cooking associated with “home.” Of the 22,000 British Columbians in residential care interviewed in a recent report from the BC Seniors Advocate last fall, Cloutier notes that only 57% reported that their facilities felt like home. Forty-six per cent said no one living with them felt like a close friend. “We need to find ways to help care workers address issues of quality of life more fully, encouraging them in their daily work to make a real difference in the lives of older persons. Insufficient budgets and evaluating staff solely on tasks completed or number of medications handed out interfere with that goal,” says Cloutier. “Many staff go the extra mile every day to support quality of life for residents. But going the extra mile for quality of life needs to be the goal every day not the exception.” As a professor in UVic’s Department of Geography and Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, Cloutier has researched the trajectories of urban and rural residents in long-term care; explored strategies for increasing hands-on care in facilities; and compared behavioural responses in people with dementia transitioning to new facilities. [UVic | knowLEDGE](#)

Vancouver Island U Geography hosts two successful events with Geographic Students Union: The first a film showing of “Chasing Coral,” followed by a panel discussion of three experts on the challenges facing coral reefs – including BC’s unique glass sponge corals – was attended by between 70 and 80 people. It was characterized by vigorous discussion and free pizza at the end of the night. The second was the 12th Annual Urban Issues Film Festival. There was much active discussion of the films and speakers which were organized around the theme of “Tactical Urbanism and the Creative City.” GSU members played a particularly important role, coordinating the pizza dinner, staffing the registration table, introducing films and leading discussions, and providing beverages, like juices, tea and coffee. [VIU Geography News](#)

McGill U's Renée Sieber comments on why Google's Sidewalk Labs to remake Toronto might be a big mistake: Sidewalk Labs, a subsidiary of Google parent company Alphabet Inc., is working with Waterfront Toronto on a plan to rebuild an underdeveloped east end area called Quayside. Sidewalk's ideas, such as a network of underground garbage disposal robots and a climate-friendly thermal grid powered by waste heat, sound cutting edge. But tech companies have been pitching similar utopian visions for almost a decade, and experts say Toronto may be about to repeat many of the same mistakes other cities have made in letting those companies conduct experiments. Sidewalk's vision for this particular experiment is certainly ambitious. In its response to Waterfront Toronto's request for proposals to develop Quayside, Sidewalk paints a picture of a neighbourhood where streets are closed to all but autonomous vehicles, buildings are constructed from modular units that allow them to quickly change uses, and sensors collect data to optimize everything from traffic to waste collection. There are also many critics, however, and many of them have focused on the privacy issues inherent in the data-gathering technology Sidewalk plans to embed in the neighbourhood. Renée Sieber, a geography professor at McGill University in Montreal who uses and studies open data, said she's concerned that the focus on privacy will give Sidewalk an excuse to be less than transparent about the data it collects. "The concern about privacy has sort of sucked up all the oxygen in this question about openness. That can be used quite cynically as a way to cordon data," Sieber said. "It can also be used quite cynically so one doesn't have to talk about the other issues in the smart city." [Financial Post](#)

U Toronto Mississauga's Yuhong He discusses her research using remote sensing: Grizzly bears, bison, and the ways to find them, appeared to be the highlights of a recent "Meet your Prof!" event organized by the Student Association for Geography and Environment. Hosting Dr. Yuhong He, associate professor in the Department of Geography at the University of Toronto Mississauga, the event saw discussions about He's research with endangered species, remote sensing, and her experiences through charting a career in geography. The former weather analyst also explained how she used remote sensing to map disturbances and developed methods to study impacts of clear cutting, and how male and female grizzly bears move around those disturbances: "Interestingly, we found that males like to go to the clear-cut forest areas because of the high berry growth there, and they use that as a food source. [. . .] Females don't like to hang around urban areas, especially moms, because of the associated risk." He's laboratory uses remote sensing techniques, spatial analysis, climate data, and ecosystem modelling in studies of natural or managed systems, the latter being grassland, forest, wetland, and agriculture. The team attempts to understand the linkages between observed environmental changes and anthropogenic driving factors, such as oil and gas exploration, at multiple spatial and temporal scales. [The Medium](#)

U Victoria's Chris Darimont hopes to end the co-opting of science to justify questionable policies: In his recent opinion letter published in [Nature](#), UVic conservation scientist Chris Darimont applauded the provincial government's ban on grizzly bear trophy hunting in BC. He described it as "an end to the co-opting of science to justify questionable policies." "Questionable policies can be built on unreliable population data that inflate the numbers of large carnivore populations," explains Darimont, a faculty member in UVic's geography department and the science director at Raincoast Conservation Foundation. "An era of open access data and increasingly quantitative wildlife science allows unprecedented opportunity for researchers to 'look under the hood' of wildlife management. Such independent inspection can reveal the potential for politics to influence policy." The large carnivore case studies that inspired the researchers to coin the term "political populations" are: wolves in the US and Sweden; grizzly bears in Romania and Canada (specifically, BC). Darimont and his colleagues are calling for academic research to expose political populations and the possibly risky policies built upon those numbers, as well as the potential political drivers behind both unreliable population data and associated policy. He adds, "Increased scrutiny could pressure governments to present wildlife data and policies that are crafted by incorporating key components of science: transparent methods, reliable population data and intelligible decisions emerging from them both." [UVic News](#)

Queen's U's Audrey Kobayashi and co-authors receive the CHOICE Book Award for Outstanding Academic Title in 2017: The AAG-Wiley [International Encyclopedia of Geography: People, the Earth, Environment, and Technology](#) is the recipient of a prestigious [CHOICE](#) Outstanding Academic Title 2017 award from the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association. The new international AAG publication is the most comprehensive and authoritative reference work in geography today, and as it will be updated annually, will likely remain so for decades to come. Significantly, as the Encyclopedia's Editor-in-Chief Douglas Richardson noted, "this six-year encyclopedia project also resulted in building a collaborative international community of leading geography scholars and researchers who served as editors and authors, and with the international geographical societies and associations with whom the AAG interacted throughout the creation of *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*." This landmark work, published in 2017 in both hard copy (15 volumes) and online, is written for a graduate student audience, but also in a style to be accessible to undergraduates and the educated public. Reviewed by CHOICE in October 2017, the Encyclopedia also received a "Summing Up" award of "Highly Recommended" for community college and undergraduate students through professionals/practitioners as well as for general readers. The published review referred to the work as "an initiative of the sort that yields high-quality, subject-specific information that librarians and faculty will want to direct students to, helping to counter the problem of novice researchers citing information that they readily encounter online but are ill-equipped to evaluate critically." [AAG Newsletter](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

- Kurt Borth and Robert Summers. 2018. [Segmentation of homebuyers by location choice preferences](#). Housing Policy Debate. doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2017.1393690
- James D. Ford, Nicole Couture, Trevor Bell and Dylan G. Clark. 2018. [Climate change and Canada's north coast: research trends, progress, and future directions](#). Environmental Reviews. doi.org/10.1139/er-2017-0027
- Maura Hanrahan. 2017. [The endurance of polar explorers' Arctic imaginaries and the promotion of neoliberalism and colonialism in modern Greenland](#). Polar Geography 41:1-19. DOI 10.1080/1088937X.2017.1303754
- Maura Hanrahan and Benjamin Dosu Jr. 2017. [The rocky path to source water protection: a cross-case analysis of drinking water crises in small communities in Canada](#). Water 9:388. DOI:10.3390/w9060388
- Markus Moos, Nick Revington, Tristan Wilkin and Jean Andrey. 2018. [The knowledge economy city: Gentrification, studentification and youthification, and their connections to universities](#). Urban Studies. doi.org/10.1177/0042098017745235
- Markus Moos, Tara Vinodrai, Nick Revington and Michael Seasons. 2018. [Planning for mixed use: Affordable for whom?](#) Journal of the American Planning Association 84:7-20.
- Anastasia E. Sniderhan, Gordon G. McNickle and Jennifer L. Baltzer. 2018. [Assessing local adaptation vs. plasticity under different resource conditions in seedlings of a dominant boreal tree species](#). Annals of Botany.
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Brock U celebrates success of Connor Dingle of Geography received an award for his major research paper, "*Mobile Technology and Reconstituting Place at the Matheson Learning Common*". [The Brock News](#)

Queen's U's John Holmes commented in the *National Post* on the impact of the automotive provisions contained in the new Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). He says Canadian automotive parts producers with an extensive global footprint stand to benefit from the new TPP agreement. [Queen's U Geography](#)

U Victoria's Aleck Ostry and a team of UVic geography researchers received over \$500,000 in CIHR funding for their Indigenous health project.

Simon Fraser U's Jeff Derksen appointed Dean and Associate Provost, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies: Dr. Derksen joined SFU in 2003 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and went on to become Professor of English and Associate Member in the Department of Geography. [SFU Geography](#)

U Waterloo students finding a fit in Geomatics. Geomatics at Waterloo gives students a foundation in computer programming and statistics, as well as environmental analysis. And because it is still an emerging field, it offers plenty of opportunity to chart new territory. "If you're interested in how technology intersects with nature and society, Geomatics is worth pursuing." [UW Environment](#)

U Saskatchewan's Kevin Ansell comments on the agreement between the Saskatchewan and federal governments to help junior mining companies in their exploration of northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. "The challenge is actually identifying the deposits. This survey is going to be taking place and trying to see through rocks that actually cover the old volcanic rocks in Flin Flon you can see on the ground," said University of Saskatchewan geography professor Kevin Ansell. [Luxora Leader](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Cameron A Irvine. 2018. [Effects of land use and hydrophysical drivers on temporal and spatial variability of phosphorus and nitrate export in an agricultural subwatershed in southern Ontario, Canada](#). MSc thesis in Geography. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario. Supervisor: Merrin Macrae.

Rebeca Salas. 2018. [Spatial narratives of property loss: a geographical perspective on the relationship between memory and property](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia. Supervisor: Nicholas Blomley

WDCAG-2018

60th Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers

The [Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers](#) invites you to submit the title and abstract of a presentation, special session, or poster on geographic research at its 60th Annual Meeting to be held at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB on March 9-10 2018. [WDCAG-2018](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Time for Geography - The channel for inspirational geography learning videos: Geography is so much more than a school subject or academic discipline. It defines our everyday lives. The mission of *Time for Geography* is to support and empower the next generation of geographers, by creating and curating powerful, engaging content for secondary school students and teachers. The objectives are to produce and curate fresh, dynamic learning videos to inspire the next generation of geographers, and to support students in their journey from secondary school, to university and into careers that build on the study of geography, through informative blog articles and events. [Time for Geography](#)

How to ace multiple choice tests: Sure, studying is great. But when you can't decide between “D” and “C,” here are seven tips to help land an “A.” Tip #7: If you have not completed all of the questions when there are only a couple of minutes left, pick a lucky letter and guess on all remaining questions. Depending on how many options there are for each question, you have a 20-25% of guessing correctly! And a guessed correct response is worth just as much as one that is based on careful reasoning, time management, and studying. [Maclean's](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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[@CanGeographers](#) Weekly: <https://paper.li/CanGeographers/1394987315>
