



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Calgary's Shelley Alexander says spike in coyote sightings around Calgary coincides with breeding season: The City of Calgary says it has been receiving more reports of coyote sightings as spring gets closer. University of Calgary geography professor and canid expert Shelley Alexander says many of those sightings are likely due to breeding season. "They become more active seeking mates and getting ready to set up a territory where they will raise their young," she said. She added that snow and ice conditions this winter may be making it harder for coyotes to hunt, forcing some to move around more than usual in search of food. Alexander says attacks by coyotes are very rare but recommends pet owners stay cautious during coyote mating season. "Be more vigilant about keeping your animal close by," she said. "The important part for people to be aware of around this is that during mating season they can become more protective of their resources, their mates, and so it's a really important time for us to think about that and keep animals on leash." Tuscany resident Melissa Sawyer says she's had two close encounters with coyotes on early morning walks recently, including one confrontation where the animal was only about five metres away on a well-lit, busy street. "I just kind of froze, and then my dog started barking, and I'm like, no, don't bark," she said. Sawyer says the coyote wasn't aggressive and moved on. Coyotes breed in February and March and their young are born in April or May in litters of five to seven pups, Alberta Environment says. [CBCNews | Calgary](#)

Kwantlen Polytech U Geography welcomes new faculty member David Sadoway: Dr. [David Sadoway](#) is trained as an urban planner and resource and environmental manager; and he has lived and worked in East, South-East, and North-West Asia for over 15 years. His current research involves the socio-psychological impact of noise and vibration in high density neighbourhoods; smart citizenship; and urban features. David has a PhD in Urban Planning and Design from the University of Hong Kong (2013) and most recently served as a Research Fellow at Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) in the Division of Sociology (2015-2017). He also worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Concordia University (Montreal; 2012-2014), where he studied the politics of Indian urban infrastructure in Delhi and Bengaluru (Bangalore). Dr. Sadoway has been a Visiting Scholar at: The Technical University of Darmstadt's Topology of Technology Faculty (2013); the National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi (2013); as well as Academia Sinica's Center for Asia-Pacific Area Studies, Taipei (2008). His overall research interests include: Asia urbanism; civic environmentalism; urban infrastructure and technologies and community informatics. Dr. Sadoway has worked in the U.N. system, government, the non-profit sector, and with urban planning consultants in Toronto and Vancouver. [KPU Geography News](#)

U Toronto PhD candidate Cynthia Malone writes an op-ed on racism in science: Scientists in authority positions have told me that social justice does not belong in science. I have been accused of “reverse racism” for speaking out against actual racism at an international science conference, where I organized a handful of workshops and presentations on inclusion. While being called on to do “diversity” work for free and in hostile environments, I am tokenized and my status as a scientist questioned—despite years of education, global fieldwork, and management experience in ecology and conservation science. I did not struggle through the academy as a Black girl from a marginalized socio-economic background just to teach white people that Black peoples are human. Black scientists invested in doing science differently must build community with Black activists, who have honed the art of organized disruption, unapologetically declaring that “Black Lives Matter” as we reclaim our rightful place in scientific history. Together, we can explore questions critical to a radical scientific practice: What would science look like if everyone learned about the history and current manifestations of scientific racism and the illegitimacy of its theories? What would science look like if Black peoples’ worldviews were genuinely, consistently valued in knowledge production processes that generate theories and frameworks for inquiry? What would science look like with significant financial backing to address racist inequalities in education, health, and exposure to climate change impacts? [Motherboard](#)

Simon Fraser U’s Valorie Crooks and the risks associated with dental tourism in Mexico: Every year, thousands of Canadians head south to Mexico to soak up the warm sun – and make a quick stop at the dentist, getting procedures done for a lot less than they would cost back home. But what are the risks when seeking dental treatment abroad? Dentist Vikram Grewal has seen both good and bad work done in Mexico. He says some patients come home having received quality care at a lower price, but others end up paying more in the long run. Valorie Crooks, a health geographer at Simon Fraser University who focuses on medical tourism, says not all dental tourism ends in disaster. She has visited Los Algodones, a small, Mexican town near the U.S. border that’s been nicknamed “Molar City” for its proliferation of dental clinics serving foreigners. She says while the horror stories of dentistry done in Mexico get a lot of attention, many patients are more than satisfied with their care. But she says it’s difficult to get a full picture of the success rate for Canadian dental tourists because no one is keeping track how many people travel there for dental work. For some Canadians with no insurance and no means to pay for necessary but pricey dental work at home, Dr. Crooks says travelling outside the country might be their only option. While many users of Mexican dentists post reviews online, Dr. Crooks says there is a lack of reliable objective information, which makes research a must. She also warns Canadians to be careful of services that offer to book a dental appointment for you. “If you’re going to be using a broker or a third party who are going to be booking for you, understand who they are, what their interests are,” she advises. [CTV News](#)

Western U’s Jason Gilliland and Andrew Clark take on a two-year study to get kids walking: The long lineup of vans, cars and SUVs idling in front of schools every morning and afternoon speaks to a chronic problem. For years, school and community groups have tried, with limited success, to have more kids walk, cycle or take public transit to school, instead of being driven by mom or dad. But now, two Western University researchers have started a two-year study on how to turn the trend around with the help of a grant from Ontario’s Environment Ministry. Jason Gilliland and Andrew Clark, will be running the Active and Safe Routes to School program through Western’s Human Environments Analysis Laboratory. They will study 12 London-area public and Catholic schools to determine ways to remove barriers, change habits and come up with school travel plans to encourage more kids to walk, cycle or take public transit to school. Gilliland said it is believed to be the most rigorous project in Canada on the issue. While school boards and council and health officials have worked at the problem for years, and set up programs such as Walking School Bus, much of the work has been done by volunteers rather than research professionals. Clark said the issue is complex and involves perceptions of safety, personal fitness, concern for the environment and busy schedules. “You have to take a multi-pronged approach. [London Free Press](#)

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Michelle Amanda Chaput and Konrad Gajewski. 2018. [Relative pollen productivity estimates and changes in Holocene vegetation cover in the deciduous forest of southeastern Québec, Canada](#). Botany. doi.org/10.1139/cjb-2017-0193

Matt Dyce and Jonathan Peyton. 2018. [Magical regionalism: Canadian geography on screen in the 1950s](#). Papers in Canadian History and Environment. 1-63.

David J. Lieske and Vett K. Lloyd. 2018. [Combining public participatory surveillance and occupancy modelling to predict the distributional response of *Ixodes scapularis* to climate change](#). Ticks and Tick-borne Diseases. doi.org/10.1016/j.ttbdis.2018.01.018

Sinikka Okkola and Cédric Brunelle. 2018. [The changing determinants of housing affordability in oil-booming agglomerations: a quantile regression investigation from Canada, 1991–2011](#). Housing Studies. doi:10.1080/02673037.2017.1408784

Antti-Ilari Partanen, Jean-Sébastien Landry and H Damon Matthews. 2018. [Climate and health implications of future aerosol emission scenarios](#). Environmental Research Letters 13. doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/aaa511

Lu Wang. 2018. [Unequal spatial accessibility of integration-promoting resources and immigrant health: A mixed-methods approach](#). Applied Geography 92:140–149.

Michael J. Widener. 2018. [Spatial access to food: Retiring the food desert metaphor](#). Physiology & Behavior. doi.org/10.1016/j.physbeh.2018.02.032

Stephen A. Wolfe, Peter D. Morse, Christina M. Neudorf, Steven V. Kokelj, Olav B. Lian and H. Brendan O'Neill. 2018. [Contemporary sand wedge development in seasonally frozen ground and paleoenvironmental implications](#). Geomorphology.



U Saskatchewan's Dirk de Boer appointed acting vice-dean Indigenous the College of Arts & Science: Dirk de Boer, department head and professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, will take on the role of acting vice-dean Indigenous. De Boer has served multiple terms as head of the Department of Geography and Planning and is interim head of the Department of Indigenous Studies. [U Saskatchewan News & Events](#)

Brandon U's Geography Department offering a UAV Ground School course in 2017-18: The course provides a unique opportunity for Brandon U students and the general public to take a UAV Pilot Ground School course in compliance with Transport Canada regulations. The course may be counted toward a geography degree or as an elective, and visiting students from other academic institutions may also arrange to transfer this course to their home institution. [Brandon U](#)

Western U's Adjunct Professor Belinda Dodson recently shared her thoughts on Cape Town's water crisis on CBC Ottawa's All in a Day. Listen to the full interview at [All in a Day](#)

Other “Geographical” News

Researchers pinpoint the geographic location of "The Middle of Nowhere" in the United States:

The place to go when you want to get away from it all is Glasgow, Montana. About 4.5 hours from the nearest city, it's about as close as you can get to "the middle of nowhere" in the contiguous U.S. while still being in a decently-sized town. Glasgow's isolated status was determined in [a study](#) from Oxford University. Scientists at the Malaria Atlas Project wanted to use geography and demographic data to see which towns qualify as truly being in the middle of nowhere. After crunching the numbers, they were able to say roughly how long it would take for someone to traverse any given square kilometer of land in the country. If you're one of the 3363 people living in Glasgow, which is nestled in northeastern Montana, it would take you between 4 and 5 hours to drive to the nearest metro area. That entire corner of the state lays claim to the title of Middle of Nowhere, U.S.A. Scobey, Montana, less than 100 miles from Glasgow, is the second most isolated small town in the country, and Wolf Point, less than 50 miles away, takes third place. [Mental Floss](#)

Land use change has warmed Earth's surface: Recent changes to vegetation cover are causing Earth's surface to heat up. Activities like cutting down evergreen forests for agricultural expansion in the tropics create energy imbalances that lead to higher local surface temperatures and contribute to global warming. [ScienceDaily](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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