



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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U Toronto's Matti Siemiatycki comments on how rampant development and poor planning left residents of Etobicoke neighbourhood stuck in traffic: It's easy to see why people are flocking to live in Humber Bay Shores. At most times the highrise neighbourhood in south Etobicoke appears an idyllic community. Glistening modern towers stand near a waterfront park, offering scenic views of downtown and ample opportunity to walk, bike or sail along Lake Ontario. But the tranquil scene is shattered every weekday morning when thousands of residents clog the community's meagre transportation network as they struggle to make their way to work. And with new condo towers already under construction, locals predict the gridlock will only get worse. Matti Siemiatycki, an associate professor at the University of Toronto who specializes in transportation policy, says what's happened in Humber Bay Shores is symptomatic of a larger problem in the city. "The key issue in Toronto is that there is a separation between land use planning and transportation planning. And there's a lot of cooks in the kitchen," he said. He argued there is a fundamental lack of co-ordination between the institutions responsible for planning development and those building transit. They include the TTC and the city's planning and transportation departments at the municipal level, plus Metrolinx at the provincial level, and the OMB, which operates independently of government. The federal government also plays a crucial role in providing funding for major transit projects. Last year the provincial government decided to reform the OMB and replace it with a local tribunal that would give planning authority back to municipalities, but the decision could take years to come into effect. There are "a lot of different players involved who sometimes co-ordinate, and other times it's somewhat more ad hoc," Siemiatycki said. He also argued the city has made questionable decisions about where to build transit, often under political influence. Projects like the Line 4 Sheppard) subway and the extension of the Spadina subway to Vaughan were approved in anticipation of development springing up along those lines in the future, not necessarily to serve existing populations. [Toronto Star](#)



The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien is offering an "important update of the concepts and defining principles of Critical GIScience". [Volume 62, Issue 1](#)

U Northern British Columbia's [Brian Menounos](#) has received the [NRESi Distinguished Scholar Award](#) for 'profound influence on inter-disciplinary and/or applied research or service relating to natural resources and/or environment in British Columbia.

Memorial U undergraduate student Jenelle Pardy, winner of the 2018 Stuart Semple Scholarship. The [Stuart Semple Scholarship](#) is presented annually by Canadian Geographic Education, Royal Canadian Geographic Society, to a graduating student in Geography who will be pursuing an Education degree. Jenelle will graduate with a B.Sc. in Geography this spring, and will be pursuing a Bachelor of Education degree in the fall, as she works toward certification as an Intermediate/Secondary teacher of Geography.

WDCAG-2018

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

The Western Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers celebrated the anniversary of the 60th Annual Meeting of the Division this past weekend in Edmonton, Alberta. Hosted by the University of Alberta and King's University, the meeting was a roaring success thanks to the organizational skills of conference chair Leith Deacon and his merry band of orange shirt volunteers. Despite weather worries that emerged from the reminder that winter-isn't-quite-over in Alberta the weekend before, the conference weather was warm and utterly superb. Congratulations and much appreciation from all of the +250 registrants who attended the meeting.

The highlight of any WDCAG meeting are the many student papers and poster presentations that benchmark the divisional meeting. This year was no different, with +100 oral presentations in six concurrent sessions and over 40 poster presentations. Much thanks to all the student presenters who ensured the meeting was brim full of new advances and insights.

Best oral presentations

Undergrad: Travis Gingerich (UFV): *Optical Dating of the Postglacial Marine Regression, Savary Island, British Columbia*

Masters: Rebecca DeLorey (UNBC): *"There's no meaningful communication when it's just on paper": Problematizing Aboriginal Consultation on Nadleh Whut'en First Nation Territory*

PhD: Darcy Reynard (UofA): *Beg Buttons: Public Participatory GIS and Open Data in Community Engagement*

Best poster presentations

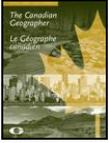
Undergrad: Kendra Hutchison and Kailyn Wiebe (KU): *Saving the Swamp? An Evaluation of the Alberta Wetland Policy*

Masters: Darcen Esau, Eva-Lean Lang, Chea Elton (UBC-O): *The Landscape Identity of the North Okanagan: Using Physical Geography, Climate, and History to Create a Distinctive Wine Region*

Ineke Dijks Award for best graduate student presentation

Bryan J. Mood (PhD, UVic): *A dendrohydrological analysis of the Greater Vancouver Regional District's water supply*

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



Chad Walker and Tanya Christidis. 2018. [Activists against research: Experiences studying wind energy in Ontario](#). The Canadian Geographer / Le Géographe canadien. DOI:10.1111/cag.12453

Whether because instances are rare or because academics are uncomfortable writing about them, descriptions of activism against academic research cannot be easily found within the existing literature. In this paper, we share our experience of being young geographic researchers faced with impassioned opposition against our work. Studies we conducted of wind energy development in rural Ontario spurred backlash; activists used several means of opposing our research and attempted to discredit us as capable academics. We share examples of direct and indirect communication from such people and advise that there is much to be learned, especially for those who may not have the benefit of mentors intimately familiar with the type of activism we encountered. The paper closes with a practical discussion of three lessons written particularly for academics who may be entering similar areas of contested geographic research for the first time.

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Bernard O. Bauer, Robin G.D. Davidson-Arnott, Michael J. Hilton and Douglas Fraser. 2018. [On the frequency response of a Wenglor particle-counting system for aeolian transport measurements](#). Aeolian Research 32:133–140.

Justine Gagnon and Caroline Desbiens. 2018. [Mapping memories in a flooded landscape: A place reenactment project in Pessamit \(Quebec\)](#). Emotion, Space and Society 27:39–51.

Colman Gallagher, Matt Balme, Richard Soare and Susan J. Conway. 2018. [Formation and degradation of chaotic terrain in the Galaxias regions of Mars: implications for near-surface storage of ice](#). Icarus 309:69–83.

Jessica Hallenbeck. 2017. [Water ethics: Think like a watershed](#). Studies in Social Justice 11:316-317.

Lu Jiang, Wenfeng Zhan, James Voogt, Limin Zhao, Lun Gao, Fan Huang, Zhe Cai and Weimin Ju. 2018. [Remote estimation of complete urban surface temperature using only directional radiometric temperatures](#). Building and Environment. doi.org/10.1016/j.buildenv.2018.03.005

Anthony M. Levenda, Jennifer Richter, Thaddeus Miller and Erik Fisher. 2018. Regional [Sociotechnical Imaginaries and the Governance of Energy Innovations](#). Futures. doi.org/10.1016/j.futures.2018.03.001

Robert G. Way and Antoni G. Lewkowicz. 2018. [Environmental controls on ground temperature and permafrost in Labrador, northeast Canada](#). Permafrost and Periglacial Processes. DOI:10.1002/ppp.1972

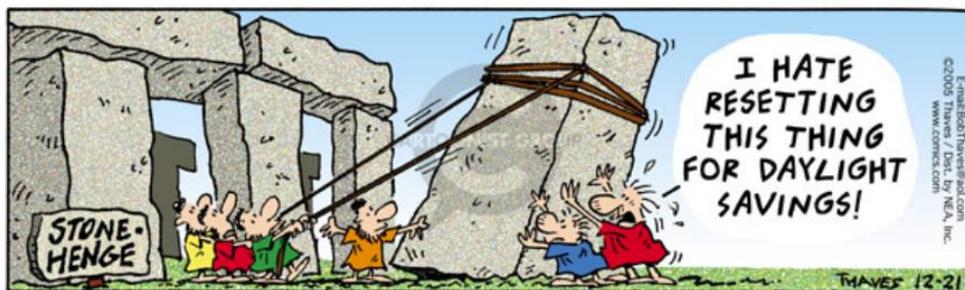
Other “Geographical” News

Stoney Nakoda First Nations hopes for park-guardian role in Banff: First Nations who claim title to land in and around Banff, Alta., are planning to boost their efforts to become Indigenous Guardians of Canada's oldest national park, encouraged by new money in the federal budget. Indigenous Guardians act as "eyes on the ground" in the traditional territories of their ancestors, protecting species at risk and preserving culturally significant locations. They patrol to prevent illegal hunting, educate hikers and campers, keep track of wildlife populations and gather information that can be used during negotiations with governments and resource companies. The Stoney Nakoda First Nations of southwestern Alberta, who launched a legal action in 2003 to claim title as well as Indigenous and treaty rights to Banff National Park and the surrounding area, wrote to the federal government in December to propose that they become the park's Indigenous Guardians. Ottawa has yet to respond. [Globe and Mail](#)

Butterfly highways, getting eaten in the Arctic, and science on the edge: Animals are lazy. Like us, they prefer a cleared path instead of beating through the brush. Thousands of kilometres of paths have been cleared through Alberta's boreal forest for oil exploration. Animals walk them. But do butterflies fly them? If given the choice, Arctic fritillaries prefer to fly a clear path with nothing in the way. They follow the path 50 per cent more than they would be expected to if they were just dispersing randomly. Why? A path, even one just four metres wide, creates forest edges. They're warmer, sunnier and windier: a.k.a., better for butterflies. Butterflies are amazing pollinators. There's some evidence, that an increase in butterflies lining paths leads to more blueberry plants growing there. More blueberries attract more bears to paths and roads — a dangerous spot for them. So, a change in butterfly behaviour could have consequences we don't foresee. [Vancouver Metro](#)

North Saskatchewan River watershed infected with whirling disease: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has declared the North Saskatchewan River watershed infected with whirling disease. The declaration covers all streams, creeks, lakes and rivers feeding into the river ending at the Saskatchewan border. The name comes from the circular swimming patterns of infected fish and affects cold-water salmonids such as salmon, trout and whitefish. The disease is not harmful to humans. The Alberta government is encouraging fishers and anglers to clean, drain and dry their gear to help prevent the spread of the parasite that causes whirling disease. [CBCNews | Edmonton](#)

Some Not So “Geographical” News



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