



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers
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Mount Allison's Ben Phillips finds that old-growth forests are being cut down in Guysborough County, Nova Scotia: A new report from Nova Scotia's Department of Natural Resources acknowledges policy changes are needed to ensure old-growth forest isn't being cut down unnecessarily. For its report, the department hired an independent expert, Ben Phillips, the director of the Dendrochronology Lab in the [Department of Geography & Environment](#) at Mount Allison University in Sackville, N.B., to count tree rings to determine tree age. Following the receipt of the study by Phillips, Natural Resources forester Peter Bush concluded that two of 12 forest stands that were partially harvested by Port Hawkesbury Paper earlier this year in the Lawlor Lake area of Guysborough County contained old-growth forest. It also found that eight of 15 stands in the queue to be cut also contained old-growth forest. The assessment was done in response to "public concern" about harvesting practices. The department and Port Hawkesbury Paper "both bear the responsibility" for the partial harvest of the two sections —approximately 30 per cent of the trees in the old-growth area — that shouldn't have been cut, said Natural Resources Minister Margaret Miller. For that reason, she said the company wouldn't be facing repercussions. In a statement issued in response to the report, Port Hawkesbury Paper said it will continue to follow the department's policies and procedures. It also said it would work with the department to improve its assessments. [CBCNews | Nova Scotia](#)

Memorial U's Trevor Bell on the role of SmartICE: Innovating climate-change adaptation in Canada's North: Innovation responds to many types of opportunities and drivers. For SmartICE, recent unprecedented changes in sea-ice conditions, and the associated impacts on Inuit safety and livelihoods motivated our technological innovation. Severe social inequity between Inuit and most other Canadians, together with first-hand experience working with Inuit communities, drove our social innovation. And to grow our northern enterprise will require further innovation—this time in social financing. SmartICE integrates on-ice technology, remote sensing and Inuit knowledge to generate near real-time information on ice conditions. To understand the enterprise's origins and relevance, it's important to appreciate that for more than six months of the year, sea ice hugs the Arctic coastline, where Inuit have lived and travelled for millennia. Sea ice is therefore not only a hunting platform and travel highway, it defines Inuit culture and identity. But SmartICE is not just a technological fix. It strives to be a social innovator, empowering communities to adapt to unpredictable ice conditions while maximizing societal impact. Following its successful demonstration in two pilot communities (Nain and Pond Inlet), and in response to increasing demand for its services, SmartICE established a northern social enterprise. [Policy Magazine](#)

Carleton U graduate student Paulina Ascencio Ramos awarded a PEO International Peace Scholarship: Paulina Ascencio Ramos, an MA geography student was awarded a Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO) International Peace Scholarship. Paulina is a first year Masters of Arts Geography student. Her research project will explore the everyday experiences of women in large-scale affordable housing developments in the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara, Mexico. She is interested in exploring the ways in which the configuration (location, homogeneity and build environment) of large-scale housing complexes facilitate or constrain women's everyday lives. She aims to contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of the low-income housing approach that Mexico has taken in recent years. She hopes that this project can be used as a case study to determine how women's experiential accounts of everyday life have to be incorporated in urban planning decisions in Mexico. Methodologically, Paulina follows feminist approaches to develop an extended case study with explicit attention on the perspectives of female "beneficiaries" and on the everyday negotiations that women have within and beyond their dwelling space. She argues that to give value and explore diversified experiences can account for the multi-faceted effects of housing in people's lives. [PEO](#) is a philanthropic organization where women celebrate the advancement of women; educate women through scholarships, grants, and awards. The PEO International Peace Scholarship, established in 1949, is a program which provides scholarships for selected women from other countries for graduate study in the United States and Canada [Carleton U Geography and Environmental Studies](#)

U Guelph's Jennifer Silver, along with UBC's Nathan Bennett, explore the 'human dimensions' of Bill C-68: Canada's GDP and the well-being of many rural communities in this country are tightly tied to our natural resources. Therefore, real sustainability in the primary resource sectors demands equal attention to ecology, economics and the people whose cultures and livelihoods depend on trees, minerals, fish and so on. Bill C-68, An Act to Amend the Fisheries Act and Other Acts in Consequence, tabled in February, has the potential to take Canadian fisheries management farther in this direction than ever before. As marine policy researchers, we think of the bill as enshrining "human dimensions" in Canadian fisheries law and believe that there are many good reasons to be doing so. First, fish are integral to food and trading, social and ceremonial practices in many Indigenous communities. A good number of Indigenous groups also see fishing as a cornerstone of local economic development. Second, fish stocks are a publicly owned resource. This means that they must be monitored and managed with transparency, with attention to whether and how corporate entities or foreign firms control fishing licences and quotas, and with opportunities for public participation and feedback. Third, fishing and fish processing employment is in decline in many coastal communities at the same time as Canada is exporting billions in seafood around the globe. This disconnect requires urgent attention, because coastal people should play a central role in harvesting and packing, and because as experienced workers in the seafood sector retire, maintaining and expanding opportunities for next-generation haves. The devil is in the details. Wording in C-68 suggests that traditional and community knowledge; social, economic and cultural factors; and the interests of active fish harvesters who own and operate their own vessels could be formally incorporated into decision-making. Things like the status of negotiations with Indigenous nations, local values ascribed to fishing and the number and viability of commercial opportunities for smaller-scale harvesters could be on the table, along with marine habitat health, fish stock status and aggregate revenues. If C-68 passes, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be responsible for operationalizing amendments through policy frameworks, regulations and management. We are cautiously optimistic. But we also know that attention to a broader range of human dimensions points Canadian fisheries management toward uncharted waters. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans will need to build and fund new capacity in areas such as governance, social science and Indigenous rights. It is clear that systematic planning and hiring will need to happen, but it is not immediately evident where this activity and expertise will be centred within the department's institutional structure. If C-68 passes, work to implement its amendments should begin immediately. [Policy Options](#)

U Waterloo's Daniel Scott on global tourism carbon footprint: Global tourism accounts for 8% of total worldwide greenhouse gas emissions, four times more than previously believed, new research says. Some gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, trap heat in the atmosphere, producing a "greenhouse effect," and so make the planet warmer. The amount of greenhouse gases released by a particular activity is referred to as its "carbon footprint." For Daniel Scott, a professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Management at University of Waterloo in Ontario, the important finding in the study is "the scale of the contribution, at approximately 8%." "People are often surprised at the size of their travel and tourism emissions," said Scott, who was not involved in the new research. "A frequent flyer can have a larger carbon footprint from their work or leisure travel than their entire carbon footprint at home." Instead of buying an electric car or slapping solar panels on your house, sometimes the biggest action you can take to reduce emissions is to travel differently, he said. [U Waterloo GEM News](#)



U Ottawa Environmental Studies programs now available with unilingual option in the Department of Geography, Environment and Geomatics, so there is now the choice to study completely in French or completely in English. Note that the bilingual option is always available. [DGEG News](#)

McGill U's Margaret Kalacska will be awarded the 2018 Silver Medal for mid-career achievement by the Canadian Remote Sensing Society during the [39th Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing](#) in June 2018.

York U's Philip Kelly's transformative research creates a path to a [Filipino-Canadian curriculum in Ontario](#) classrooms. News of this initiative developed in partnership by York University and the Toronto Catholic District School Board, can be heard at [CBC's Metro Morning](#). [York U Geography News](#)

U Calgary's Shawn Marshall says that though Calgary may not experience 2013-level floods every year, Calgarians can expect them to become more common over time. "These extreme events are going to get more extreme," Marshall said. "It'll come back one of these years." [The Star Calgary](#)

Mount Allison's Brad Walters was interviewed by CBC's Cross-Country Checkup during their episode on spring floods affecting New Brunswick and elsewhere in Canada. [CBC Radio](#) (*Interview at 27:50 - 35:30 in the linked recording*)

U Victoria graduate alumni Will Roush takes on leadership of head of the environmental watchdog group Wilderness Workshop. Roush earned a master's of science degree from the University of Victoria in environmental studies and geography. [The Aspen Times](#)

Queen's U's Breah Talan presented with the [SGPS Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow Excellence Award](#). [Queen's Geography and Planning News](#)

U Guelph undergraduate Emily De Sousa is an Environmental Governance student fighting to bring marine conservation issues to the forefront of environmental discussions. In March 2018, Emily gave a [TEDx talk](#) about plastic pollution in our oceans. [U Guelph CSAHS News](#)

Recent Theses and Dissertations

Qianhui Bai. 2018. Wearing four hats: [The role of local government in the making of planned innovation parks in China](#). MA thesis. Department of Geography University of Lethbridge Lethbridge, Alberta. Supervisor: Wei Xu

Hot Papers by Canadian Geographers

Jacqueline Binyamin and Robyn Ploquin. 2017. [Examination of light use efficiency in three temperate pine plantations in southeastern Canada: Age effect case study](#). *Prairie Perspectives: Geographical Essays* 19:1-11.

Charles M. Burke and Darren M. Scott. 2018. [Identifying “sensible locations” for separated bike lanes on a congested urban road network: A Toronto case study](#). *The Professional Geographer*. doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2018.1455518

Tim P. Duval and James Michael Waddington. 2018. [Effect of hydrogeomorphic setting on calcareous fen hydrology](#). *Hydrological Processes*. doi.org/10.1002/hyp.11625

Danielle E. Mitchell, K. Wayne Forsythe, Chris H. Marvin and Debbie A. Burniston. 2018. [Assessing statistical and spatial validity of sediment survey design and sampling densities: Examples from Lake Erie](#). *Water Quality Research Journal*. doi:10.2166/wqrj.2018.029

Andrea Olive, Emily Eaton and Randy Besco. 2018. [Winds of Change Public Opinion on Energy Politics in Saskatchewan](#). Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. ISBN 978-1-77125-400-7.

André E. Punt, Daniel K. Okamoto, Alec D. MacCall, Andrew O. Shelton, Derek R. Armitage, Jaclyn S. Cleary, Ian P. Davies, Sherri C. Dressel, Tessa B. Francis, Phillip S. Levin, R. Russ Jones, Harvey Kitka, Lynn Chi Lee, Jim A. McIsaac, Melissa R. Poe and Steve Reifenstuhl. 2018. [When are estimates of spawning stock biomass for small pelagic fishes improved by taking spatial structure into account?](#) *Fisheries Research* 206:65–78.

Jean-François Senécal, Frédéric Doyon and Benoît St-Onge. 2018. [Discrimination of canopy gaps and non-regenerating openings in old-growth temperate deciduous forests using airborne LiDAR data](#). *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2017-0340

Nicholas E. Wayand, Christopher B. Marsh, Joseph M. Shea and John W. Pomeroy. 2018. [Globally scalable alpine snow metrics](#). *Remote Sensing of Environment* 213:61–72.

Jin Xing, Renee Sieber, and Terrence Caelli. 2018. [A scale invariant change detection method for land use/cover change research](#). *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* 141: 252–264.

Huaxia Yao, Timothy Field, Christopher McConnell, Andy Beaton and April L. James. 2018. [Comparison of five snow water equivalent estimation methods across categories](#). *Hydrological Processes*. doi.org/10.1002/hyp.13129

Other “Geographical” News

Study shows one third of world's protected areas degraded by human activities: A shocking study confirms that one third of the world's protected areas -- an astonishing 2.3 million square miles or twice the size of the state of Alaska - are now under intense human pressure including road building, grazing, and urbanization. [ScienceDaily](#)

Public feels a ‘sense of urgency’ to restore B.C.’s foraged forests: Restoring forests ravaged by wildfires and insects is a top priority for British Columbians, according to [a new assessment](#) of public attitudes toward climate change. And researchers found the public has far greater trust in scientists and Indigenous groups rather than government and industry. “Recent natural disasters such as wildfires and mountain pine beetle epidemics influence how citizens think ... they believe [restoration] is a priority that needs to be addressed,” said Guillaume Peterson St-Laurent, the study’s lead author and University of British Columbia PhD candidate. “The forestry sector can potentially contribute to B.C. meeting its climate targets, but the success of mitigation strategies will depend on public buy-in.” But it’s not just about climate, he added. More than 60 per cent of B.C.’s territory is forested and an integrated strategy needs to consider economic development, job growth and biodiversity as well. [The Star Vancouver](#)

Academia is built on exploitation. We must break this vicious circle: Not for the first time, I watched as one of our PhD students was loaded into an ambulance and taken to hospital. He had collapsed in one of the university research labs about 20 minutes earlier. A few hours later we received word from the hospital that the student was now alert and all tests were normal. Just as I had seen previously, the student had fainted as a result of stress, anxiety and fatigue. This was not what I had in mind when I accepted a position as a non-academic member of staff. Rather than the relaxed conditions I expected, I found myself in the most stressful environment I had ever experienced. [The Guardian](#)

Researchers map out the ultimate pub crawl: Fancy a pint? How about 49,687 pints? If so, then Professor William Cook and his research team's map of the shortest route to nearly every pub in the United Kingdom is just what the barkeep ordered. The map is the latest in a long line of Professor Cook's mathematical models that explore the "traveling salesman problem", an optimization exercise that has been studied for more than 80 years. "Given a collection of cities and the cost of travel between each pair of them, the traveling salesman problem, or TSP for short, is to find the cheapest way of visiting all of the cities and returning to your starting point," says Waterloo's [TSP website](#). [U Waterloo Daily Bulletin](#)

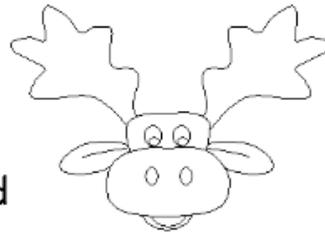
Invasive emerald ash borer confirmed in Edmundston, a 1st for Atlantic Canada: The Canadian Food Inspection Agency has confirmed the presence of the emerald ash borer in Edmundston — a first for Atlantic Canada. In a bid to help prevent the spread of the highly destructive invasive beetle, CFIA has restricted the movement of all ash materials, such as logs, branches and woodchips, as well as all types of firewood from the affected area in northwestern New Brunswick. The emerald ash borer, which has an emerald green back and bright green underbelly, poses no threat to human health, but it has killed millions of ash trees in Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the United States, said the agency. It poses a "major economic and environmental threat to urban and forested areas of North America," the advisory says. The emerald ash borer is native to China and eastern Asia. Its presence in Canada was first confirmed in 2002. [CBCNews | New Brunswick](#)

Some Not So "Geographical" News

Canada Word Search

U L H S F E E W S D G A K P Q
I S A M Y S C N G R K W L W D
I L A C O R I I I A T A E Z W
L E G O R A U Z N O S T P L R
B D M N T O Z P B B N T E C N
J Q E N I L S H Z W O O M D U
J E U R Y I C S Z O W P G D B
J O S E T A K S E N M R E E D
M W I L D R O S E S A L O D N
G O O S E B W Z W R N B G Q X

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| deer | RCMP |
| elk | skates |
| goose | skiing |
| grizzly | sled |
| ice | snowboard |
| lacrosse | snowman |
| moose | syrup |
| mountains | Wild rose |



Ottawa



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