



**News Digest of the Canadian Association of Geographers**  
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**U Ottawa's Tech-Savvy Profs Robert McLeman and Eric Crighton:** Have you ever wondered if a university classroom could be a "paper-free" zone? Two University of Ottawa professors have already taken a step in that very direction. Robert McLeman, a professor in the Department of Geography, was looking not only for a way to simplify marking student papers, but also—and especially—a way to cut down on paper consumption in class. "I knew there must be a tech solution that would enable us to reduce the amount of paper we use while maintaining a high level of quality in our corrections," says McLeman, who is also the environmental studies program coordinator. McLeman sought out the advice of Richard Pinet, director of the Centre for e-Learning at the University of Ottawa. After looking at various options, they finally decided on the iPad and its iAnnotate app, designed among other things for correcting school work. The app lets professors correct submissions electronically: they can circle words, draw arrows, add highlighting and even write in comments... All with the touch of a finger! The first to test the idea in-class was geography professor Eric Crighton, in Fall 2010. That first attempt uncovered a number of issues, most of them technical. After a few adjustments, though, the second attempt proved very positive for all users—professors, teaching assistants and students. [U Ottawa Gazette](#)

**UWO's Jason Gilliland and Janet Loebach On Childhood Obesity:** Video games, the Internet and fast food take a lot of the blame for childhood obesity, but there's growing evidence for an unlikely addition to the list of usual suspects: The school playground. For decades, schools have chopped down trees and replaced them with asphalt, monkey bars and basketball nets all in the belief that it would encourage exercise and make kids happier, but a growing body of research suggests the opposite is true. Janet Loebach, started a pilot project with 80 London children last school year. For one week in the winter and again in the spring, students in Grades 5 through 8 wore a GPS around their necks, an activity-tracking accelerometer around their waists, and recorded their activities in a diary. Preliminary data show students huddled in the shade of school buildings, very little after-school use of the playgrounds and not enough time being active to generate any health benefits. Ms. Loebach expected to see the students spending more time outdoors in the spring than in the winter, and she was surprised to find that regardless of the season, about two-thirds of the kids were nearly always indoors. "We tend to think as adults that because we used to be kids, we understand their experience but we really don't," she said. [The Globe and Mail](#)

**Queen's U's Audrey Kobayashi on Northwest Territories' Affirmative Action Policy:** Audrey Kobayashi was recently interviewed on CBC Radio Yellowknife with regard to the N.W.T. government policy of giving hiring preferences to Aboriginals and people born and raised in N.W.T. [CBC North](#)

**What's so weird about the weather?:** A \$2-5-million grant has just been announced to learn what is already known and to reinforce what is already proven incorrect about the climate and climate mechanisms of the Prairies. The Lethbridge Herald reports a group of researchers are going to "find out if the weird Prairie weather is connected to global warming and how it affects those who live off the land." But there is nothing "weird" about today's weather, despite the claims made by David Sauchyn, University of Regina geography professor and project leader, who says: "If you look at the weather records, the worst flooding and the worst drought we've had since weather stations were established have been in the last 10 years." He is inaccurate for the modern record and even more inaccurate for the long-term pattern of weather and climate on the Prairies. [Financial Post](#)

**UWO's Bill Code on Downtown Campus:** The Free Press began to examine the islands that make up London, the institutions that somehow don't connect with each other or the city at large, that prevent a unified identity. Of all those islands, the university holds the greatest potential for helping to solve the problem of attracting and retaining young minds, of creating the new, knowledge-based economy every city craves. Western has certainly engaged in the community but, geographically, it has spent the past 10 years building an even larger empire on its north London campus. It's not as if the university has put up gates around that expanding campus. "There is nothing wrong with Western being where it is," says Bill Code, an urban geography professor at the university. Code thinks a downtown campus would be a good thing for London and personally likes the idea of it, but isn't sure what Western would gain anything by putting a small faculty downtown. "You can't expect Western to move a significant component of its campus to somewhere else when it has plenty of land." [London Free Press](#)

**U Toronto Scarborough's Mark Hunter Winner of C. Wright Mills Award:** [Mark Hunter](#) from the Department of Social Sciences at the UT Scarborough is winner of the prestigious C. Wright Mills Award for his book [Love in the Time of AIDS: Inequality, Gender, and Rights in South Africa](#). The award, which is sponsored by the Society for the Study of Social Problems, is given to the book that "critically addresses an issue of contemporary public importance, brings to the topic a fresh, imaginative perspective, [and] advances social science understanding of the topic". The award was announced at the society's annual meeting in Las Vegas. [Indiana University Press](#)

**Memorial U's Trevor Bell Reports St. John's Lead Levels Lower Than Expected:** A study led by Geography's Trevor Bell and Eastern Health's David Allison has revealed that blood lead levels in St. John's children meet national guidelines. A study has determined that children living in St. John's houses built before 1970 are more likely to have higher blood lead levels compared to children living in homes built after 1980. But the levels are lower than researchers with Memorial University, Eastern Health and Health Canada expected. The expectation was 18 per cent of the 250 children tested would have blood lead levels higher than the national guideline, but none did "We should be reassured that we're doing the right thing in controlling lead and controlling exposure that children have, but we still need to be concerned", says Dr. Allison These encouraging results arose from the LeadNL project, which integrated blood lead monitoring with a study of environmental & household sources of lead exposure. [CBC News](#)

**Queen's U's David Murakami Wood on the Role of Telecommunications in British Riots:** Amid the scenes of looting and violence in Britain, young people are among those brazenly wreaking havoc, notably in areas where unemployment is high among youth. Canada isn't immune to the possibility of such riots, observers say, but it's unlikely that what is occurring in Britain would unfold here. "It's not the same situation at all," said Queen's University geography and sociology professor David Murakami Wood. "I don't think Canada has the same kind of social profile... it doesn't have the same history, it's a very, very different situation."

Sébastien Breau and W. Mark Brown. 2011. [Exporting, foreign direct investment, and wages: evidence from the Canadian manufacturing sector](#). Growth and Change 42(3):261-286.

Patrick Forest. 2011. [Transferring bulk water between Canada and the United States: More than a century of transboundary inter-local water supplies](#). Geoforum. doi:10.1016/j.geoforum.2011.07.001

Randolph Haluza-DeLay and Heather Fernhout. 2011. [Sustainability and social inclusion? Examining the frames of Canadian English-speaking environmental movement organisations](#). Local Environment 16(7):727-745.

Eric Lamb, Sukkyun Han, Brian Lanoil, Greg Henry, Martin Brummell, Samiran Banerjee, and Steven Siciliano. 2011. [A High Arctic soil ecosystem resists long-term environmental manipulations](#). Global Change Biology 17(10):3187-3194.

Christopher J. Lemieux, Thomas J. Beechey, Paul A. Gray. 2011. [Prospects for Canada's protected areas in an era of rapid climate change](#). Land Use Policy 28(4):928-94.

Peng-Fei Li, Harald Bathelt and Jici Wang. 2011. [Network dynamics and cluster evolution: changing trajectories of the aluminium extrusion industry in Dali, China](#). Journal of Economic Geography. doi: 10.1093/jeg/lbr024

Kelli I Stajduhar, Laura Funk, Faye Wolse, Valorie Crooks, Della Roberts, Allison M, Williams, Denise Cloutier-Fisher and Barbara Denise. 2011. [Core aspects of "empowering" caregivers as articulated by leaders in home health care: palliative and chronic illness contexts](#). Canadian Journal of Nursing Research 43(3):78-94.

Lisa J. Wood, Dan J. Smith and Michael N. Demuth. 2011. [Extending the Place Glacier mass-balance record to AD 1585, using tree rings and wood density](#). Quaternary Research. doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2011.07.003

Jackie Ziegler, Philip Dearden and Rick Rollins. 2011. [But are tourists satisfied? Importance-performance analysis of the whale shark tourism industry on Isla Holbox, Mexico](#). Tourism Management. doi:10.1016/j.tourman.2011.08.004 | How to Cite or Link Using DOI

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### Recent Theses and Dissertations

Catherine Champagne. 2011. [Evaluation of agricultural soil moisture extremes in Canada using passive microwave remote sensing](#). Unpublished PhD dissertation. University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. Supervisor: A.A. Berg.

Kirsten Greer. 2011. Red Coats and wild birds: Military culture and ornithology across the nineteenth-century British Empire. Unpublished PhD dissertation. Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Supervisors: Laura Cameron and Joan Schwartz.

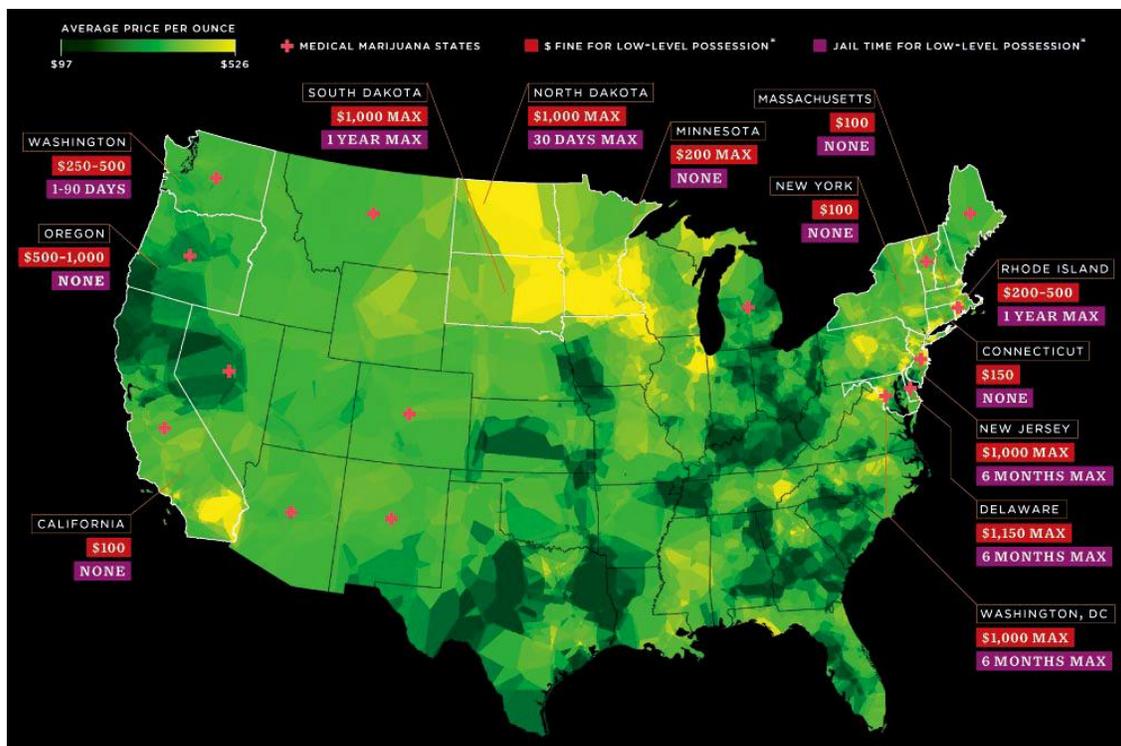
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## Other “Geographical” News

**Vancouver No Longer Tops, Apparently Located on Island:** Ridiculously high housing prices and lack of affordability are two subjects often discussed when describing our beautiful city. So it came as a surprise to me this week to discover Vancouver had been bumped from the top spot of the Economist Intelligence Unit’s annual most livable city list, not because of this city’s out-of-control real estate market, but instead due to construction on a highway connecting Victoria to Nanaimo. According to the Economist, Vancouver fell to third because of “a small adjustment in Vancouver’s score for transport infrastructure, reflecting recent intermittent closures of Vancouver Island’s Malahat Highway...” [The Vancouver Sun](#)

**NASA Spacecraft Images Offer Sharper Views of Apollo Landing Sites:** NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) captured the sharpest images ever taken from space of the Apollo 12, 14 and 17 landing sites. All three images show distinct trails left in the moon's thin soil when the astronauts exited the lunar modules and explored on foot. In the Apollo 17 image, the foot trails, including the last path made on the moon by humans, are easily distinguished from the dual tracks left by the lunar rover, which remains parked east of the lander. [EurekAlert!](#)

## Some not so “Geographical” News



[The Price of Pot](#)

GeogNews Archives: <http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/cag/geognews/geognews.html>