RURAL GEOGRAPHY PROJECTS 2013 Winter

Any Project may be undertaken by up to three students working together; only one group per project (with the exception of #5.)

Oral presentations must be given as a group, which will be shared by all members of the group regardless of who does the actual presentation.

Written reports are due in ONE WEEK after the oral presentation. These may be handed in as a single document, the mark for which will be shared. Any member of a group may opt to hand an individual report, which will be marked separately.

Guidelines for writing reports will be available on the Department website.

1 What are the likely short-term (next ten years) and long-term (next fifty years) effects of global warming on the agriculture of Northwestern Ontario?

2 Ontario is Canada's prime producer of most kinds of soft fruits (according to the 2006 Agricultural Census; 66% of all plum farm area, 69% of grape area, 84% sour cherry area and 84% peach area). Within Ontario, most of this type of farming in concentrated in the Niagara Peninsula; an area subject to growing urban pressure. What measures would it be reasonable to take to preserve soft fruit farms from urban encroachment and what are the likely consequences of taking such measures?

3 Develop a questionnaire to investigate whether Lakehead students would prefer a rural or an urban setting for a two-week vacation, and what factors in their lives might influence the choice. Test the questionnaire on at least 24 students and analyse the results,

4 Suppose the government of Newfoundland and Labrador has taken steps to re-position the province as a world-class tourism destination. What would have to change in the rural areas of the province to cope with a massive influx of tourists, and what would be the likely effect on the population there?

5 Use a set of at least eight similar-sized pictures of different types of rural landscape (from any one part of the world: a country or region) and develop two methods of your own to assess the relative value of each landscape; one using a numerical evaluation technique and one using a preference approach. Illustrations should be from a source such as a calendar, a magazine such as *Canadian* or *National Geographic* or the Internet. The method should be tried on a sample of at least twelve students under proper controlled conditions, and the methods compared critically with each other and with published techniques.

6 You are advising a private power generation company that has proposed constructing a windfarm along the skyline of the Sleeping Giant to make a substantial contribution to provincial “green” power. What arguments would you use to persuade the Provincial Government to approve the proposal? What arguments would opponents of the scheme be likely to raise, and how would you try to counter them?

7 Outline a potentially useful Delphi approach in developing a plan to improve the economy and way of life throughout rural Northwestern Ontario. What questions would you ask, and why? Who would be your respondents? What kinds of proposals would you expect to emerge?

8 The Provincial Government is anxious to protect the shoreline of the Great Lakes from overdevelopment as an aging population seeks to retire to homes along the waterfront. What policies would be needed to ensure this protection and how should they be introduced?

9 The instructor is willing to entertain other suggestions for case studies, provided they are based on the material covered in the course and not a repeat of a previously-used project. Interested students should submit a written proposal for consideration.