

### Note from the President

James Andrusiw  
URISA BC President 2007-2008

The BC Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA BC) is very excited to bring you our Spring newsletter to close out the 2007-2008 season. Due to the hard work and dedication of the Executive committee, URISA BC has been able to put together two exceptional seminars this season in conjunction with their associated newsletters. I personally would like to thank all of the Executives for their commitment to URISA BC over the last 12 months along with the speakers and sponsors for making our events so successful.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2007, URISA BC hosted a very successful one day seminar titled "GIS Applications and Data Integration".

Approximately 140 delegates from across British Columbia attended this event to hear about real-life examples of both spatial and non-spatial application integration as well as the combination of data from multiple disparate sources.

Presentations from the Township of Langley, City of Surrey, Translink, Metro Vancouver, E-Comm and the City of Nanaimo were all very well received by the audience. The program and presentation slides from the December event are available on the URISA BC ([www.urisabc.org](http://www.urisabc.org)) website.

We will be bringing the 2007-2008 season to a close on June 10<sup>th</sup> with a seminar titled "Environmental Decision Making with GIS". The complete program and registration link is available on the URISA BC website.

Looking ahead to the 2008-09 year, the 2008 URISA International Annual Conference & Exposition is being held on October 7 - 10, 2008 in New Orleans. We hope to see many of you in "The Big Easy" this fall. For more information, visit the URISA International ([www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org)) website.

In the fall, look for more information about future URISA BC events. If you have any ideas for seminar topics or a presentation that you would like to share with your colleagues, please see a member of the URISA BC Executive committee or email us at [info@urisabc.org](mailto:info@urisabc.org).

### Environmental Decision Making with GIS

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, URISA BC will be hosting a seminar titled "Environmental Decision Making with GIS". This one day seminar will focus on how GIS has been used as a tool to support environmental studies. Attendees will hear how GIS was employed for the Stanley Park Restoration, Local Climate Change Visioning, Sea-to-Sky Environmental Monitoring and other current hot topics. To view the seminar program and register for the event, please visit the URISA BC ([www.urisabc.org](http://www.urisabc.org)) website.

### Seminar Sponsors





## BCIT Scholarship

URISA BC was pleased to present the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, BC Chapter, Pacific Institute of Cartographers Award to Katherine Bryan at the February 21, 2008 BCIT Graduating Awards Ceremony. Katherine completed the Geographic Information Systems program at BCIT in the spring of 2007 and has gone on to an exciting career with a local environmental consulting company.

Congratulations Katherine!

This spring, URISA BC was extremely happy to increase the URISA/PIC Endowment at BCIT. Primarily due to the success of recent seminars, we were able to commit an additional \$8,000 to the principle endowed fund, which was

matched by 25% from BCIT, for a total of \$10,000. This will allow the bursary award to be doubled to \$1,000 starting next year, furthering URISA BC's goal of supporting education within the GIS community in British Columbia.



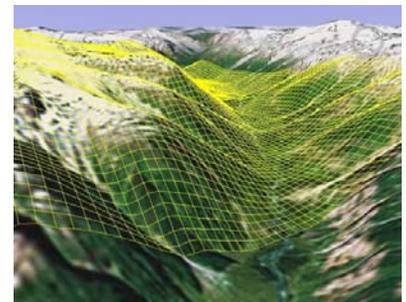
## GIS Corps Volunteers Needed

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008, Cyclone Nargis devastated the Southeast Asian country of Myanmar (Burma). On May 9<sup>th</sup>, URISA International's GISCorps began the process of recruiting volunteers to assist with the compilation of infrastructure damage data. GISCorps is continuing to look for volunteers and URISA BC encourages anyone interested in volunteering to visit the URISA International ([www.urisa.org](http://www.urisa.org)) or GISCorps ([www.giscorps.org](http://www.giscorps.org)) websites.

## Featured Web Site: HaBC

Hectares BC is a new tool for geospatial data analysis online! Focusing on the natural resources area, BC is divided into a 1 hectare grid and all analysis data generalized to that resolution. The website has tutorials, demo scripts for developers, and technical information on how it was created. As Matt Austen of the Ecosystems Branch, BC Government says: "Hectares BC represents the democratization or visualization of BC data." This pilot project will hopefully be continued as it promises to provide a very useful service for those wanting to do environmental analysis in BC but don't want to have to download the data and obtain the analysis software. Check it out!

<http://hectaresbc.org/trac>



## Ortho photos 2009 anyone?

Some discussion has begun regarding a coordinated acquisition of high resolution (10 cm) ortho photos in 2009. These would be in support of both the 2010 Olympic initiatives and of course any ongoing requirements by municipal governments and other agencies. For many, this may fit into a normal acquisition process. At this point, we are trying to determine the interest by potential participants and do not yet know pricing or exact timing. For more information contact Jonathan at [jonathan.mark@vancouver.ca](mailto:jonathan.mark@vancouver.ca)

## 2008 Executive Changes

In 2007 David Newman, a long standing member of the URISA BC Executive team, stepped down from his Executive position to concentrate on this new role managing the U.S. Geospatial sales team with Autodesk.

David held the role of Treasurer with URISA BC from 2000 to 2007. He was primarily responsible for managing the finances

of our non-profit association, having to continuously remind the Executive committee of the "what if it snows and nobody comes" seminar scenario. We wish David all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for his commitment to URISA BC over the years.

This year we are pleased to welcome our new Executive members: Alison Rowles and Drew Rifkin.

Our current executive committee consists of:

**President** – James Andrusiw,  
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**Vice-President** – Sean Simpson, [stsimpson@surrey.ca](mailto:stsimpson@surrey.ca)

**Past-President** – Phil Bates, [pbates@westvancouver.ca](mailto:pbates@westvancouver.ca)

**Treasurer** – Kathleen Kewley,  
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**Secretary** – Derik Woo,  
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**Member** – Drew Rifkin,  
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## GIS News Links

GIS Cafe for GIS news  
<http://www.giscafe.com/>

Directions Magazine  
<http://www.directionsmag.com/>

GIS User  
<http://www.gisuser.com/>

Any suggestions or comments on the newsletter please e-mail me at [news@urisabc.org](mailto:news@urisabc.org)

Happy GISing!