

Note from the President

The BC Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, URISA BC, is pleased to bring you this first newsletter of the 2005-2006 year. We on the Executive of URISA BC are GIS professionals who work for municipalities, vendors and consulting companies. That diversity mirrors the backgrounds of those who are on our mailing list and who attend our seminars. Diversity provides a significant opportunity to learn and this is what helps to make our seminars and the networking opportunities they bring so stimulating.

As in recent years, we plan two all-day seminars for 2005-2006. The first, in February, focuses on GIS and Asset Management. This is clearly a "hot" topic given the interest it has generated by both attendees and sponsors. The program consists of eight presentations by a diverse group of speakers—municipal GIS professionals, consultants, and vendors. Again, this diversity brings different perspectives and learning opportunities.

Later in the spring, we will hold our second seminar of the year. The Executive is discussing several possible topics and have not yet finalized the topic. We welcome your input on the evaluation form that we hope you will fill out at the end of the February seminar. Alternatively, you can send any member of the Executive an email with your ideas. While we don't yet know the topic, we can guarantee that it will bring a diverse set of speakers with different perspectives so as to maximize the learning opportunities.

Speaking of our seminars, we have obviously changed the venue for 2005-2006. The Ramada Hotel in Richmond, which we had used for the past few years, changed management and closed for renovations so the move was required. After researching several facilities, we decided on the Vancouver Hilton Hotel at Burnaby Metrotown. Starting again from scratch with a new venue has proved to be a significant effort, but we have every expectation that it will work out well and provide an excellent place for networking, exchanging ideas, hearing presentations, and learning. The Hilton, being near the SkyTrain and more centrally located, should also be easier for many of our attendees to get to. For those of you reading this as you attend our February seminar, we invite your comments on the venue on the evaluation form.

As noted above, URISA BC is a chapter of URISA International. URISA International will be holding its annual conference in Vancouver at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre from September 26 to 29 and we invite and urge you to attend this conference. Four members of the URISA BC Executive are on the program committee for the conference and we have seen the diverse and excellent abstracts that were submitted for the conference. This year's conference will be an excellent learning opportunity for anyone involved with GIS. Further information on the conference is on URISA's site at www.urisa.org.

Speaking of URISA International, in 2005, the URISA BC chapter was named the outstanding URISA chapter

(there are twenty-two chapters in the US and four in Canada). This award was based on URISA BC's activities in innovation, outreach, education and community impact. Another article in this newsletter discusses this award in more detail.

While the Outstanding Chapter Award was based on several factors, we on the Executive believe that education is one of the most important contributions we can make to the GIS profession in BC. The diversity on the Executive, the diversity of our seminar attendees, and the diversity of our speakers increase the quality of the education we provide. We welcome you to our seminars and look forward to your input.

We wish you all the best for 2006

Jonathan Mark
URISA BC President 2005-2006

GIS and Asset Management Seminar Sponsors

The Autodesk logo consists of the word "Autodesk" in a blue, sans-serif font.

Cansel
Out there with you.





Infrastructure Asset Management Roundtable

You've just attended the URISA BC conference on GIS and Asset Management.

Now What?

Before you return to your day-to-day tasks, now is the time to discuss what you've heard and learned with others like you – people from local government with an interest in improving the way they operate and maintain their infrastructure asset information. Now is the time to plan for realizing your ideas and achieving results. Not sure where to start? Why not gather with like minded individuals and

participate in an Infrastructure Asset Management Roundtable?

Take the test:

- Are you trying to define and resolve your business issues as they pertain to infrastructure asset management?
 - Are technical challenges preventing you from attaining your business objectives?
 - Are you struggling to attain a vision match with others in your organization?
 - Are you frustrated with the time and effort required to implement an infrastructure solution?
 - Are you still wondering:
 - How to do more with less while facing requests for improved level of service?
 - How open standards-based technology applies to infrastructure asset management?
 - How to select a cost-effective infrastructure management solution for your organization?
 - Are you still frustrated with:
 - Inaccurate, imprecise, incomplete, outdated or redundant data pertaining to your infrastructure assets?
 - The time it takes to gather data from various sources so that you can respond to ad-hoc queries for maps and reports pertaining to your infrastructure assets?
 - The inefficiencies and compromises associated with integrating your infrastructure engineering designs, as-built information and CAD drawings with your GIS environment (or visa versa)?
 - Data sharing bottlenecks and expensive data publishing processes?
 - How your infrastructure as-built information is handled by your geospatial repository?
- How to best leverage your existing infrastructure asset data?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions then participation in the Infrastructure Asset Management Roundtable may be just the forum you need to help you plan for these challenges within your organization. Expect to participate and contribute with ideas, questions and experiences.

Your host is the Township of Langley. Your roundtable facilitators will be:

Karen Stewart
*Manager of Geomatics
Township of Langley*

Michael Schlosser
*Geospatial Technical Specialist
Autodesk*

Plan to join us at this event to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2006.

Agenda:
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Registration / Coffee (Nicomekl River Room)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Roundtable Session (Fraser River Theatre)

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided (Nicomekl River Room)

Location:
Township of Langley New Municipal Hall
20338 – 65 Avenue
Langley, BC

Seating is limited. Please RSVP all attendees no later than February 9th to carla.dresser@autodesk.com.

URISA BC Receives Outstanding Chapter Award in 2005

Each year, URISA recognizes an outstanding Chapter that has sponsored particularly effective activities or has otherwise excelled in serving its membership.



The award was received by Karen Stewart and Phil Bates at the URISA's 43rd Annual Conference - October 9-12, 2005 - Kansas City, Missouri. Outstanding Chapter Award criteria include:

- Innovation
- Outreach
- Education
- Community Impact

URISA's Chapter Relations Committee is proud to recognize the British Columbia Chapter as 2005 Chapter of the Year. This honor is awarded because of their commitment to increasing awareness of URISA as they promote GIS in their community. They have a dedicated group of volunteers who believe in giving their best, and this is evidenced by the increase in membership, the quality of their educational events, the attendance at these events, and an increasing

number of sponsors at each event.

BCIT Bursary

Angela Carter is the URISA BC scholarship winner for this year. Congratulations Angela!



Featured Websites: Nanaimo, West Vancouver, & Coquitlam

**City of Nanaimo
 Launches [Habitat Atlas](http://enviro.nanaimo.ca/index.cfm?tab_ID=1&content_ID=26)**
http://enviro.nanaimo.ca/index.cfm?tab_ID=1&content_ID=26

Providing a wealth of information on Nanaimo's Land, Water, and Air this site also has a section on Community involvement. A discussion of environmentally sensitive areas, Climate Change, and Environmental Non-government Organizations helps to frame the sections.

The Water and Land sections' mapping will be done using free software from Autodesk – [MapGuide Open Source](#). This software is one of the most recent (Nov/05) additions to the hundreds of [open source GIS](#) programs available for free. A grant from Autodesk to the MapServer Foundation initiated this development. MapServer requires MapGuide Viewer Active X Control to be installed the first time the web page is run.

The Atlas is divided into four broad themes:

1. LAND: Offers information on the City's environmentally sensitive areas, its general soil types and some examples of the many species that thrive in these habitats.

2. WATER: Provides information on the City's aquatic habitat and the Watercourse Bylaw that is used to protect the habitat values within it.

3. AIR: Has information on air quality monitoring done by the Ministry of Water, Air and Land Protection and on the City's efforts to deal with the issue of Climate Change.

4. COMMUNITY: Is the place reserved for you to share your knowledge and to connect with the local environmental community. In this section, you will find a listing of the City's Environmental Non-government Organizations (ENGOS) under "Community Contacts".



West Van's WestMAP

[WestMAP \(WV GIS\)](http://westmap.westvancouver.ca/westmapviewer/)
<http://westmap.westvancouver.ca/westmapviewer/>

This site provides visitors direct, map driven access to selected property information from the District's GIS system.

WestMap also requires the MapGuide Viewer Active X Control to be installed the first time the web page is run. This is the commercial version of MapGuide.

Property information available at this site includes:

- Property Information
- Tax Information
- Assessed Values
- Legal Lots
- Aerial Photographs
- Service Locations
- Services and Amenities
- Points of Interest (locate public facilities and activity locations)
- Capital Project (planned projects, road construction, repairs)
- Other related resources and web links



Coquitlam Launches

QtheMap

<http://ims.coquitlam.ca/external/>

Find a park, roads, civic facilities, and other geographic points in Coquitlam with QtheMap, the City of Coquitlam's new online map. Built from ESRI's ArcIMS and launched in November, 2005, QtheMap allows you to search, view and print geographical information in the City from the comfort of your office or home 24 hours a day, seven days a week without stepping into City Hall.

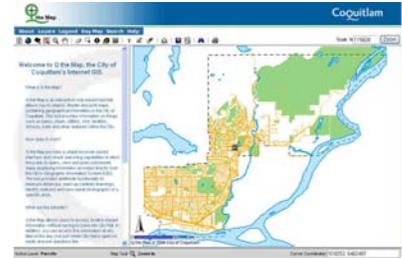
"Replacing the old map tool on the Coquitlam website, QtheMap

is easier to navigate, easier to understand, simpler to use and more advanced in its search capabilities," says Mayor Maxine Wilson. "We've had feedback from residents and business on what they wanted to see in this new tool, and from new features such as measurement tools and property information, we've incorporated their suggestions to ensure QtheMap provides them with the specific information they need."

Along with its basic search, view and print features, advanced functions of QtheMap include the ability to measure distances, mark-up (redline) drawings, identify features and view aerial photographs of a specific area. These advanced features will be especially beneficial for developers and contractors who require this type of information on a regular basis for their ongoing ventures and business within the City.

QtheMap key features:

- Orthophoto (Aerial) maps
- Measurement tools
- Property information tool including the ability to search by address and cross street
- Zoning areas
- OCP/Area plans
- Water courses
- Tree-cutting permit areas
- Right of ways
- Contour lines
- Development permit areas
- Utility data (water, sewage and drainage networks)
- Parcel lines
- Parks
- City facilities locations



2005-06 Executive

Our new executive committee consists of:

President – Jonathan Mark

jonathan.mark@vancouver.ca

Vice-President - Phil Bates

pbates@westvancouver.net

Treasurer - Dave Newman

david.newman@autodesk.com

Secretary – James Andrusiw

jandrusiw@coquitlam.ca

Secretary – Kathleen Kewley

kathleenk@gcscorp.ca

Chaper Relations – Karen Stewart

kstewart@tol.bc.ca

Webmaster - Gurdeep Singh

gurdeep.singh@gov.bc.ca

Vender Liaison Officer - Carla Dresser

carla.dresser@autodesk.com

Vender Liaison Officer – Dave Patterson

dpatterson@esricanada.com

Certification Officer – Perry Holmes

pholmes@city.langley.bc.ca

Newsletter – Jerry Maedel

news@urisabc.org

Member – Adam Chadwick

achadwick@kamloops.ca

Member – Matthias Uhlenbruck

matthias.uhlenbruck@Intergraph.com

Member – Andrew Walther

andrew@apwengineering.com

Member - Tjaart van den Berg

tvandenberg@shaw.ca

Member – Derik Woo

derik.woo@city.burnaby.bc.ca

Member – John Samulski

jcs@forteconsulting.ca

Member – Peter Klemm

peter.klemm@bentley.com

Member – Sean Simpson

STSimpson@city.surrey.bc.ca

GIS Reference

GIS Cafe

<http://www.giscafe.com/>

Directions Magazine

<http://www.directionsmedia.net/>