Note from the President

Dan Tancon
URISA BC President 2012

We are pleased to release our second newsletter of the year. In each newsletter we aim to bring you up to speed on what URISA BC is up to and to provide a little more information related to upcoming seminars or interesting case studies happening in the region. Earlier this year we held a seminar on the topic of "Open Data". This was one of the first seminars I can recall where two diametrically opposed ideologies were shared by private and public sector representatives both locally and internationally. It made for a memorable seminar that attendees are still talking about today.

As for ongoing changes within the URISA BC Chapter, we have received some great feedback from our last seminar regarding changes to our new website. It should be ready in time for our next seminar in the spring of 2013. The new site was entirely built by a few members of our talented executive team and will also have an updated registration application. There have also been some changes on our executive team.

Kathleen Kewley has stepped down as treasurer as she is expecting very soon. All the best to you Kathleen as you embark on this new chapter in your life. Congratulations to the follow members in their new roles:

- Drew Rifkin – Vice President
- Robert Schultz – Treasurer

For more information on the URISA BC Chapter executive members, please visit our website at:
http://www.urisabc.org/executive.htm

It has been a number of years since our last seminar on asset management and with the recent growth in cloud computing and mobile solutions becoming more mainstream, we thought it a good time to revisit how organizations are taking advantage of recent changes in technology. Our next seminar "Geospatial Technologies and Asset Management" on November 21st, will include a broad spectrum of speakers who will address many of the questions facing all of us as we embark on this journey within our own organizations.

In the meteorological world a perfect storm generally refers to the alignment and convergence of 3 or more significant systems. In the technological world the convergence of a number of technologies will significantly change the way that larger organizations are considering and in some cases, doing their business.

Despite recent changes in technology, we are still surrounded by mountains of paper. Many of us have worked diligently to implement web based GIS solutions to improve workflows within the head office environment, but in most cases field staff must still rely on paper as part of their day to day work. For some organizations, corporate culture makes it difficult to change, and we have been waiting for technology to be in the right place at the right time to help initiate this change. Call it the perfect storm of technologies, but we are witnessing the convergence of mobile, web, and cloud computing all running within an expanding wireless mobile network using touch technology. In a world where paper was king, we are witnessing a shift to a paperless business environment where field staff can truly become mobile.

Join us on November 21st and see what your colleagues are up to. For more details on this next event, past seminars or URISA BC, please visit our website at http://www.urisabc.org/gis_web_event.html

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QtheMap Website
James Andrusiw

QtheMap is an interactive web-based tool that allows the public to search, display and print maps containing geographical information in the City of Coquitlam. The tool provides information on things such as parks, roads, utilities, civic facilities, schools, trails and other features within the City.

Updated in July 2012, the new QtheMap application uses the latest geographic information system technologies to provide superior performance and enhanced usability. Along with its robust address searching capabilities, the new application has a simplified interface and no longer depends on multiple tools for navigation, making getting around the map a much more efficient and smoother experience.

"The online mapping tool is valuable to the public and we've had feedback from residents and businesses

on what they wanted and needed," says Mayor Richard Stewart. "The City's ICT department has worked diligently to incorporate suggestions to ensure QtheMap provides users the specific information they need in an easily-used format. It's simple enough that even people my age can figure it out."

QtheMap is now available on all devices and browsers that support the Silverlight plug-in. QtheMap key features include:

- Multiple device and browser support – both PC and Mac
- High performance base maps both topographic and aerial photography
- Robust address searching
- JPG and PDF export capabilities
- Park sites, amenities, trails and facilities
- Property information
- Designated Land Use and Zoning
- Development permit areas and subdivision activity
- Environment, watercourse and SPEA mapping

- Rights of way, covenants and easements
- Utility data - communications, water, sanitary, drainage and transportation networks
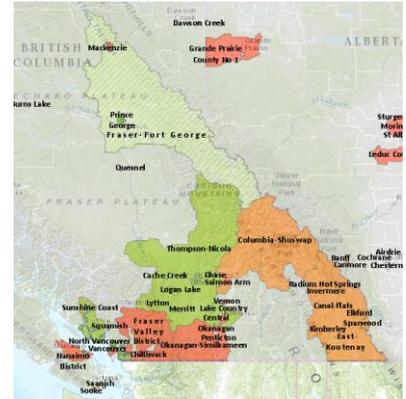- Survey monuments and sketches

The application provides a robust address searching feature that enables you to quickly and easily find a location or street. Numerous measurement tools are provided so you can:

- Identify coordinates of a location,
- Measure distances and areas, and
- Measure existing spatial features by selecting them.

Export capabilities have also been provided to export a map as a jpeg image or printer-friendly PDF.

Mobile devices, such as iPad and Android tablets, can access all QtheMap data through a separate application download or through Esri's ArcGIS Online website.

For further information and to try out Coquitlam's updated QtheMap, go to

http://www.coquitlam.ca/city-services/city-maps.aspx

Community Map of Canada
Derik Woo

The Community Map of Canada Initiative is a collaborative effort amongst federal, provincial and local governments to create Canadian Web Base maps to GIS users, knowledge workers and members of the public who require maps. The end products are Canadian online maps based on authoritative sources. A key distinction from commercial offerings is the data is being offered by authoritative sources.

In BC there are currently 22 out of 160 municipalities that are committed to this Initiative. As an active participant in the program, I feel it is important for every agency to participate for this Initiative to be truly successful. Based on the current participants, there is still an excellent opportunity for other jurisdictions to get involved to ensure complete coverage of BC. Here are 2 links that would assist in visualizing the Community Map of Canada Initiative:

- Map showing polygons of areas covered:

- Map showing participants:

There are a number of reasons I feel participation in this initiative is beneficial:

- Ensure data available is an accurate representation of your jurisdiction
- Encourage third party value added products using the online mapping source
- Encourage geospatial standards across jurisdictions
- Community issues crossing jurisdictional boundaries can be

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addressed with a Canadian online map

In addition, this is an opportunity for the Canadian geospatial community to create something of value to the Canadian community at large.

I believe this Initiative is going to be a success because the people involved are truly committed and there will be an infrastructure to ensure that the data is current. The infrastructure is based on the GeoFoundation Exchange project. The GeoFoundation Exchange project is committed to ensuring that data providers will have an infrastructure to update the Community Map of Canada. The GeoFoundation Exchange project is being designed for ease of use and applicable to various technical environments and data formats unique to each jurisdiction. As the GeoFoundation Exchange project is currently in the initial phases, more in depth information will follow in the coming months.

If you want more information Community Map of Canada Initiative or would like to participate please contact Michael

Classen at mclaassen@esri.ca. If you are already a participant of the Community Map of Canada Initiative and would like more information on the GeoFoundation Exchange project please contact Dave Edwards at dedwards@esri.ca. If you are interested about the Township of Langley's experience with either please contact me at dwoo@tol.ca.

2012 Executive

Our current executive committee consists of:

President – Dan Tancon, Dan.Tancon@gvrd.bc.ca
Vice-President – Drew Rifkin, drew.rifkin@safe.com
Treasurer – Robert Schultz, treasurer@urisabc.org
Secretary – TBA

Chapter Relations / **Certification** - Karen Stewart, kstewart@esricanada.com
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Member – Ken Johansson, kjohansson@crd.bc.ca

Happy GISing!