

Note from the President

It is with great pleasure that I take on the exciting role of president of URISA BC from past president Shawn McLeod. Last year we rebuilt and redesigned our website, which now offers a new look, [online registration](#), [event information](#) plus much more. Check us out at www.urisabc.org. We also published this first newsletter, which features articles, sponsors, websites and regular columns.

One of our goals this year is to create a solid, highly organized chapter with the vision of being the primary spatial information association for British Columbia. We will also continue to promote geospatial technologies within our region through seminars, half day sessions and via our website.

One of our greatest challenges is attracting interest from areas outside of BC's Lower Mainland. By facilitating the use of our new executive positions of communications officer and partnership officer we hope to create new outreach programs.

This year we have also been fortunate to welcome two new members to from the interior of BC to our executive. Wendy Nordin a new Communications Officer located in Prince George and Adam Chadwick the Webhosting/Liaison officer, located in Kamloops. Wendy and Adam will be helping us reach out to our interior GIS groups and include more of the regional GIS professionals in our association.

We extend our thanks to those who attended and participated in our breakfast session on December 2, 2003. As with all of our seminars it was successful because of user input and attendance. The topic of the event was ['Kelowna Fires and GIS'](#). We all learned how much time, effort, and dedication is required by many people to successfully manage operations in any emergency situation.



We plan on having two seminars during the first half of 2004. Our first will

be held on February 18, 2004. The title of the seminar is ["Integration of GIS, Mobile Solutions and Satellite Imagery"](#). The second seminar will be held May. The exact date and title will be announced once we have confirmed the agenda and location. Check our website for details.

Current seminar sponsors are:



I am confident that 2004 will allow us to continue to realize our goals and expand our vision. I look forward to the following year and to seeing you all at our upcoming events. I truly believe that by participating in URISA BC and our events we can all benefit through collaboration and sharing GIS knowledge. We will be working together to build a stronger GIS community in British Columbia and that can only lead to positive results for everyone.

I wish you all a successful 2004.

Karen Stewart

President, URISABC

URISA BC Seminar

The B.C. Chapter of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association is hosting a Winter seminar entitled *Integration of GIS, Mobile Solutions and Satellite Imagery*.

This seminar has two series, Urban and Satellite. The Urban Series of our seminar will focus on the identification, assessment and management of assets, integration of GIS with water network modeling, integrating CADD and GIS, mobile infrastructure maintenance and utilizing GIS to its highest potential over the Internet.

The Satellite Series will showcase cutting edge Remote Sensing applications for GIS. See how GIS is being used to support the analysis of urban greenspace, impervious and pervious areas on parcels of land, as well as change detection for new development. You will learn about the current state of satellite imagery and how the RCMP Air Squad will be using GIS data in their Police Helicopters. Both of these

series will provide a large range of topics on how GIS professionals are utilizing GIS Technologies to accomplish their business processes using new and effective techniques.

You are invited to attend this one-day event at the Ramada Plaza Conference Resort on February 18th, 2004 between 8:30am and 3:30pm. Lunch and Coffee will be served. Please register from the URISABC web page.

GIS Software Sharing

As a way of reducing the amount of resources spent on developing their GIS, BC local governments have suggested that a methodology be put in place to support the sharing of custom GIS tools (including scripts, applications, forms, or code of any kind).

Initially this was envisaged as a way for BC local governments to share their tools between themselves. It became apparent however that by making this available to the other levels of government, BC based taxpayers could benefit even more. Extending this out even further, it seems that there is no reason to limit this to just the BC provincial government but to extend this service to

any and all taxing authorities (regardless of level or location). Private, for profit companies are specifically excluded from participating in this concept. It is intended that the service would operate on the honour system and that anyone not working for a government organization would not violate this requirement.

In order to both make it as easy as possible for the supplier and the receiver of tools, the idea is to make this service web-based. Currently URISA BC is considering supplying their web site to support this concept. Adam Chadwick, City of Kamloops will be coordinating this project and can be contacted at: achadwick@kamloops.ca

URISA International

Our own President, Karen Stewart will be Canada's representative on URISA International's Chapter Relations Committee. Way to go Karen!

BCIT Bursary

Starting in 1990, URISA BC has supported students taking the BCIT Advanced Diploma in GIS with an annual endowment. The student with the highest marks receives the award. The recipient in 2002-03

was Erin Hunter. We are very pleased to have contributed a part of the \$586,000 total that BCIT has offered their students during the past academic year 2002-2003.



GIS to Join BCLS

The Corporation of British Columbia Land Surveyors established a committee in 2003 to review and develop procedures for expansion of its membership to include personnel from many sectors of the geomatics industry. It is proposed that technicians, technologists and geomatics professionals will hold membership in the Corporation at various levels.

Some of the advantages and benefits to membership in the proposed expanded profession are noted as follows:

- professional home and levels of professional designation for geomatics personnel.
- opportunities for continuing education.
- development of qualifications and implementation of professional certification of work where required by government or the public.
- recognized standards for working under NAFTA guidelines.

There has been a positive response to the concept of an expanded profession from the geomatics and GIS communities. The Corporation's Board of Management has requested that the committee meet at the BCLS annual general meeting in February to develop a strategy and action plan for implementing the expanded membership. Issues will include defining the roles and scope of practice for new membership categories, Corporation governance and a schedule for entering into formal discussions with organizations such as URISA and ASTTBC.

We encourage you to continue discussion of this initiative at your group meetings and to communicate to us any issues or concerns that result from your discussions.

URISA Certification

URISA International now provides GIS professionals with certification through the GIS Certification Institute. A system of points for approved GIS activities add up to qualification for a certificate from URISA International saying that you have met their criteria as a GIS professional. URISA BC's Winter Seminar is an activity approved for points by URISA International. For more

information go to:

<http://www.gisci.org/>

2003-04 Executive

Our new executive committee consists of:

President – **Karen Stewart**
Vice-President – **Gurdeep Singh**
Treasurer - **Dave Newman**
Secretary – **James Andrusiw**
Secretary – **Andrew Walther**
Partnership/Liaison Officer - **Jonathan Mark**
Partnership/Liaison Officer - **Carla Dresser**
Webhosting/Liaison Officer - **Adam Chadwick**
Newsletter Editors – **Jerry Maedel / Wendy Nordin**
Member - **Tjaart van den Berg**
Member – **Brian Sameshima, Jeff Jewel**
Member – **John Samulski**
Member – **Richard Mackay**
Member – **Frank Sciberras**
Member – **Matthias Uhlenbruck**
Member – **Phil Bates**
Member – **Perry Holmes**

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