



PRESENTATION BIOGRAPHIES – February 22nd, 2018

Smart Communities – Stories Behind the Tech

Presented by Sean Simpson – Director of Information Technology - City of Surrey

A member of the City of Surrey’s Senior Management Team, Sean Simpson is the Director, Information Technology, and is responsible for driving the City’s transformation to a customer-focused service delivery model. Sean is the Smart City Lead on the Federal Government’s National Smart Cities Challenge, and co-lead the development of Surrey’s Smart Surrey Strategy, which contributed to Surrey being named “Top 7 Intelligent Community of the Year” in 2015 and 2016 by New York-based think tank the ‘Intelligent Community Forum’. Prior to his current role, Sean was Surrey’s GIS Manager and established the City’s open data, GIS, asset management and 311 service programs.

Engineering Infrastructure Risk – Using GIS to Develop a Detailed Criticality and Risk Inventory

Presented by Jonathan Helmus, P. Eng - Assistant Director Engineering – Infrastructure & Development – City of Burnaby

Jonathan is a graduate of UBC Civil Engineering and has predominantly worked for municipalities (Burnaby and Vancouver). Previous roles have included project management and asset management. Currently, Jonathan is the Assistant Director Engineering – Infrastructure & Development at the City of Burnaby, where his team manages development approvals for Engineering, GIS & Engineering Systems, and Infrastructure Planning (ie. modeling, capital plan, operational support, etc..).

Analyzing Wildfire Threats to Protect your Assets

Presented by Piet Nooij - GIS Technology Manager – Fortis BC

Piet has a bachelor degree in surveying and GIS. Piet has more than 30 years’ experience in GIS and has worked for several engineering/mapping companies and the last 20 years at FortisBC. Piet’s responsibilities include developing business cases, data analysis and managing GIS projects. Piet is a board member of the ICI Society and the Pacific Northwest GITA.

Integrating GIS and FME for Local Government Solutions

Presented by Solomon Nimako – GIS Supervisor / Steve Lawdis – Senior GIS Analyst / Isaiah Aguilera – GIS Analyst - City of Rancho Cucamonga

The presenters for the City of Rancho Cucamonga include Solomon Nimako, Ryan Wilson, Isaiah Aguilera, and Steve Lawdis. The team uses full stack ESRI GIS, automation through Python and FME, and custom in-house programming to meet demands. Specialties include Enterprise GIS, Web and Mobile application development, and automation to solve demanding workflows. This team brings experience spanning two decades creating solutions in local government.

Survey123 for Storm Event Response and Storm Event Preparedness

Presented by Mike Esovloff - Supervisor Mapping & Drafting, Engineering & Public Works Department – City of Coquitlam

Mike Esovloff is the Supervisor of Mapping & Drafting at the City of Coquitlam, Engineering & Public Works Department. Mike has a Degree in Geography and a Certificate in Urban Studies complemented with over 22 years of municipal experience and training in the field of Geomatics focused in GIS. Over the past two decades Mike has contributed to the successful development and implementation of a number of GIS initiatives and projects at the City of Coquitlam.

Creating a Platform for Bold Ideas - Helping Communities Lead the Way

Presented by Gerard Peets – Director General, Smart Cities Challenge - Infrastructure Canada



Gerard Peets is the Director General responsible for developing and delivering the Smart Cities Challenge within Infrastructure Canada. Most recently, Gerard served as Director General, Manufacturing and Life Sciences at Innovation, Science and Technology where he led policy in Canada’s growing advanced manufacturing sector. Prior to this, Gerard held a number of positions in the Government of Canada relating to marketplace frameworks and intellectual property, cross-border issues, natural resource development and strategic policy. Mr. Peets holds a Masters of Arts in International Political Economy from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University, and a Bachelor of Sciences from the University of Guelph.

Burn Notice

Presented by Doug Stewart – Volunteer - Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (BC/Yukon)

Doug started his career in high tech at Northern Telecom's Fiber Optic plant in Saskatoon in the early 1980's. He then spent the next 25 years in various technology sales positions with Hewlett-Packard's Scientific Test and Measurement group - working all over Western Canada and the Northwest US. In 2009, 30 days after accepting a buy-out offer, Doug suffered a major stroke. It's been over 8 years recovering from this event, and now he spends his time enjoying the unplanned early retirement, and volunteers with several programs at the Heart and Stroke Association.

Right Decisions Yield “Smarter Communities”

Presented by Len Garis - Fire Chief, City of Surrey. Adjunct Professor, School of Criminology & Criminal Justice - University of the Fraser Valley

Fire Chief for the City of Surrey, British Columbia, Len Garis is an Adjunct Professor in the School of Criminology and Criminal Justice & Associate to the Centre for Social Research at the University of the Fraser Valley, a member of the Affiliated Research Faculty at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, and a faculty member of the Institute of Canadian Urban Research Studies at Simon Fraser University. His focus is on addressing public safety challenges through evidence-based decision making and innovation.

Open Government – Maple Ridge Story

Presented by Christina Crabtree – Chief Information Officer - City of Maple Ridge

Christina Crabtree has been with the City of Maple Ridge for over 12 years. In her current role as Chief Information Officer, she is responsible for all aspects of the technology strategies and services relating to the City. With a recent refresh of the City's IT Strategic Plan, the City is focusing its energies on creativity and innovation in its service delivery model. A commitment to anywhere, anytime from any device and in maximizing the value of the City's data for both staff and citizens are key drivers in the City's approach to Open Government. Christina has been in the technology industry for 30 years, working in almost every aspect of the field and in private, public and university sectors.