URISA
British Columbia Chapter

PRESENTER BIOS – April 11, 2024

Next Generation 9-1-1 GIS Data Provision: Working Together for Data that Works Together

Joy Sinnett, Jed Harrison, and Robert Darts - BC Government and E-Comm9-1-1

Joy Sinnett is the Section Head of the GeoBC Atlas, which many people know as the “DRA Team”, because we manage a provincial road centreline dataset used in emergency response dispatch called the Digital Road Atlas. GeoBC is a branch in the Water, Lands and Resource Stewardship ministry of the provincial government. Joy has enjoyed working on the DRA and many other GIS datasets for over 12 years.

Jed Harrison is a Team Lead in the GeoBC Atlas and is actively engaged on the Next Generation 9-1-1 file, participating in working groups such as TIF92, CLDXF-CA and others. Jed enjoys building technical solutions as well as relationships with the people and agencies bringing data together in the province.

Rob is the Senior Manager Application Services at E-Comm 9-1-1. He has been working in public safety for more than 20 years and has been working on the NG9-1-1 project since 2018. He is a co-chair for the Emergency Services Working Group (ESWG) TIF92 NG9-1-1 Mapping (GIS) and Common Addressing and a group leader for the National Emergency Number Association’s Civic Location Data Exchange Format Canada Working Group.

Geo-TRAIT (Geospatial Tree Risk Assessment and Inspection of Trails): A custom GIS solution for urban forestry management

Larry (Lei) Wu - City of Abbotsford

Dr. Larry Wu, equipped with a PhD in GIS from CUHK, boasts over a decade of professional experience garnered from roles at Esri Hong Kong and the Planning Department of the Hong Kong government. Presently serving as a Solution Analyst at the City of Abbotsford, he is dedicated to the digital transition of traditional workflows, notably completing the Geo-TRAIT project aimed at streamlining tree assessment and trail inspection processes through innovative GIS technology.

Community Baseline: a GIS solution to support land use decision-making in Coquitlam

Mike Esovoloff and Natasha Lock - City of Coquitlam

Mike Esovoloff is the GIS & Drafting Manager at the City of Coquitlam with over 30 years of GIS experience in a municipal government setting. Over the past three decades, Mike has been involved in the ongoing development and management of the City’s GIS data, processes, applications and products. Mike and the GIS Team in Coquitlam consistently encourage a communicative and collaborative approach when developing GIS solutions for the organization to achieve best results and is excited whenever the use of GIS provides a positive and effective outcome!

Natasha Lock is a Senior Planner with Community Planning at the City of Coquitlam. Natasha has spent the majority of her time with Coquitlam managing development applications, gaining a thorough understanding of the development process, current issues and the need for collaboration between

divisions. Drawing on her knowledge and experience, Natasha's current work focuses on improving neighbourhood-planning processes through collaboration. Natasha is consistently testing this approach through active projects, including the City's Southwest Housing Review.

Data-driven chatbots: How the City of Kelowna leverages AI and GIS to enhance customer service

Cheryl Trent and Kevin Wang - City of Kelowna

Cheryl Trent leads the Data Services and Analytics team at the City of Kelowna, overseeing the strategic and innovative use of data analytics, open data and GIS systems for the City. Cheryl inspires her team to explore new ways to find creative solutions using automation, AI, and machine learning. Her team's work enables many City departments to operate efficiently and transparently and offers valuable data to staff and citizens. Cheryl is a qualified professional with a bachelor's degree from Simon Fraser University and a PMP certification. She has more than two decades of experience in IT and GIS and is a long-time executive member of MISA BC.

Kevin Wang is a Business Systems Analyst at the City of Kelowna located in British Columbia, Canada. He has over 25 years of GIS experience and specializes in application development, automation and AI. Kevin thrives in a fast-paced, challenging environment and is the first to embrace new technology. Recently, Kevin has brought City data into the 3D domain with the development of a 3D map viewer that enables staff and citizens to find answers to common questions about approved developments and how they might impact the City. Kevin's current challenge is to integrate GIS into OpenAI and ChatGPT to provide locational data to City Chatbots for delivering services 24-7.

Embracing the Ever-Shifting Landscape: How Standardization and Efficient Workflows Empower GIS in a Dynamic City

Adityaraj (Raj) Chavada, Keith Der and Rylee Harlos - City of Vancouver

Raj is a GIS Systems Analyst with the City of Vancouver, leveraging his 14+ years of experience across three countries (USA, UAE, Canada) to deliver impactful GIS solutions for municipal governments. Fueled by a passion for continuous learning, Raj holds a Civil Engineering degree, a Master's in GIS, and is currently pursuing a leadership credential at BCIT. When he's not working, you'll find him exploring British Columbia's beauty with his dog Snoopy.

Keith Der, P.Eng., PMP is Assistant Branch Manager of the Development Water Resources Branch at the City of Vancouver. He has 22 years of experience in sewer design and construction projects and manages a team of engineers and technicians responsible for sewer rezone conditions for development and the monitoring of developer delivered sewer design and construction projects. The team is currently reviewing and monitoring hundreds of sewer projects across the City valued at about $100 million.

Rylee is a Systems Analyst working for the City of Vancouver in the Waste Management Division since 2020. She has been working with GIS Technologies for 6 years in various levels of government since getting her Bachelor of Science from the University of Victoria. Being a technical resource embedded in the business has allowed her to work on a wide range of projects from data collection initiatives to developing data models to support 24-hour complex operations. In her free time, she likes to do typical Vancouver activities like hiking, paddle boarding, road biking and beach volleyball.

Navigating GIS Solutions for Next-Gen 9-1-1 in Washington State

Eadie Kaltenbacher and Dan Miller - Kitsap 911

Eadie performs GIS-related work for Kitsap 911, a mid-size WA 911 center with approximately 300,000 residents. She is responsible for their NG9-1-1 GIS data layers, and will share the perspective of a local agency. She is also the vice-chair of the Washington NG9-1-1 GIS Working Group and lives in Delta, BC.

Dan has been working in the GIS Community for almost 29 years in a variety of positions, primarily in state government, with a short stint as an Esri Account Manager and about seven years as an Intelligence Analyst. The last 12 years as the 9-1-1 GIS Coordinator for the Washington state 9-1-1 Program Office.

Victoria 3D Residential Capacity Modeling

Russell Prentice and Camille Gay - Licker Geospatial Consulting Co.

Russell Prentice is a graduate from the BCIT Advanced Diploma in GIS Program, complimenting his BSc. Geoscience degree from UBC. During his 6 year career at LGeo, he has undertaken GIS projects in a variety of fields and disciplines, including work with local, provincial and regional government, non-profit organizations and First Nations.A particular area of focus for Russell has been the creation of housing capacity models and tools which aid municipalities in a variety of ways. Examples of this include aiding in the creation of a new official community plan, understanding the effect of different policies on sewer and water infrastructure or helping to create more walkable cities by focusing housing growth in areas with high access to parks, amenities and public transit.

Camille has been working in the field of GIS for four years, where she has fostered a passion for analyzing community and environmental health. Camille graduated with a Masters of Geomatics for Environmental Management in the faculty of Forestry and a Bachelor of Arts in Geography, both from the University of British Columbia. She has worked extensively in 3D mapping environments using LiDAR and photogrammetry to model forests and the urban environment in 3 dimensions. Camille's recent project experience also includes a wide variety of GIS analyses, including mapping community access to parks and trails, extreme heat vulnerability mapping, snow plot optimization as well as student forecasting analysis. In her spare time, Camille can be found running laps around the track, hiking, cycling, or making pottery.

Leveraging Collaboration for Climate Resilience: Insights from the Capital Region Extreme Heat Information Portal

Gurdeep Singh and Trilby Buck - GeoBC, and Ruth Midgley - Capital Regional District

Gurdeep has over 25 years of dedicated service to the British Columbians through his role at Provincial Government. He brings a wealth of experience and expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to the table. For the past 15 years, he has had the privilege of leading the Emergency Management, Climate Readiness, and Business Innovation Portfolio within GeoBC, where he has spearheaded initiatives aimed

at enhancing emergency preparedness, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience. His tenure has been marked by a steadfast commitment to leveraging GIS technologies to address pressing challenges in emergency management and public safety. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing GIS strategies that support all phases of natural hazard and emergency management, facilitating coordination with stakeholders and enhancing situational awareness through innovative data-driven solutions.

Trilby Buck is a Geospatial Services Coordinator on the Business Innovation and Emergency Response team at GeoBC in Victoria, joining the provincial government in 2019. She received a B.Sc. in Geography from the University of Victoria with honours research that took her to Nunavut for remote sensing field work. She has supported the Province of B.C. through multiple States of Emergency including COVID-19, heat domes, atmospheric rivers, and many wildfire seasons. Her passion is supporting citizens and organizations by conveying challenging topics in an easy-to-understand spatial format that simplifies decision making during times of uncertainty.

Ruth Midgley is the Climate Action Coordinator at the Capital Regional District. Her work focuses on strategic planning, reporting, and change management, to drive effective and coordinated climate action across the organization. She also facilitates regional coordination of climate adaptation priorities and leads initiatives that provide local governments with region-wide data to implement effective policies and programs, such as future climate projections and information on hazards the region is currently facing like extreme heat. Ruth is passionate about fostering resilience and sustainability, motivated by a commitment to creating a livable future for the coming generations.