



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PARTICIPATION IN GEOSKILLS SHOWCASE

Background to the *GeoSkills Showcase*

The websites selected for Theme Days in 2007 illustrate some of the many ways of thinking about and doing geography, and the websites selected for Theme Days 2008 add more ways, as do the websites selected for the *Applied Geography Showcase*.

Clearly, the skills involved in geographic teaching, research, and applications are numerous, diverse, and rapidly changing as universities, colleges, schools, governments, businesses, and other organizations introduce new and different methods, techniques, technologies, and practices to support and promote thinking about and doing geography.

Examination of those websites reveals, however, that becoming informed about the education, training, and work experiences associated with skills in geography is a daunting task. As demonstrated by the websites, these skills are not 'under one roof'. Rather, they are developed, taught, and used in Canada's universities, colleges, and schools, by governments at all levels, by businesses in all parts of the country, as well as by advocacy groups, the media, and other organizations.

To inform Canadians about the rich (but disparate) body of information on geographic skills, *GeoSkills Showcase* was introduced as the second showcase element of Geography Awareness Week 2008. We are continuing the *GeoSkills Showcase* initiative for Geography Awareness Week 2009.

The purpose of the *GeoSkills Showcase*, using the power of the Internet, is to provide an electronic window into organizations that offer courses, workshops, lesson plans, training sessions, publications, demonstrations, and other means of learning about and acquiring geographic skills.

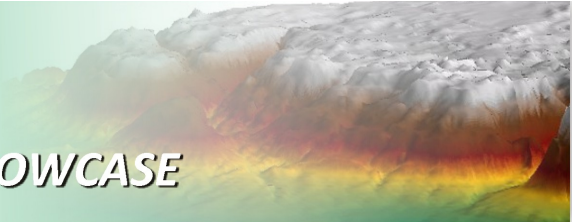
The process of constructing and then putting the *GeoSkills Showcase* into operation is straightforward, and involves just two links. First, the websites of participating organizations are linked to the website of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) (www.cag-acg.ca). Then, by clicking on "*GeoSkills Showcase*", the visitor to the CAG website is linked to the participating organizations through their websites.

Guidelines

To ensure that visitors to *GeoSkills Showcase* are being linked to websites that contain pertinent education, training, and work experience materials, several guidelines have been developed. The guidelines are provided to assist website participants in selecting materials that are pertinent to the *GeoSkills Showcase* part of Geography Awareness Week 2009.



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Guideline 1: Types of GeoSkills

Many kinds of skills are used in teaching, studying, thinking about, and doing geography, and entire textbooks are dedicated to writing about these skills. However, these are the exploratory years of the showcase program, and it appears advisable to 'keep things simple'. As a result, for the early years of the *GeoSkills Showcase* we suggest that it would be very helpful to visitors if participating websites would organize their geographic skills and materials under such well-established headings as:

- Cartography
- Digital imaging
- Geocaching games
- Geographic field methods
- Geographic research methods
- Geographic research techniques
- Geomatics
- Geomodelling
- Geoscience methodology
- Geostatistics
- GIS applications
- GIS fundamentals
- GIS principles
- GIS science
- GIS technology
- GPS applications
- Mapping systems and applications
- Remote sensing
- Spatial analysis

As indicated by the terms used, the focus is on geographic skills, and that is the overriding criterion for website participation in the *GeoSkills Showcase*.

It is important to emphasize that additional headings may be used, and are welcome contributions to the elaboration of this showcase. Over the next several years the headings and their associated subject matter are likely to change considerably, and the sooner we learn about and discuss such innovations the better.

Guideline 2: Sources of GeoSkills

There are many ways of acquiring geographic skills, as shown by the indicative list of sources. Organizations are invited to use the following terms to organize their offerings, and to add new headings to the list:

- Conferences
- Courses
- Demonstrations
- Labs
- Lectures
- Lesson Plans
- Practical experience (*a.k.a. on-the-job-training*)
- Projects
- Publications
- Seminars
- Training Sessions
- Videos
- Workshops



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Guideline 3: Inclusiveness

We want to make the *GeoSkills Showcase* as inclusive as we can. What this means is providing materials that are readily understandable by everyone who visits the site -- children, teens, adults, seniors, lay people, professionals -- some of whom may not have a strong background in geography. Fortunately, we have been doing our homework, and we have the means of meeting this challenge in a very productive way.

Over the years the field of geography in Canada has moved to the forefront as a discipline that combines qualitative skills, quantitative skills, and visualization skills. This evolution occurred in part because of the realization that thinking and doing in geography are at their best when words, numbers, and graphics such as maps and images are combined. As a result, Canadian geographers are very good at combining text, numerics, and graphics in curiosity-driven research, in client-driven research, and in the day-to-day application of geographic concepts, techniques, and technologies for description, explanation, and prediction tasks, as well as for planning, evaluation, and other uses.

The *GeoSkills Showcase* is an ideal venue for organizations to demonstrate how they combine geographic text, geographic numerics, and geographic graphics in their processes or products. And, it is an ideal venue for providing a range of materials that are informative and instructive to beginners and newcomers to the field, as well as to people with advanced training and experience as designers, instructors, and users of these skills.

Getting Involved

The process for becoming a participant in *GeoSkills Showcase* is to send your link to Barry Wellar at wellarb@uottawa.ca. Upon confirmation that your link does in fact contain materials that have specific regard for geographic skills, and the site is readily accessible to 'ordinary Internet users', the url will be forwarded to the CAG for posting as part of Geography Awareness Week 2009.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers, we look forward to welcoming websites to the *GeoSkills Showcase*.

Dr. Barry Wellar, Program Director
Geography Awareness Week 2009



Beginning with Geography Awareness Week 2008, title pages from publications, as well as from presentations at conferences, workshops, public meetings and other venues are being assembled for the *GeoSkills Showcase Sampler*. The complete presentations can be viewed by accessing the website URL that is included with each title page.

The title pages serve several purposes. First, a brief scan of the titles is sufficient to gain an appreciation of the many kinds of topics and tasks for which geographic skills are used in curiosity-driven and/or client-driven research and applications.

Second, the title pages introduce Canadians (and other visitors to the CAG website) to the broad range of university and college departments, government agencies, firms, advocacy groups, and other organizations that use geographic skills in their teaching, research, training, education, governance, public service, business, entertainment, and other activities.

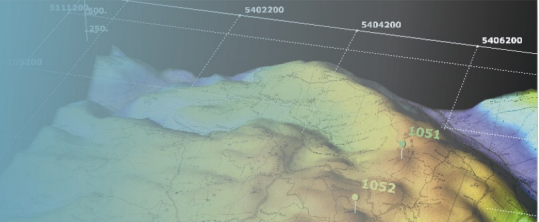
Third, the title pages provide an indication of the courses, workshops, lesson plans, training sessions, publications, demonstrations, work assignments, and other means of imparting, learning about, and acquiring geographic skills.

Fourth, the websites that are linked to the GeoSkills Showcase may be overly detailed for newcomers to the world of GeoSkills. The title pages in the *GeoSkills Showcase Sampler* provide a non-intensive but very informative context for viewing the websites in the GeoSkills Showcase.

New title pages will be added periodically to those currently listed. Viewers are invited to return to the *GeoSkills Showcase Sampler* to learn about these additions to the body of methods and techniques used in thinking about and doing geography.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers, we look forward to adding new title pages to the *GeoSkills Showcase Sampler*. The current title pages are illustrative of design guidelines. Please send your proposed contribution to:

Dr. Barry Wellar, Program Director
Geography Awareness Week
Canadian Association of Geographers
wellarb@uottawa.ca



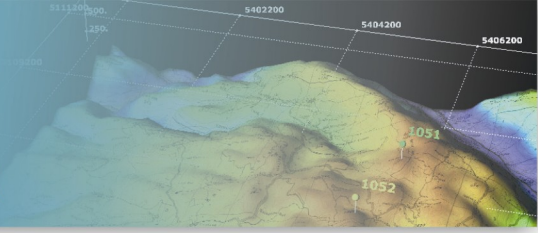
Contributions to the 2008 GeoSkills Showcase Sampler

Potential contributors to the GeoSkills Showcase Sampler include principal investigators, consultants, researchers, advisors, technicians, and others in government, business, academia, non-government organizations, advisory groups, and similar public and private entities who are commissioned to undertake a body of work which results in a report or other presentation that is posted on a website, and is accessible to the general public.

The Table of Contents that follows lists the titles of the reports and the authors of the reports that were contributed to the 2008 GeoSkills Showcase Sampler.

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**From NASA Satellite Images (1966) to
Google Earth (2008): Geography, Geomatics
and GIS Have Come a Long Way**

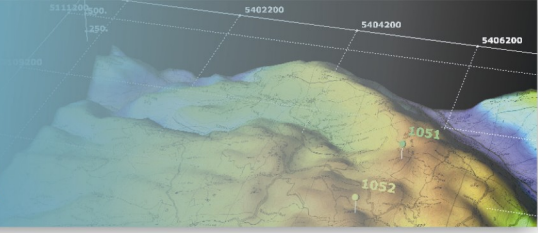
Dr. Barry Wellar
Professor Emeritus
University of Ottawa
wellarb@uottawa.ca

PowerPoint Slides for an Invited Lecture

Sigma Xi,
The Scientific Research Society
Ottawa Chapter

Thursday, April 24, 2008
National Research Council,
Ottawa, Ontario

www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/WellarPresentstheTriple.htm

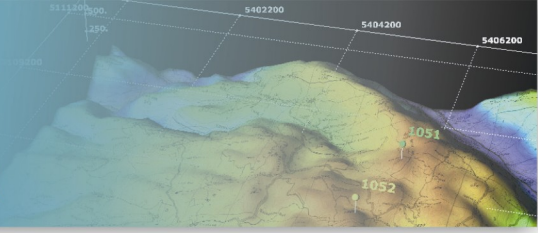


Sustainable Transport Best Practices and Geography: Making Connections

Dr. Barry Wellar
Professor Emeritus,
University of Ottawa
Distinguished Research Fellow
Transport 2000 Canada
wellarb@uottawa.ca
<http://wellarconsulting.com>

Text of the
Fleming Lecture
Organized by the University of Washington
2007 Annual Meeting
Association of American Geographers
San Francisco, CA, April 17-21

<http://people.hofstra.edu/geotrans/tgsg/events/AAG%2007%20Fleming%20Lecture%20Final.pdf>



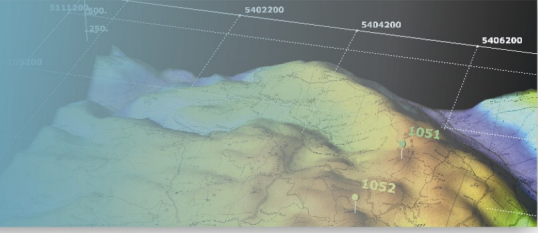
**Cutting to the Chase in
Designing New Measures of
Transportation System Performance**

Dr. Barry Wellar
Distinguished Research Fellow
Transport 2000 Canada,
Professor Emeritus
University of Ottawa,
Principal, Wellar Consulting Inc.
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August 24, 2008
Ottawa, ON

www.transport2000.ca/

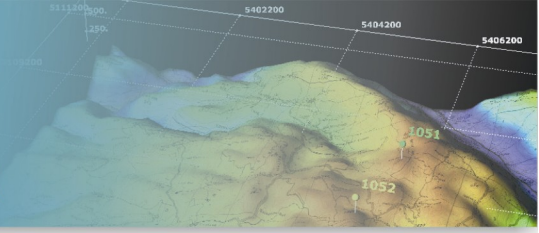


**Integrating Geographic Information Systems,
Spatial Databases and the Internet:
A Framework for Disaster Management**

Sam Herold, Mike Sawada and Barry Wellar
Laboratory for Applied Geomatics
and GIS Science (LAGGISS)
Geography Department,
University of Ottawa
www.geomatics.uottawa.ca

Proceedings, Canadian Institute of
Geomatics (CIG) Annual Conference 2005

www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/CIGConference_pdf/Herold_CIG2005.pdf

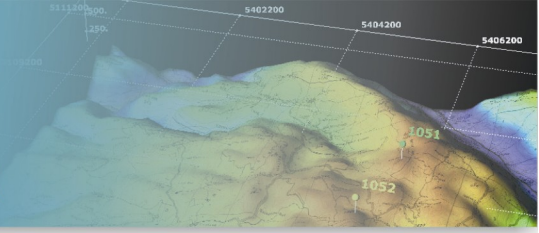


**Analysis of the urban/rural broadband divide in Canada:
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Mike Sawada, Daniel Cossette, Barry Wellar and Tolga Kurt
University of Ottawa

Government Information Quarterly 23
(2006) p. 454-479

www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/GAW/broadband.pdf



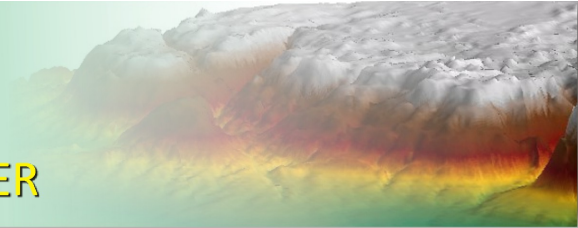
Thank You for Contributions to the 2008 GeoSkills Sampler

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As discussed over the past year, and especially during the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Geographers, access to these kinds of materials are important for the education and training of students, the leisure and recreation activities of Canadians of all ages, the preparation of courses, curricula, and training programs in academia, and for people already in the workforce who want to learn more about the who's, why's, and how's of conceptualizing, designing, developing, testing, implementing, and illustrating or demonstrating the use of geographic skills (GeoSkills) in client-driven and curiosity-driven research and associated activities.

On behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers, and all Canadians who may benefit from an enhanced awareness of the different kinds of GeoSkills which are pertinent to the goals, objectives, and operations of academic institutions, governments, businesses, interest groups, other organizations, and individuals, I look forward to receiving many more contributions for inclusion in the 2009 GeoSkills Sampler.

Dr. Barry Wellar
Program Chairman
Geography Awareness Week
Canadian Association of Geographers



Welcome to the 2009 GeoSkills Showcase Sampler

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