

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

It is our 6th Annual GIS Day You can see the set-up and photos from last year at www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/gisday. Subject matter's presented on the student and research posters (of which there are around 100) range from planetary GIS to the application of GIS in Archeology, numerous examples of previous poster presentations can be found at <http://www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/INTRO/POSTER.htm>. At that link you will find a few examples of the subject areas to which geomatics is applied.

As you may know, this year's International Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day (www.gisday.com) falls on November 15th, 2006. It is during geography awareness week. Each year during geography awareness week at the University of Ottawa we hold an entire day of GIS exhibits that educate the public and student body about the importance of geography to everyday urban and environmental issues. This is organized by the Department of Geography and the Geographic, Statistical and Government Information Center.

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November 15th is therefore a celebration of the field of Geomatics. Geomatics is the science that integrates Geographic Information Systems, Remote Sensing, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), Cartography, and Cadastral Surveying. This currently \$67 billion worldwide industry is a Canadian invention! GIS, the largest component of geomatics, was invented in Ottawa itself in the late 1960's by Dr. Roger Tomlinson.

In the first few years Dr. Robert Moses (President of PCI) graciously provided his insights regarding geomatics and the future to captive audiences. Last year, Alex Miller, president of ESRI Canada, graciously flew to Ottawa for the event and provided a keynote speech to hundreds of students regarding the importance of geomatics. There was standing room only as students packed the Agroa and surrounding areas to hear Mr. Miller identify key areas of strategic development such as infrastructure renewal and planning. Mr. Miller rightly noted that we can't fix today's problems with the same kind of thinking that produced them in the first place. Following Mr. Miller, Barry Wellar, a Distinguished Geomatics Researcher echoed his sentiments by saying, "...it is up to young aspiring students to come up with new and better ways of doing things, someone here today will have the next million dollar idea. Who will it be?".

Finally, we held an Open Conference all day long in the exhibit area where individuals and agencies provided insight into their applications of geomatics.

We hosted almost 400 high-school students this year from Canterbury, Sphère Collège, Char-Lan, and Samuel-Genest among others! We held workshops for these students as well that were very successful and well received. The workshops were designed and taught by the graduate students of LAGGISS.

The educational exhibits set up by GIS Day partner agencies and companies, including:

1. ESRI Canada Inc.

2. DM Solutions Group Inc
3. PCI Geomatics
4. 3rd Field Engineers Squadron
5. XWave
6. National Atlas of Canada
7. The National Air Photo Library
8. TerraPoint Canada Inc.
9. The City of Ottawa
10. LAGGISS
11. GSG
12. GeoBase
13. CIETmap

During the previous year, the honorable Dr. Rey D. Pagtakhan, former Minister and Secretary of State for Science, Research and Development visited our GIS Day and toured exhibits and met students. Many VIPs toured the 100+ student geomatics posters including Dr. Robert Moses, president of PCI Geomatics, Alex Miller, president of ESRI Canada, Richard Nasmith, the director of the Canadian Institute of Geomatics, Dr. Susan Till, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Earth Sciences Sector at NRCan, and Jean Cooper, Acting Director General of Mapping Services Branch at NRCan. News releases and other information from GIS Day 2003 can be seen at <http://www.uottawa.ca/academic/arts/geography/new/gis.htm> and http://www.gazette.uottawa.ca/gazette/article_e.php?article_id=141&newlang=english as well as http://www.gazette.uottawa.ca/article_e_148.html and http://www.nrcan-rncan.gc.ca/media/newsreleases/2003/2003101_e.htm

In that same year Liberal MP David McGuinty, as well as Ottawa City Councilor and Deputy Mayor Peggy Feltmate kindly presented the city of Ottawa Proclamation of GIS Day.