

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES  
**BULLETIN**

**Regional News**

Edited by Martin Chandler

**Alberta**

**Edmonton Map Society**

**David Jones**

Our Fall meeting was held on November 5th, 2019.

Our speaker was **Joseph Patrouch** Professor (History & Classics Department) and Director (Wirth Institute for Austrian & Central European Studies). He spoke in general terms about the Wirth Institute's various activities relating to the histories of Austria-Hungary, Austro-Hungarians, and World War I. He spoke specifically on the recent Peel Library acquisition of a set of photograph portfolios titled "**Austria-Hungary under Arms**" published during the war. These will be the focus of an exhibit in early 2020.

He also introduced a set of maps from the official Austrian history of the war, published in Vienna from 1930-39 in fifteen volumes.; **Österreich-Ungarns letzter Krieg 1914-1918**. This set of volumes, divided between texts and tables and detailed maps, some of them day-by-day, of the campaigns 1914-1918 prepared by the hrsg. von Österreichischen Bundesministerium für Heereswesen und vom Kriegsarchiv. The detailed situation maps are most interesting. The collection is on the Rutherford Humanities & Social Science Library: Call no. D 539 A5 1931

**University of Alberta GIS Day Nov. 13th**

GIS day 2019 was hosted by Charlene Nielsen. Following a video introduction by Jack Dangerman, Charlene introduced the ~40 attendees to some of the various GIS resources at the UofA, She also gave a demonstration of online mapping and the new version of StoryMaps. The event also provided the usual networking opportunity for people across disciplines involved in GIS education and research.

**The City of Edmonton also held a GIS Day on Nov. 13th**

10:00am How Spatial Analytics Supports Evidence-Based Planning and Decision Making

11:00am Story Map for the Missing Middle Infill Design Competition

1:00pm Mobile GIS as a communication platform. Edmonton Cart Rollout

2:00pm Policing the 106th Grey Cup: ArcGIS Online and Tracker for Situational Awareness

There was also an all-day Map Gallery Display

## **British Columbia**

### **Kwantlen Polytechnic University**

#### **Andre Iwanchuk**

KPU Library and KPU's Department of Geography and the Environment organized a full day of events to mark the fourth annual GIS Day @ KPU on Nov 13, 2019. GIS Day is an annual worldwide celebration for users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology. GIS Day @ KPU brought together KPU GIS users and learners – including faculty, students, and staff – who discussed the many benefits of GIS technology.

GIS Day began with an Introduction to Mapping with Excel workshop, led by KPU Geographer Parthiphan Krishna. Workshop participants gained hands-on experience using the unique mapping features available in Excel.

GIS Day also featured informative presentations. David Burns, Vice-Chair of University Senate, explained his use of mapping features in Excel to visualize data from the Surrey School District. Lisa Dreves, Stewardship Coordinator – Langley Environmental Partners Society, highlighted projects that used QGIS software, including historical wildlife mapping, and streamside habitat conservation. Jim O'Leary, Spatial Analyst – City of Vancouver, gave an overview of open source GIS, and provided insightful demonstrations of QGIS software in use on various projects – including fire station and water fountain site selections in the Greater Vancouver area.

The GIS presentations were followed by a meet-and-greet networking session where KPU faculty, staff, and students with an interest in GIS had the opportunity to share ideas. KPU Library looks forward to hosting additional GIS Day events in the future.

## **New Brunswick**

### **University of New Brunswick**

#### **Siobhan Hanratty**

The map collection at the Harriet Irving Library has been moved offsite as part of a research commons renovation. Although it is not expected that the map collection will move back to the same location when the research commons is opened (Fall 2020), the new space will include a digital scholarship lab appropriate for GIS work, a Data/GIS Visualization presentation space, as well as other services related to mapping and GIS.

# Ontario

## Queen's University

### Francine Berish

In a longstanding tradition, Queen's University Library, the City of Kingston and Queen's faculty units, including Geology and the Geography and Planning Department, collaborated to host a half-day of events to celebrate GIS Day on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Stauffer Library.

This year's celebrations included a graduate student organized scavenger hunt using ArcGIS Online, talks from the City of Kingston and Statistics Canada, a career panel featuring the Ministry of Transportation Ontario, the City of Kingston, Utilities Kingston, Queen's Library and Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington (KFL&A) Public Health.

<https://library.queensu.ca/about-us/news-events/gis-day-2019>



(Photo: delicious cake)



Photo from left to right: Phillip Healey (GIS Manager, City of Kingston), Kevin Cruz (GIS Technician, Utilities Kingston), Brian Mosley (GIS Analyst, KFL&A Public Health), Michael See (GIS Coordinator, Ontario Ministry of Transportation) and Elizabeth Griffiths (GIS Technologist, Utilities Kingston).

## **University of Waterloo**

### **Eva Dodsworth**

Another busy term at the University of Waterloo. Staff in the Geospatial Centre have offered several workshops this term, with the newest one covering Machine Learning. This workshop focused in on the GIS application of Machine Learning, including for raster analysis and how deep learning can aid in extracting vector features from imagery. As part of the SSHRC grant received in the summer, we have hired a total of 9 part-time students to work on geocoding the historical Vernon Directories. We are currently considering different platforms for presenting and managing the data. Leaflet and Esri are both strong contenders. We celebrated GIS Day with 20 Lightning Talk speakers, an open house of our Centre and of course, GIS Day cake!

## **Québec**

### **McGill University**

#### **Martin Chandler**

After a grand and educative year at Brock University's Map, Data & GIS Library, I've made the move to McGill, filling the role of Data Services Librarian. This position encompasses both numerical and geospatial data, roles that have at various times been split or joined at the institution. Current projects include organizing data and data portals, cataloguing maps and data, and merging the Map Room and the Data Lab into a unified Map and Data Centre with a fully realized presence throughout the institution.

## **Saskatchewan**

### **University of Regina**

#### **Vickery Pentz (co-op student at Western University)**

The University of Regina Map Library, located in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, possesses a significant collection of historical aerial photographs from across western Canada (with a particular emphasis on Saskatchewan) dating from the 1940s to the 1970s. A large majority of the photographs form part of the Canadian Department of Agriculture's Land Inventory for Tomorrow (LIFT) program from July and August of 1970. Spanning over 40 filing cabinet drawers within the library space, this collection remains largely uncatalogued and inaccessible, while the less-than-ideal storage conditions of these filing cabinets render the photographs liable to damage and loss. In conjunction with the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, the University of Regina Library has undertaken a project to both preserve and improve the accessibility of this important collection of historical and geographical data.

In September of this year, I was brought on as a co-op student from the University of Western Ontario's Library and Information Science program in order to inaugurate this lengthy project. Supported by a team of experts from the University of Regina, as well as by several generous consultants from the Universities of Lethbridge, Calgary, and Saskatchewan, I have been working to gather information, establish processes and workflows, and extract metadata for the aerial photographs in this collection. I have also had the privilege of presenting a poster detailing this project at the Prairie Division of the Canadian Association of Geographers' 2019 conference in Moose Jaw. Having come into this project with next to no knowledge of either geography or aerial photographs, it has been a fairly steep learning curve, and yet I have quickly become passionate about the work of map libraries and archives.

Ultimately, the main projected outcomes for this project will be threefold. First, we will reorganize the collection into acid-free archival boxes, to prevent further physical damage being done to the photographs. Second, we will create a digital catalogue of the aerial photograph collection that will be compatible with the general University of Regina library catalogue and research software, in order to increase the visibility of the collection beyond the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, as well as to facilitate access to it. Finally, we will digitize all those aerial photographs that are *not* accessible in digital format from other institutions (along with their accompanying flight line index maps), in addition to incorporating links to where previously digitized photographs can be found elsewhere. The digitization process will be the capstone of the project, serving both of its primary goals by not only preserving the photographs in digital format but also increasing free, open access to researchers on and off campus.