



# 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* is introduced as the second showcase element of Geography Awareness Week 2008.

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.

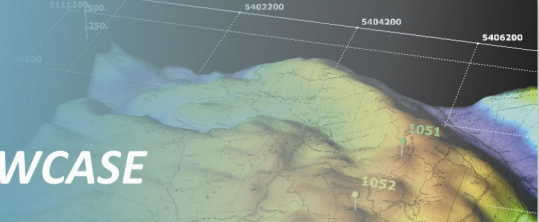
The process of constructing and then putting the *GeoSkills Showcase* into operation is straightforward, and involves just two links. First, the websites of participating organizations are linked to the website of the Canadian Association of Geographers (CAG) ([www.cag-acg.ca](http://www.cag-acg.ca)). 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 2008.



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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, this is the inaugural year of a showcase, and it appears advisable to 'keep things simple'. As a result, for year one 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
- Geographic field methods
- Geographic research methods
- Geographic research techniques
- Geomatics
- Geostatistics
- GIS Applications
- GIS fundamentals
- GIS principles
- GIS science
- GIS technology
- 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 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](mailto: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 2008.

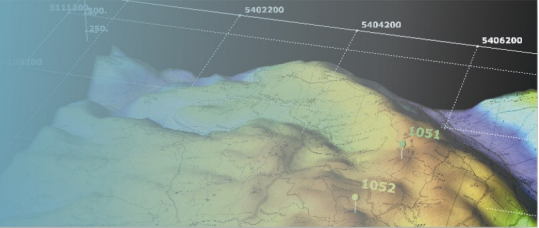
On behalf of the Canadian Association of Geographers, we look forward to welcoming websites to the *GeoSkills Showcase*.

Dr. Barry Wellar, Program Director  
Geography Awareness Week 2008



# GEO SKILLS

## SHOWCASE SAMPLER



A selection of title pages from publications, as well as from presentations at conferences, workshops, public meetings and other venues has been assembled for the *GeoSkills Showcase Sampler*, Geography Awareness Week 2008. 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 to the broad range of university and college departments, government agencies, firms, advocacy groups, and other organizations that use geographic skills in conducting their teaching, research, training, education, governance, public service, business, entertainment, and other affairs.

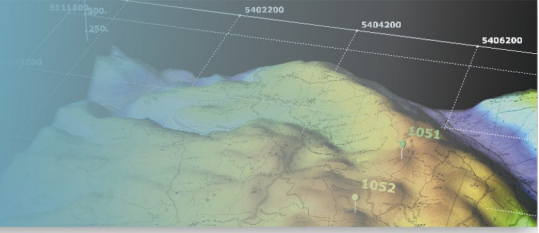
Third, the title pages provide an indication of the courses, workshops, lesson plans, training sessions, publications, demonstrations, and other means of imparting, learning about, and acquiring geographic skills.

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 participating 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](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca)



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

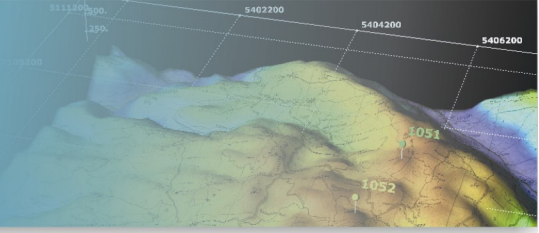
Dr. Barry Wellar  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Ottawa  
[wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca)

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](http://www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/WellarPresentstheTriple.htm)

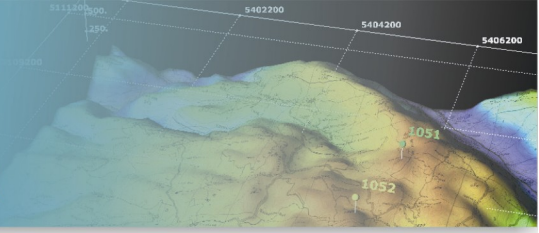


### **Sustainable Transport Best Practices and Geography: Making Connections**

Dr. Barry Wellar  
Professor Emeritus,  
University of Ottawa  
Distinguished Research Fellow  
Transport 2000 Canada  
[wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto: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>



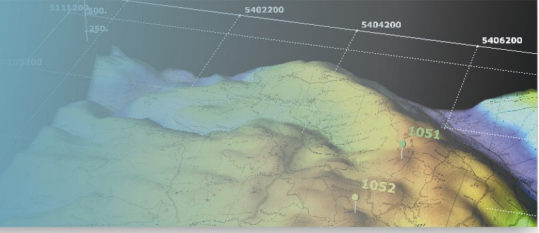
**Cutting to the Chase in  
Designing New Measures of  
Transportation System Performance**

Dr. Barry Wellar  
Distinguished Research Fellow  
Transport 2000 Canada,  
Professor Emeritus  
University of Ottawa,  
Principal, Wellar Consulting Inc.  
[wellarb@uottawa.ca](mailto:wellarb@uottawa.ca)

Transport 2000 Canada  
Box/C.P. 858, Station B  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1P 5P9  
Email: [t2000@transport2000.ca](mailto:t2000@transport2000.ca)

August 24, 2008  
Ottawa, ON

[www.transport2000.ca/](http://www.transport2000.ca/)



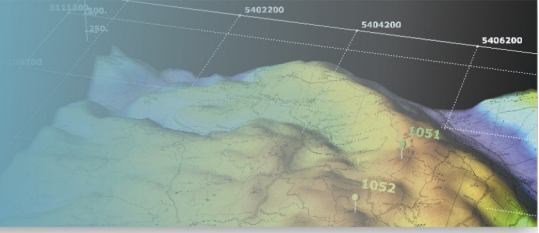
**Integrating Geographic Information Systems,  
Spatial Databases and the Internet:  
A Framework for Disaster Management**

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

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

[www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/CIGConference\\_pdf/Herold\\_CIG2005.pdf](http://www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/CIGConference_pdf/Herold_CIG2005.pdf)





**Analysis of the urban/rural broadband divide in Canada:  
Using GIS in planning terrestrial wireless deployment**

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](http://www.geomatics.uottawa.ca/GAW/broadband.pdf)