



## GIS Department Scores National Coverage

The following article appeared in *HealthyGIS* a U.S. based GIS magazine for ESRI (Fall 2006) – The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) and ESRI Canada hosted the first GIS in Healthcare Day for northern Ontario at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, on May 1, 2006. The agenda was filled with a mix of expert demonstrations, guest speakers, and illustrated examples of GIS maps containing health-related information and the themes of the event were tailored to northern Ontario.

“Health care can benefit greatly from GIS, and our work here is increasing awareness among the health care community that GIS can improve service delivery and

support decision making,” said Paul Beach, project manager at SSMIC.

SSMIC operates the Community Geomatics Centre (CGC), a unique group in Canada that promotes and establishes the partnerships and technological means to efficiently share geo-spatial data, tools, technology, and knowledge among community organizations. Its goal is to create a safer, healthier, and more prosperous community.



SSMIC has collaborated with local health and social agencies

to improve community health by adding relevant health and social issues data to the community's extremely comprehensive municipal GIS dataset. As a result, it has tackled problems in the areas of early childhood development, handicapped accessibility, public safety, and environmental health. Early results indicate improvements in public safety, reductions in municipal liabilities, and more effective use of budgetary resources.

By viewing the data spatially, and with the ability to overlay different agencies' data, health- and social issue-related organizations can now look for combining factors that may be causing a

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## Sault College Receives Technology Upgrade

Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology recently underwent an Information Technology upgrade to improve the college's data, voice, video and wireless communications. FedNor provided a \$500,000 contribution to this initiative.

The funding has allowed Sault College to implement a state-of-the-art network that will benefit students, the community, faculty and administrative staff.

The network provides features that will contribute to an enhanced student-learning experience, enable the college to support community-training initiatives and develop a reputation as a



Shown here at the College's Information Technology Showcase, held on Nov. 9, 2006, are (l to r): FedNor Initiatives Officer, Dan Hollingsworth; Sault College Manager of Network Services, Jeff Weeks; Sault College Chief Information Officer, Peggy-Storey-Inkster; and FedNor Officer, Franca Stoycheff.

centre of technology excellence.

The network provides data, voice and image services, involved extensive building renovation, power and power backup upgrade, entire re-

cabling of 12 college wings, voice over IP (in offices and classrooms), wireless, security and network management in addition to new application servers and OS platforms.

This monthly newsletter will bring you up to date on all the activities of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 19 – IT Breakfast – 7:30 a.m., Gran Festa Ristorante

#### January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 23– IT Breakfast – 7:30 a.m., Gran Festa Ristorante

January 25– Cisco Security and Voice Event, Sudbury, ON (Holiday Inn); Contact SSMIC for more information

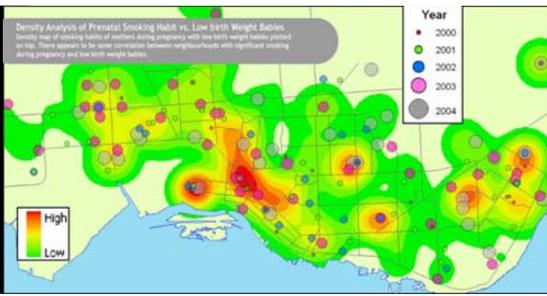
For more information about the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, or any of our events contact:

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**Build IT & they will come.**

IT for jobs, IT for growth, IT for SSMIC.

Prenatal smoking and birth weight data overlaid on a Sault Ste. Marie municipal map helps health researchers see possible correlations between place of residence, women's smoking habits, and health of newborns.



## GIS con't...

problem thus allowing for the better targeting of these problems.

ESRI Canada presented SSMIC with an Award of Excellence for its work in GIS solutions and, more specifically, for its advancement of technology that supports health and human services in the community. "Staff members are able to discover trends and analyze conditions and results," said John Houweling, Ontario region manager, ESRI. "That makes it much easier for the community health and social service

organizations to plan and respond to emergencies."

"This is our second award of excellence from ESRI Canada; however, we are particularly proud this time because it is in recognition of our role in community health and human services," said Tom Vair, executive director, SSMIC. "The city of Sault Ste. Marie has already realized some immediate benefits, and additional benefits will be realized in the coming years that will lead to an improved community."

For more information about ESRI Canada, visit [www.esricanada.com](http://www.esricanada.com).

## Province announces winners of business plan competition

The provincial government announced the winners of Ontario's fifth annual Secondary School Business Plan Competition on November 18, 2006.

Northern Ontario's regional winner was Brandon Olson of Emo, who was also the first runner-up in the provincial competition, earning \$2,000. The regional competition runner-up was Sudbury's Dustin Bradley, who won \$750 in educational bursaries. Third-place regional honours and \$500 went to Sarah Fortais of Sault Ste. Marie.

Taking home \$2,500 in educational bursaries for first-place finishes in the provincial and western regional competitions was Toni Crawford of Sarnia, Ontario.

In an effort to promote youth entrepreneurship, the competition was held across 178 secondary schools across

the province in conjunction with 38 Small Business Enterprise Centres. The business plans created by the students through the competition have the opportunity to be implemented through Ontario's Summer Company program, which began accepting applications on November 19, 2006.

Ceremonies took place in North Bay, Cornwall, Burlington and London. For more information, visit: [http://www.sbe.gov.on.ca/ont/can/sbe/en/home\\_en.jsp](http://www.sbe.gov.on.ca/ont/can/sbe/en/home_en.jsp).

## Is Your IT Company Hiring?

The Sault Ste. Marie Career Day & Job Exp07 to be held at the Steelback Centre on January 29, 2007 is fast approaching.



# Students Take Part in a Successful GIS Day!

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) would sincerely like to thank all who attended "GIS Day". It would not have been such a success if not for the collaboration and immense support.



SSMIC hosted an exciting day of activities in conjunction with national "GIS Day" activities. Almost 200 students visited Algoma University College on November 14, 2006 to learn about geographic information systems (GIS)—a system that can help pinpoint any area on the globe.

This event exposed students to the growing world of GIS. "They received an overview of what GIS does in everyday life, followed by an interactive session where they were able to try it out," said Tom Vair, executive director, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

GIS Day 2006 took place during the National Geographic Society's Geography Awareness Week (November 12-18). GIS Day celebrations educate millions of children and adults in more than 90 countries on the benefits of geography and the role GIS plays in support of geography.

"The Innovation Centre was pleased to host this event and involve local high school students and post-secondary

students to raise the awareness of GIS technologies," said Paul Beach, GIS Program Manager, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.



## New Face at the Innovation Centre

Good news! Jessica Portelli is the SSMIC's new Communications Manager and comes to us from the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation. She brings six years of combined education and professional experience to the position. Jessica holds a BA degree in Communication Studies and English and is completing her Master of Arts in Mass Communications.

"Jessica will be a great addition to the team and brings experience in youth outreach and economic development," says Tom Vair, executive director, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.



**Wishing you every happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year!**

*From your friends at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre*