



GIS System gets Results Faster for Algoma Health Unit

Why are children still smoking? How easy is it for minors to purchase tobacco? These questions concern parents, teachers, caregivers and the Algoma Health Unit. So, the Algoma Health Unit's Environmental Health program decided to perform a mapping study.

The purpose of the Algoma Health Unit's study was to determine how accessible the tobacco vendors are to minors, and secondly, determine the level of difficulty for a minor to

purchase a tobacco product from the vendors. To perform this study, Environmental Health needed a map displaying every elementary school, secondary school and tobacco vendor in Sault Ste. Marie.

Without an Integrated Geomatics System (IGS) this task would consume many hours physically mapping out all the information. But, for the Algoma Health Unit, acquiring this information was as easy as a phone call to the

Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC).

The SSMIC developed and now operates the IGS for the city of Sault Ste. Marie and was able to provide the Algoma Health Unit with a detailed map containing all the information they needed. The map flagged every tobacco vendor, elementary, secondary, and post secondary school and then highlighted an area of 100m and 250m around each school. In the case of a

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)

Zoom in on the City's NEW Zoning Bylaw

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) Geographic Information System (GIS) team has developed an interactive program for the City's new Zoning Bylaw that is accessible on the City's website. The program allows the public to key in the address they need information for, and retrieve the zoning classification for that address, or simply view the entire city map that is colour-coded to fit the new zoning classifications.

The City of Sault Ste. Marie has reviewed and renewed the City's 36-year old zoning bylaw, creating a simple, modern, user-friendly document. The new bylaw reduces the number of zoning categories from 32 to 23 and deals with revitalizing the downtown. The new bylaw also introduces the protection of rural groundwater, wetlands and fish habitat.

"The easily accessible digital version of the zoning bylaw will speed up the process for those who just need a quick

reference," said Bill Wierzbicki, Coordinator Current Planning, City of Sault Ste. Marie.

The new zoning bylaw will be reviewed and updated every five years

Hard copies of the new Zoning Bylaw are available at the Civic Centre, but the interactive program on the City's website is ideal for quick and easy reference. Already on the City's website is the interactive address locator and the City's official plan, also designed by the SSMIC GIS team.

Let's showcase our BEST AND BRIGHTEST!

It's time to recognize the individuals who are committed to ensuring a bright future for Northern Ontario and who are setting the stage for future economic growth.

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre is collecting nominations for the SSMARt IT Awards - the first IT Awards program for Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma Region.

For nomination details, applications and award criteria visit: www.ssmic.com or the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre office. Nominators

will have their names entered in a draw for prizes as well! Nominate yourself or your peers!

In our first year, we will introduce four awards:

- **Company of the Year**
- **IT Student/Graduate of the Year**
- **Best Website Award**
- **IT Executive of the Year**



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Visit: www.ssmic.com

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

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			

- August 25 - **IT Breakfast**, Gran Festa Ristorante
- **TAG Luncheons** and workshops will resume in the fall. - **have a great summer!**
- **Tell us who you think is the best and brightest in your nomination for the NEW IT Awards...more details on www.ssmic.com**
- **Register now** at Algoma U for **Future Play**, the International computer gaming conference.

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

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Local Software Developer Scores Major Win

Local software development firm IDI Technology has sold COBS Homes, a leading North American home design company and partner company to a leading home improvement retailer, on IDI Pro, their web-based solution that allows home designers and builders to manage projects and communication more effectively.

"We believe IDI Technology's vision and the tools built into the product are the future of home design on the Internet. We share their excitement about the possibilities of IDI Pro and look forward to being able to use the product," said Rob Mackle, President COBS Homes.

IDI Technology developed IDI software to leverage the potential of the Internet for communications and custom applications. IDI Pro is one of the products in the IDI Technology software family. Other products service the home deck and landscaping, and home decorating industries.

IDI Pro allows the user to upload home plans so that they can be viewed and altered online. Once the plans are online, IDI Pro is set up so that anyone who is provided with a password can access the plans and offer feedback. IDI Pro allows the user to keep a record of any changes that are made to the plans and

organize them in folders. IDI Pro also features a messaging service so the user can interact with their builder, professional or anyone else who has access, at the user's convenience. This product gives the user more control over their design and allows them to communicate faster. IDI Pro will enhance and improve the design services that COBS Homes offers. COBS Homes provides services to help people with construction loans, home plans, building lots, building materials, construction budgeting, and the entire process of building a home. Through 'live streaming' IDI Pro allows clients to see changes to home plans immediately on their computer screen.

"COBS Homes is looking forward to using IDI Pro because of its live streaming capabilities and its project management and communications tools," said local entrepreneur Mark Maki, President IDI Technology. "We look forward to working with

COBS Homes and to revolutionizing the way people design homes." COBS Homes is based in California, USA, and its service is available throughout the USA. COBS Homes and Home Depot have created a partnership and simplified the process of building your own home. The simple A, B, C process involves everything from application to the completion of your home. Apply, and get Approved. Build your house on paper, and determine your Construction Budget. Close the loan, and get the Construction Support and building materials needed to build your new home. By adding the IDI Pro software to their system, COBS Homes will be able to service their clients more easily, manage client projects more efficiently and finish projects in less time. Home design services are also available through IDI Technology's home design department, Design Solutions, www.designsolutions.ca.

GIS Map for AHU Cont'd...

tobacco vendor being within the 250m proximity of the school, the area was highlighted in red.

For the Algoma Health Unit, this information reduced the amount of time required to perform this study significantly. The Tobacco Enforcement Officers were able to map out their day

from their desk and jump right to the next step in the project, setting up enforcement checks using test-shoppers to see if the tobacco vendors in the high-risk zones would sell tobacco to a minor.

"The information provided to us by the SSMIC significantly reduced the time it would

have taken us to plan the enforcement checks. Now we can get right to the purpose of this research and reduce the number of tobacco vendors who are selling to minors," said Tracy Alexander, Environmental Health.

The Algoma Health Unit is another community

organization that has signed on for additional GIS services to take advantage of the award-winning GIS system that is available to the city of Sault Ste. Marie. The Algoma Health Unit are working on a number of different applications of GIS that will help in future research and planning activities.

