



A Fresh Perspective - by Barry Logan, Executive Director

2011 is a special year for ICIS as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Society. The past ten years has witnessed a transition from an idea and a concept to a thriving Society with clear objectives and purpose. As ICIS matures and grows, we continually improve by refining these objectives and commitment to providing geospatial solutions for the needs collaboratively established by our members. Ten Years is certainly a milestone and is worthy of celebration. Our reward is the achievement and the progress that is being made with BCSpatial and AddressBC and the benefits that are realized by the ICIS member community.

There is a beneficial trait that accompanies ICIS growth and success. This trait is the recognition of ICIS that is now being enjoyed. Just four years ago, the norm for Ken Rigler and I would be to open most conversations at events with an introductory “elevator” speech on just who ICIS is. That situation has changed with most conversations now starting far beyond that introductory story. This ever-growing awareness of ICIS has come about as a by-product of the vast list of ICIS relationships that are being built and nurtured.

This familiarity of ICIS is growing beyond British Columbia. At times, we encounter a party with a curiosity and fascination about ICIS that is spawned by the unique ICIS results that have been achieved. When this party realizes that the results are based solely on collaboration and trust (with a little funding thrown in to keep the fires going) versus legislation, they often express amazement. The ICIS team recently hosted one of these interested and curious individuals. We were visited by Yumwei (Daniel) Dong who is a PhD Candidate for his Doctorate in GIS, Geomatics, studying at the University of Waterloo. Daniel’s studies include doing geomatics research for TELUS. His contact at TELUS is Dan Shannon (Business Consultant, Systems Architecture). Dan is a great ICIS advocate and former ICIS Board President. His advocacy of ICIS included Daniel’s visit as part of his research. The purpose of the visit in Daniels words: “My research interest focus is on geospatial semantic web and enterprise GIS. I would like to explore how these technologies can be applied to collect and organize data from different information communities; moreover, to explore how geo-spatial technology can be applied to build knowledge base for a cadastral information system, ultimately, to facilitate information exchange in cadastral information communities.” Wow!

Needless to say, his visit was met with great enthusiasm by the ICIS team. The time Daniel spent with Steve Mark, Mike Wardell, Paul van Nieuwkuyk and I exceeded the planned allotment (no surprise). We all found it refreshing to interact with Daniel as he queried us and offered information and ideas from his “fresh” perspective. When we wrapped up, I thought it would be interesting for our ICIS audience to benefit from this session and I invited Daniel to write an article for the ICIS newsletter about what he

learned and concluded. Daniel not only agreed, but also delivered one even better. He authored a paper on ICIS. I have included his conclusion in order to whet your appetite and encourage you to read his entire enlightening document. The conclusion:

ICIS: An Entrepreneurial Model to Implement Provincial Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI)

“Comparing to traditional models, in which governments play the primary role in SDI development, ICIS is initialized by governments, the assessment authority, and utility network industries to unlock geospatial information at the provincial level. At the beginning phase of development, BCSpatial and Address BC can serve the needs of geospatial data users in the community. Meanwhile, data providers are also received benefits from data integration and data exchange process simplification. Most importantly, mutual trust is established among stakeholders in ICIS.

With the growing demand of geospatial information, development of eGovernment, and emergence of new GIS technology, ICIS will encounter more challenges and opportunities in the future. ICIS will continue to serve as a geospatial information bank in BC.”

Daniel’s paper is posted on the [ICIS web site](#).

And as always, thank you for your ICIS support as ***ICIS really is its members.***