

McMaster University Continues 10th Annual GIS Day Tradition

By Deane Maynard

For the 10th year in a row over 250 high school geography students and teachers got a special hands-on look at geographic information systems (GIS) and GPS technology at McMaster University on **Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2008**.

Hosted by the School of Geography & Earth Sciences and the Centre for Spatial Analysis, this event fulfills part of the Ontario geography curriculum for grade 9, 11 and 12 students. 6 high schools from Burlington, Grimsby and Oakville participated in this daylong workshop.

The students attended ArcView hands-on workshops in the computer labs and learned how to use GIS to develop maps of Canadian national parks which is consistent with the curriculum in Grade 9 Geography. These exercises gave them unique perspectives on the forces shaping our world. The Lloyd Reeds Map Collection also offered special hands-on map skills workshops and students also participated in a GPS activity on McMaster's campus. Winning groups were awarded some prizes. McMaster's GIS Day is part of the School of Geography and Geology's High School Outreach Program, which raises the visibility of the field of Geography, Earth Sciences and Geomatics among high school students and their teachers.

Special thanks to all of our volunteers, staff of the Lloyd Reeds Map Collection, GIS Librarian, ESRI Canada, ESRI Redlands and McMaster University's School of Geography & Earth Sciences for their assistance in making GIS Day 2008 a success.