

CIPScene

Canadian Information Processing Society, Calgary Section

MAY 2001



Mr. Michael Matrick will be the featured speaker at the CIPS May lunch meeting.

Designing the Intelligent Enterprise

Speaker: Michael Matrick, Technical Director - Quadrus Development Inc.
Date: Wednesday, May 2, 2001
Time: 11:30 am
Place: Calgary Chamber of Commerce, 4 Floor, 517 Centre Street S

In today's fast paced economy, it is becoming increasingly important and ever more difficult to understand and properly measure how your organization performs. Part of this problem is managing the growth in the amount of data stores an organization generates from transactional deployed systems. Organizations today have a heterogeneous pool of data stores, which limits the ability to integrate and transform these data stores into an "intelligent" layer. In most organizations, information is most valuable when it can be accessed, analyzed, and shared. SQL Server 2000 and Analysis Services give you this ability. The key is to leverage your current data stores using Analysis Services as your "intelligent" layer, used to store and distribute the data in an integrated, consistent, and reliable form.

Michael Matrick has considerable expertise in the data warehousing and enterprise reporting sectors of business intelligence. His i-business hands-on experience includes working with Seagate Holos, Seagate Info, Crystal Reports, Hyperion Essbase, Microsoft OLAP Services, Data Transformation Services and Informatica, Brio Enterprise, Cognos, Business Objects, and Actuate. Michael's work as a team leader and mentor has ensured the successful and profitable completion of numerous assignments. His excellent presentation and communication skills have enabled him to present and discuss complex solutions at both the executive and technical levels.

Please ensure you register in advance by phoning CIPS at (403) 245-0633 by noon on Monday, April 30, 2001, as seating will be limited. Prepayment by Visa, MasterCard, or American Express will be accepted over the phone. If you cannot attend and have not cancelled two days in advance, please send a replacement. No-show policies leave no choice but to bill you if a reservation is not cancelled. Prepaid seats will be guaranteed until 12:00 noon, at which time they may be released for general admission.

PRICES - Pre-registered (Prices include GST)
Members - \$30.50
Non-members - \$38.00
Students - \$21.50
A two dollar surcharge will apply for all walk-ins.

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Performance Improvement

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Why Here, Why Now?

Over the last months, we have outlined the many events which will take place during Informatics 2001. The tutorials, the conference program, the social events, and the trade show are the core of the conference and the main reason why you should plan to attend Informatics.

However, there are other reasons why you should not pass up the opportunity to attend Informatics 2001:

Here Today, Gone for the Next Ten Years!
Informatics was last in Calgary in 1993. It may not be back in Calgary again until 2009 or 2010.

Save Time and Money
Informatics 2001 provides access to 7 tutorials, more than 30 conference sessions, 6 keynote speakers, and Western Canada's largest Information Technology trade show, all right here in Calgary, without the additional time and expense of travel.

By Practitioners, for Practitioners
Informatics is the only IT conference in Canada which is programmed and managed by IT practitioners. As a result, speakers and topics have been chosen based on the value that they

will bring to the IT practitioner and user, not by their relationship with a vendor or the conference organizer.

Relevant Topics

The Informatics program was developed by addressing those key topics which were identified as being current and relevant by IT practitioners including, but not limited to, Open Source Software, Legal Aspects of IT, Wireless Technologies, Emerging Trends in e-Commerce, and Project Management. This focus ensures that the tutorials and conference presentations are relevant to you and your organization.

Support Your Professional Organization

Every effort is made to offer Informatics at a reasonable cost so that as many members as possible can participate. But unlike most events, when you attend a CIPS conference, any surplus from the event is used to provide you with additional programs and services.

Maintain Your I.S.P.

Attendance at the full three days of the Informatics conference provides twenty-one education credits towards maintenance of your I.S.P. designation.

To register for Informatics 2001, please visit the conference website at www.converge2001.com.

Computer A.G.

CIPS Re-accredits SAIT Computer Technology Program

SAIT's Computer Technology (CT) program is not only meeting the standard for computer education in Alberta and Canada, it is *setting* it.

The program, recently re-accredited by the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS), has repeatedly proven itself to be on the leading edge in training computer professionals.

Bo Kabriel, the co-ordinator of the CT program at SAIT, says the fact that the program received a five-year unlimited accreditation from CIPS is a

testament to the high calibre of education offered at SAIT.

He notes that, because the accreditation process is so stringent, it assures both students and industry that SAIT's program is certainly one of the best in Canada, if not North America.

"First of all CIPS takes a good look at the curriculum, but they also take a good look at the facilities. They look at the labs, the library, etc.," he says. "They scrutinize the instructors from the point of view of their qualifications and working experience."

Indeed, the CIPS accreditation process examines not only faculty, but students as well.

"There is a fair amount of work for the instructors to get all their documentation together," he says. "CIPS wants to see marked examples of student exercises. They want to see how the students did."

Kabriel says that the re-accreditation is vital because it provides a benchmark by which members of the industry can measure how the program is doing.

"If there is a program in Alberta that is not really up to snuff, then the people coming out of that program may not be recognized as professionals by CIPS," he explains.

As for SAIT's Computer Technology program itself, it consists of a two-year course of study, with students choosing to specialize in either Information Systems or Technical Systems in their second year.



Photo by George Webber

Former Computer Technology Coordinator Richard Huntrods and Lynn Hoover, interim Information and Communication Technologies Academic Manager, show off the newly acquired CT accreditation.

Kabriel notes that as per developing trends in industry, much of the program is based squarely in the e-world.

"The whole program is e-learning. Students all lease a laptop computer from SAIT and use computers in nearly every class," he says.

"Instructors will post assignments on web pages or servers and students will frequently complete their assignments by emailing them back to their

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instructors.” He notes that that this mode of working is also common in the industry.

SAIT has invested in the e-learning program by creating infrastructure – wired classrooms that allow students to plug their laptops into an extensive campus network – to facilitate the education process.

In addition to e-learning, the program also boasts a strong practicum component.

“Students have to go on work experience for a minimum of four months,” Kabriel says.

Because of the Institute’s commitment to excellence in creating a strong and vital CT program, Kabriel says SAIT CT graduates are deeply valued by employers.

“Pretty well everyone who wants a job can get one,” he says, noting that one recent graduate of the program was snapped up by a firm south of the border as soon as he finished school, earning an impressive \$78,000 US to start.

Richard Huntrods, former Computer Technology co-ordinator, notes that the program provides a unique opportunity for students to get their feet wet developing computing solutions in a business environment.

He says that no other program that he knows of in Canada has a project-oriented program as rigorous and involved as the second year course, Systems II.

“Basically, the students in Systems I design a complete software system and in Systems II they build it,” Huntrods says. “It’s not a Mickey Mouse exercise; they have a real client downtown.”

Huntrods notes that there have been instances where students have taken the Systems II project they’ve been working on and gone on to work with the company they developed it for in the first place, or they’ve taken the software they’ve developed and put it out in the marketplace on their own.

“These are not made-for-the-students, Mickey Mouse kinds of projects. These are real-world problems,” he says.

“The students end up spending basically every morning of their last year working on a real-world project,” he added.

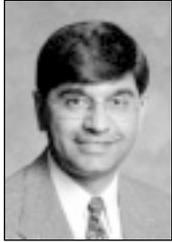
Russ Peters

sait - ict prog ad

Elections Update

There was a race and everyone who ran, won!

Single nominations were received for the positions noted below with additional individuals coming forward to be involved in an assistant capacity to become familiar with CIPS' business in their first year of involvement:



*Zahir Teja, I.S.P.
Past President*

Portfolio	Director	Assistant Director
CIO Liaison	Stuart Quinn	Andrew Bentley
Continuing Education and Programs	Matthew Hillhouse	
Special Interest Groups	Nguyen Tran	
External Liaison	Mohamed Teja	
Publications and Web Presence	Blake Kanewischer	Angela Pedrini
Marketing and Publicity	Herb Malcolmson	Bruce Thomas
Social	Denise Richardson	

Since single nominations were received for these portfolios, the nominees are elected by acclamation. The CIPS Calgary Board would like to congratulate the newly elected members and those that have come forward as assistants and we look forward to welcoming them all formally at the May 31, 2001 Board meeting.

You will notice that for some of the portfolios, there are no assistants identified. If you wish to become involved as an assistant in portfolios for which that role has not been filled, please send me an email.

The call for nominations for President Elect for 2001/2 has been issued to the existing Board members and an election is set for May 9, 2001, providing multiple candidates come forward. The President Elect will then select his/her Executive and the full Board will be announced in the June issue of CIPScene.

With the newly elected Board members and those continuing into the second year of their two-year term, I believe we will have a very strong Board to lead CIPS Calgary in the 2001/2 year.

And so... all CIPS members win!

Ethier

Student Chapter Update



Dawn Harbicht
Student Chapter Co-Chair

Welcome to the spring issue of *the neXt.files!*

Student speaker nights have been a great success this year. In February, Kevin Lo from WindRiver Systems spoke about smart devices, embedded programming, and the new technology WindRiver is developing. It was a very informational and entertaining evening.

Participation in your student chapter is an important ingredient to making it a success and getting the most out of your membership. Attending speaker nights and volunteering for next year's Career Gateway are great ways to network and become involved in Calgary's IT community.

A great deal for all those students interested in attending is Informatics Convergence 2001 from May 13 to 16 at the Telus Convention Centre. This is an excellent opportunity to learn

about leading technologies. Registration for student members is only \$180.00. That is nearly 75% off the standard registration cost! There are also opportunities to work as a volunteer at the event. For more details, please contact Leon Cygman at lcygman@cal.devry.ca or by phone at (403) 207-3107.

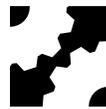
I hope to see you all at the next student speaker night or at the parent chapter's next Propeller Head function.

Frank Weber, CIPS Student Member
Dawn Harbicht, CIPS Student Chapter Co-Chair

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CIPS Calgary Section

Future Meeting Dates - 11:30 am

May 2, 2001

June 6, 2001

All meetings are held at the Calgary Chamber of Commerce
4 Floor, 517 Centre Street S.

CIPS Events

May 9, 2001	CALGARY JAVA USERS GROUP 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm Fifth Avenue Place 1790, 425 - 1 Street SW
May 10, 2001	2001 SEMINAR SERIES <i>Integration</i> 7:30 am Fifth Avenue Place 1790, 425 - 1 Street SW
May 13 - 16, 2001	INFORMATICS 2001 Telus Convention Centre Calgary, Alberta
June 7, 2001	2001 SEMINAR SERIES <i>Cutting Project Costs</i> 7:30 am Fifth Avenue Place 1790, 425 - 1 Street SW
June 13, 2001	PROJECT MANAGEMENT SIG 12:00 noon Fifth Avenue Place 1790, 425 - 1 Street SW
June 14, 2001	E-BUSINESS SIG 12:00 noon Lunchbox Theatre +15 Level, Bow Valley Square

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dlathrop@gt.ca

President's Message



Derek Manns
President

Informatics 2001 is almost here... have you registered yet? Don't miss out on what is sure to be the premiere IT event of the year! For the uninitiated, Informatics is a yearly National CIPS conference that comes to Calgary on average about once every ten years. This year, we are excited to host the conference in Calgary from May 13 to 16 and conference co-chairs Dave Lathrop and Debra Deane have done a fabulous job of pulling together a world class event. Dave and Debra have assembled a dedicated team and, in partnership with the Hour Group, have been working diligently for more than eighteen months to

bring you an interesting, educational, and entertaining conference.

The list of speakers is long and reads like a "who's who" of the Canadian IT profession:

- George Radwanski – Interim Privacy Commissioner of Canada
- John D. Wetmore – President and CEO, IBM Canada Ltd.
- Paul Tsaparis – President and CEO, Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Ltd.
- John McDonald – Former Director of the National Archives
- Earl Hickok – Alberta e-Health and e-Government Services
- And many, many others....

The main conference has been divided into four streams: **e-Business, Technical, IT Management, and Strategic Information Management.** There will be multiple presentations running concurrently, so there will be no problem filling your day with sessions that are appropriate for your interests. If you happen to miss a session that you were hoping to attend, then drop by the website sometime after the show, as abbreviated versions of a number of the talks will be available via webcast. Of course, the conference would not be complete without an extensive

Exhibition and Trade Show where vendors will showcase the latest in technology.

Ted Barnicoat has been organizing a Gala dinner for Tuesday night and it promises to be a stellar event. At the time that I am writing this, approximately 600 tickets have been sold. Attendees will include a number of high profile Albertans from both government and the private sector. The evening will kick-off with a cocktail hour for networking to be followed by the introduction and recognition of the previously announced recipients of the National Awards of Achievement. Dinner will follow and the guest speaker for the evening will be Larry Conlee, Chief Operating Officer, Research in Motion. It is no exaggeration to say that this is shaping up to be the largest and highest profile IT dinner that this town has ever seen!

Hats off to everybody who has made Informatics 2001 possible. I am looking forward to it and I hope to see you there.

P.S. It is not too late to register! Go to www.converge2001.com for more information.



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SIGS Galore!

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Parks Canada Presentation Overview



Darryl Zell of Banff National Park and Parks Canada provided the GIS SIG an excellent overview of his applications. Darryl has applied GIS to a variety of purposes aiding in management of the park including: resource protection, bylaw enforcement, justification of financing, identification of animal migration paths, and the identification of the impacts on lease areas and land claims. In addition to his role as GIS Analyst, Darryl wears

many other hats, ranging from DBA and developer to preparing media presentations.

One of Darryl's main activities focuses on resource management. Darryl has developed a stream database, where each segment is uniquely identified. Thus, information (e.g. fish type) can now be collected, mapped, and analyzed by segment as well as how it relates to other segments. Darryl has built a model of water elevation changes to observe the impact of water culverts passing under rail tracks. This took 1,400 GPS elevation points collected over a four-month period.

GIS assists in managing fire and vegetation. Prescribed burn plans focus on older forests, which have a higher insect infestation rate. Then there is a need to model smoke areas from the prescribed burns. For forest fires, GIS can plot vegetation type, distances for movement of supplies and services and the perimeter of fire, and identify the important directions to monitor. Islands of trees not burned assist in planning for the next year. There are opportunities to use a digital aerial photograph and pattern recognition to identify these areas automatically.

Darryl tracks wildlife. "We track just about everything." For elk, they track migration pattern, ranges, distance, and area in a day, etc. Monte Carlo simulations of animal movement directions assist in identifying constrained areas, while being supplemented by actual observations. By plotting aggressive elk incidents, they were able to identify which elk to relocate, thus reducing incidents 66% by moving under 20% of the herd. A grizzly bear model has been developed that demonstrates the needs of a

certain area even before aggressive incidents take place. Hint: grizzlies have never attacked a group of six or more hikers.

Darryl completed the overview with some demos of applications for grizzly movement patterns, GPS simulations, and satellite image analysis. Thanks to Darryl for an informative tour of "GIS in the Park."

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Citrix	Alicja Rymkiewicz arymkiewicz@altatraining.com www.calgarycitrix.org
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Geographic Information Systems	Allan Benven abenven@gds.ca
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Linux	Herman Van Kerr www.calgary.linux.ca
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Visual Basic	Bob Morton (403) 263-1200 mortonb@webmaxim.com www.vbusers.net
Women in Technology	Sarah Hargreaves sarah.hargreaves@kornferry.com www.witi.org

e-Business SIG

Getting I.S. Ready for e-Business

Date: June 14, 2001
Time: 12:00 noon
Location: Lunchbox Theatre
+15 Level
Bow Valley Square
Cost: Free

Lunch will be provided compliments of Microsoft Canada.

Explore Canadian Pacific Railway's aggressive plans to exploit new information technologies to enable it to compete and grow in the e-business world of the 21st Century. The Information Services department created a strategy in 1999 to transform its technologies, processes, practices, and mindsets for successful delivery of solutions in this new e-world. Chris Schultz will present the strategy and review progress to date and lessons learned.

Chris Schultz, I.S. Strategist for Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), has over 25 years experience in I.S. He joined CPR in 1996 as Manager, Systems Architecture and then moved to the newly formed Strategy and Technology team in 1999. Prior to joining CPR, he was a management consultant specializing in Architecture

Development, Strategic Planning, and Delivery Practices.

Register for the CIPS Calgary e-Business Special Interest Group at: <http://www.eBizCalgary.org>.

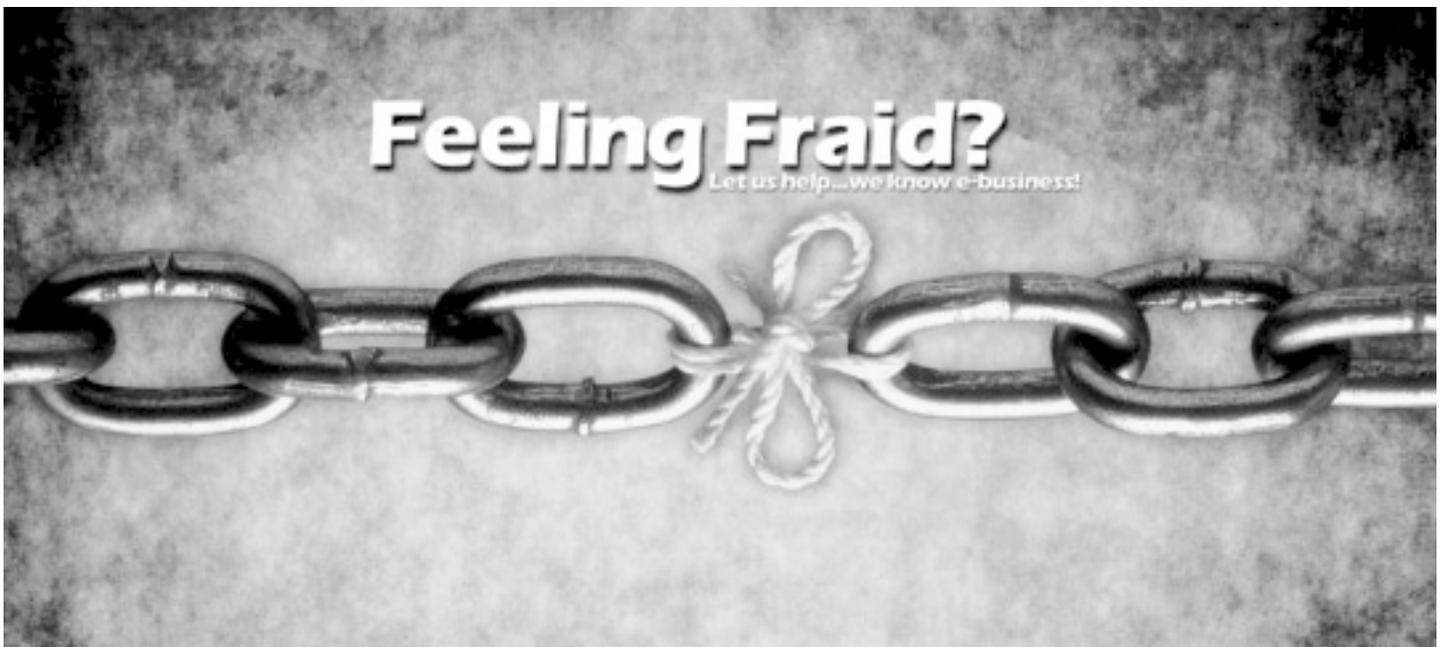
Note: Pre-registration is required for this event.

e-Business SIG Mission Statement:
Showcase leading edge e-Business initiatives for Calgary IT Community leaders.

e-Business SIG Audience:
IT Executives
Project Managers
Architects

e-Business SIG Co-Chairs:
Yogi Schulz, President
Corvelle Management Consultants
Phone/Fax: (403) 249-5255
Email: YogiSchulz@corvelle.com

Deborah Clark, Director of Business Development
Quadrus Development Inc.
Phone: (403) 862-2716
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Project Management SIG

Our March session featured **Tom Kohl**, a senior project manager with Ethier Associates, speaking on “**Managing Dysfunctional Behaviour on Project Teams**”.

The ability to bring a team together and to align them in the *same* direction, much less the *right* direction, is a true challenge. Team behaviours can make, or break, a project. As project managers, one of our keys to success is creating a team for success, a team that is unified in its goal and headed in the right direction.

Tom promoted taking a *proactive* approach to managing team behaviours and aligning the team in the right direction. He outlined actions we can take to *avoid* encountering dysfunctional behaviour from the outset or to “*reset*” a troubled team that we inherit.

Tom’s presentation is available on Ethier Associates’ website (www.ethierassociates.ca) under *Project Pointers*.

The next PMSIG presentation will be held:

- Date:** Wednesday, June 13, 2001
- Time:** 12:00 noon (sharp) to 1:00 pm
- Location:** Fifth Avenue Place
1790, 425 - 1 Street SW

This presentation will feature Mr. Jim Nichols, VIPIR Project Manager. The Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry (VIPIR) project involves the development of an electronic shared information registry and re-engineered business processes. The registry will facilitate the exchange of data between upstream oil and gas partners and between industry and the Alberta Ministry of Resource Development. He will discuss the project management challenges he faces with this complex project as they move toward a 2002 implementation.

Refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring a bag lunch. Anyone with an interest is welcome and there is no cost, so please forward this invitation to your associates.

You can register for the event at the new PMSIG website found at www.jobcafe.ca under the Special Interest Groups section.

Should you wish further information please contact:

Bill Bentley – Partner
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Email: BillBentley@corvelle.com

Karen Wright – Partner
Ethier Associates
Phone: (403) 234-8960
Email: kwright@ethierassociates.ca

Calgary Visual Basic Users Group

The Calgary Visual Basic Users Group is an association of developers who work primarily in the Microsoft environment, using the Visual Studio of products and, in particular, the Visual Basic tools.

The group meets monthly to discuss ideas and listen to speakers who are, in most cases, seasoned VB Developers. These meetings are usually held toward the end of the month. The location is always “to be announced”.

This users group is sponsored by a number of local organizations who are interested in the advancement of the skills and abilities of their users. There is no cost to being involved.

For more information, contact:

Bob Morton
The Maxim Group
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Calgary Java Users Group

The Calgary Java Users Group (CJUG) meets the second Wednesday of each month (except August) from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at Fifth Avenue Place, 425 - 1 Street SW. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming topics for CJUG are:

Design Patterns (Servidium)
May 9, 2001

BEA Products (BEA)
June 13, 2001

Announcing... A New Special Interest Group!

CIPS Calgary welcomes a new Special Interest Group focusing on **Database Administration**. This SIG will serve as a forum through which database administrators and other interested systems professionals will have the opportunity to share their experiences and learn about new technologies and techniques in Oracle, MS SQL Server, and Sybase.

The first meeting of the SIG is planned for May, though no date has been set. DBCORP Information Systems has agreed to sponsor the SIG and will host the meetings in its board room at 300, 209 - 8 Avenue SW.

Those who are interested in joining the Database Administration SIG should contact Doug Hopkins at dhopkins@dbc Corp.com to add their names to the email contact list. The date, time, and topic of the first meeting will be distributed via email. Submissions for presentations to the SIG are welcome and encouraged.

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Women in IT, but Still Far Too Few

Dear Editor,

Re: Women Are In IT (see *CC*, Jan. 26, 2001, p. 10)

Of course, women are in IT; from Ada Lovelace to Grace Hopper to the CIOs and newsmakers you list, women have always been in IT. The issue is not whether women are in IT; it is with the number of women who are in IT.

Your own figures demonstrate the problem; you publish 26 issues per year, each with about three front page stories; women were featured in eleven (or about fourteen percent) of these stories in 2000.

In "real life", women make up about 27% of the IT workforce; a number that has decreased over the past ten years.

Women also leave the IT profession at twice the rate men leave it. Obviously, there is a problem with how we recruit and retain women in this industry.

Rather than assert that "Women Are In IT", I believe you would do the IT community a

greater service by inquiring into the reasons why so few women are in IT. The IT industry is faced with a serious skills shortage; we cannot afford to bypass or alienate a major potential source of employees.

On March 8, 2001, International Women's Day, CIPS National and participating sections across the country hosted "Women in IT: Looking Toward the Future," a day-long series of seminars and workshops for more than one thousand female grade eight and nine students, giving them the opportunity to hear from high profile IT female keynote speakers, to participate in educational activities, and to meet with women who have chosen IT as a career.

This is a small step towards changing the stereotype of the IT "geek" and encouraging girls to consider a career in IT.

Faye West, I.S.P.

President, CIPS National

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March 16, 2001, Volume 27, Issue 6*

Quadris

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CIPS Member Benefits Update

Vacation Discounts

Need some time away? Book yourself a vacation and save through Voyages Quorum.

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Voyages Quorum is at your service from Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 6:00 pm EST at 1-877-848-1784.

It's so simple. You only need to give the membership number found on your **The Professional** benefits card, available to all regular members of CIPS. If you are a regular member and do not yet have a benefits card, please contact Alex Fayle at aff@cips.ca to obtain a new card.

Voice and Public Speaking Services

CIPS members can now receive a 15% discount, and other "incentives" (such as home study materials), on various services provided by SpeechScience. SpeechScience is a select group of

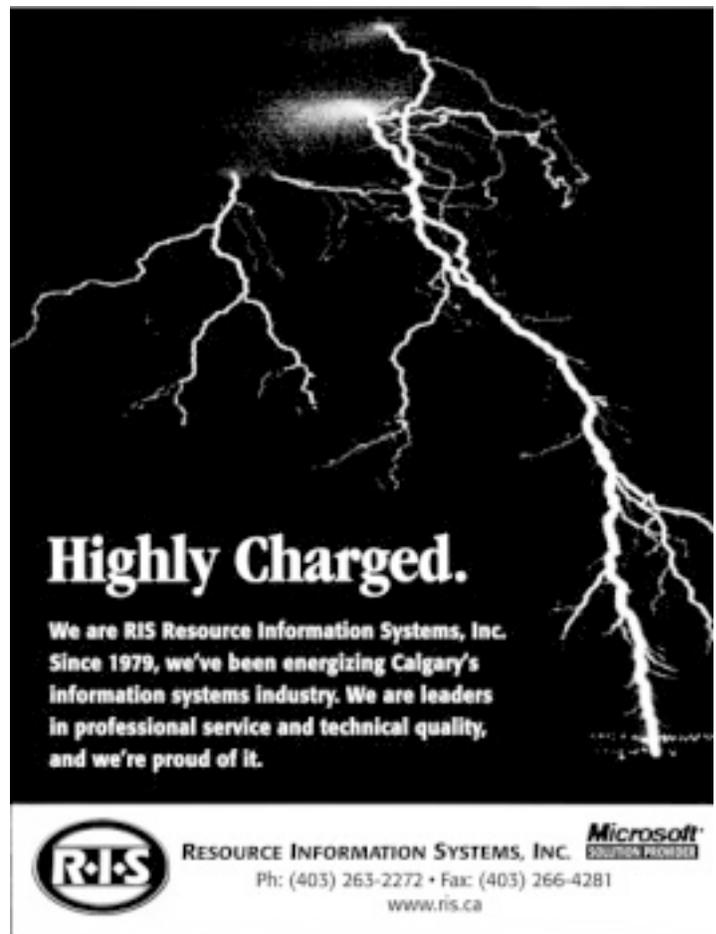
highly skilled speech and language professionals, dedicated to working with business people, professionals, executives and students, to upgrade and enhance speech, language, writing and communication skills.

These services can be provided within the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), Ontario as a series of one-hour courses, or outside the GTA as a multi-day seminar.

CIPS members can receive training in:

- Accent Reduction
- Presentation Skills
- Speech Writing
- Speech and Presentation Improvement
- Business Writing Skills
- Excellent English
- Voice Training and Improvement

For further details and information, please visit the Benefits page in the CIPS "Members Only" area of the website at <http://www.cips.ca/loginarea/members/benefits/default.asp>.



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