ALEX HORDAL

Cartographer & GIS Specialist
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View my portfolio: https://www.alexhordal.ca | **View my StoryMap:** https://arcg.is/0zL0ie

SUMMARY

Recently graduated GIS and cartography professional from the Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS), trained in thematic cartography, terrain visualization, and map design alongside spatial analysis, geospatial data management, and web mapping. Experienced in acquiring, validating, integrating, and analyzing spatial and attribute datasets through academic and personal GIS projects, and in translating that data into clear, well-designed cartographic products. Combines formal geospatial training with over a decade of experience in high-consequence operational environments, bringing strong attention to detail, adaptability, and problem-solving skills.

EDUCATION

Cartography and Geovisualization Diploma
Centre of Geographic Sciences (COGS), Lawrencetown, NS
2026
B.A., Geography
Queen's University, Kingston, ON
2003

SKILLS

Cartography & Spatial Analysis: Georeferencing, Digitization, Raster and vector processing, DEM processing, Terrain visualization, Shaded relief design, Thematic cartography, Map layout & composition, Typography, Colour design
GIS Platforms: ArcGIS Pro (Spatial Analyst, 3D Analyst), ArcGIS Online, ArcGIS StoryMaps, QGIS
Design & Visualization Tools: Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe InDesign, Avenza MAPublisher, Blender
AI-Assisted Development: ArcGIS Maps SDK for JavaScript, Mapbox GL JS, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, React, Astro, MDX
Additional Tools & Familiarity: Mapbox Studio, PostgreSQL, pgAdmin, relational database design, ModelBuilder

EXPERIENCE

ULLR Maps – Cartographer – Whistler, BC
2017 – Present

- Founder and director of ULLR Maps, a terrain-focused mapping platform providing detailed ski terrain maps and geographic information for Whistler Blackcomb and the surrounding backcountry.
- Design and develop cartographic products using GIS and digital cartography tools, including data acquisition, field verification, spatial data management, and collaboration with local subject matter experts.
- Oversee development of the ULLR Maps web platform, coordinating with developers and contributing to feature planning, technical implementation, and geospatial data workflows.
- Conduct terrain validation, quality assurance, and field testing to ensure map accuracy, usability, and consistency in complex alpine environments.

Air Canada – Station Attendant – Goffs, NS
2023 – Present

- Work within a coordinated ground operations team in a safety-critical airport environment, ensuring aircraft arrive and depart safely and on schedule.
- Operate specialized ground service equipment while contributing to team coordination and problem-solving in dynamic operational conditions.

Whistler Mountain Ski Patrol – Professional Ski Patroller and Avalanche Technician – Whistler, BC
2014 – 2022

- Provided guest safety coverage across 1,925 hectares of alpine terrain as part of a professional ski patrol team.
- Responded to traumatic injuries, medical emergencies, and complex rescues in steep mountain environments.
- Conducted coordinated search operations and terrain sweeps during missing person incidents.
- Performed avalanche hazard mitigation using explosive charges and ski cutting while assessing snowpack and weather conditions.

Whistler Fire Rescue Service – Paid-On-Call Firefighter – Whistler, BC
2018 – 2022

- Responded to structural fires, motor vehicle collisions, medical emergencies, and technical rescues as part of a coordinated emergency response team.
- Operated in high-pressure environments requiring rapid decision-making, hazard assessment, and coordination with emergency service partners.

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada – Second Lieutenant (Officer) – Vancouver, BC
2009 – 2013

- Served as a staff officer supporting the 39 Canadian Brigade Group Commander, coordinating command visits, organizing senior leadership briefings, and managing administrative and scheduling requirements.
- Led and supervised soldiers during training exercises, providing direction, planning, and coordination at the section and platoon level.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Hawai‘i: Seafloor to Summit

- Acquired, processed, and integrated multi-source elevation and vector datasets to develop a high-resolution topo-bathymetric map, incorporating terrain visualization, custom symbology, and cartographic design to communicate the full vertical extent of the Hawaiian Islands. https://www.alexhordal.ca/portfolio/hawaii-seafloor-to-summit

NYC Dining Under the Microscope – Mapping Restaurant Health Inspections

- Leveraged AI-assisted development (Claude Code) to design, build, and automate an interactive GIS dashboard processing NYC DOHMH restaurant inspection data for ~30,000 restaurants, using React, ArcGIS, data validation, and repeatable CI-driven pipelines. https://www.alexhordal.ca/portfolio/nyc-restaurants

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

- NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 & 2 — Justice Institute of British Columbia
- Basic Military Officer Qualification (Land) — Canadian Armed Forces
- Avalanche Operations Level 1 — Canadian Avalanche Association
- Avalanche Skills Training (Level 1) — Avalanche Canada
- WorkSafeBC Blaster Certificate — Hand charge endorsement
- Restricted Operator Certificate — Aeronautical (ROC-A) — Transport Canada

Additional certifications can be found in my portfolio: https://www.alexhordal.ca