GEOG 272 Final Term Project

The topic of my project was to create a map showing the route I will be taking to bike and canoe from Kelowna to the summer camp I will be working at in Ontario. I am attempting to raise money for a charity called Amici which sends under-privileged kids to camp so the the purpose of this map would be to generate interest about my ride and attract more potential donations. As I worked on the project my purpose shifted a bit. I became more focused on learning about how to use mapbox and exploring how interactive digital maps can benefit from limiting user interaction to create a more directed experience while the data about my trip became kind of just example data to showcase/explore this idea.

Project steps: Draw line in google earth > export kml > convert to geoJSON > setup basic webpage with mapbox map > load geoJSON line data onto map > program in all of the different views and movement between them > add textboxes > add colors, title, legend etc. and get everything laid out correctly

The main software I used was mapbox which is a javascript mapping API. I chose to go this route because I am a computer science student and wanted to do something with programming. Mapbox is widely used in industry and many apps such as Strava, AllTrails, and Avalanche Canada are built on it. These are all examples of the types of companies/apps that I think it would be cool to work for so I thought it would be a good idea to start learning the APIs that they use. Programming my map though mapbox also gave me a lot more freedom to make my map exactly how I wanted. Many interactive mapping software only allows you to add point or lines and then explore the map while I was able to fully customize my maps functionality.

Programming is a constant process of trial and error and problem solving so I worked though many challenges regarding exactly how to implement my ideas regrarding my map. The hardest part was probably just doing the HTML/CSS to get everything on the page arranged correctly. This area of programming is not my strong suit, and it is known to often be very difficult and frustrating.