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TOP TEN DATA ORDERS

Following is a list of the most frequently distributed datasets during the first quarter of the fiscal year:

1. Roads
2. Waterbodies
3. Wetlands
4. Nesting Sites
5. Pits or Quarries
6. Trails
7. Aquatic Feeding Areas
8. Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest
9. Tourism Establishments
10. Utility Lines

New Data in the Warehouse

- Built-up Areas - Southern Ontario
- Greenbelt Selected Wildlife Habitat
- Wooded Area – 2006 Release

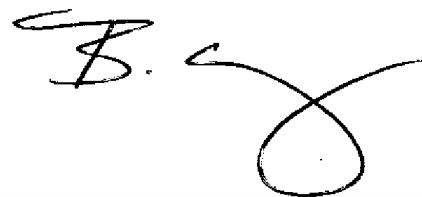
Director's Update

by Brian J. Maloney

Welcome to our first newsletter issue of the 2006/07 fiscal year. We have adopted a new format to ensure stakeholders receive regular updates on the status of our priority initiatives. In addition, each issue will include a feature article reporting on an interesting initiative, news item, or special event. We welcome outside contributions to the newsletter. Contributions can be sent to Carrie Gapp at carrie.gapp@mnr.gov.on.ca for consideration in an upcoming issue. I hope you will find the information in this newsletter helpful.

With respect to the delivery of Land Information Ontario, some important changes were made in our first quarter. As you are likely already aware, the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) Governing Board approved the elimination of the exchange's annual membership fee. This was a tough decision for us as it also eliminated a source of revenue that was used to offset maintenance costs associated with the LIO Warehouse infrastructure. We have redirected internal funds to offset these costs. We hope that the elimination of fees will further facilitate the exchange of spatial data between users, a key objective of the program.

We have also recently migrated all of our applications to iServe, the Ontario government's new corporate hosting environment. In addition to improving security and reliability, the new environment allows us to enhance data extraction functionality. Unfortunately, this migration has resulted in several service disruptions as of late. Although we believe the worst is behind us, potential remains for future interruptions. We appreciate your ongoing patience. Land Information Ontario continues to be a priority initiative for the Government of Ontario. Early this fiscal, I had an opportunity to discuss the merits of the program with the Ontario Public Service's Chief Administrative Officers. I am pleased to report that executive support for the program remains strong. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our partners for their ongoing support of this very worthwhile initiative. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable summer.



Brian J. Maloney is the Director of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Geographic Information Branch which is responsible for the Land Information Ontario program.

Ontario Parcel Report

by Carla Jordan-Cooke

For the past several months, the Ontario Parcel alliance has been completing a significant update to Ontario Parcel data. The Ontario Parcel is a joint initiative by Teranet Enterprises Inc., the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC), and the Government of Ontario to produce and maintain a standard digital parcel mapping database for the province. The database contains an integrated set of assessment, Crown, and ownership parcel mapping data.

The Ontario Parcel agreement requires Teranet to maintain parcel geometry. In an effort to

update and improve their in-house processes, Teranet has made some technology and process changes that impacted the creation of polygons. The changes will provide a more accurate depiction of the arcs. In some cases, the geometry has been impacted by as much as 15 centimetres. Users who have accessed data over the past several months may have discovered changes to the shape of polygons as well as missing or duplicate polygons. We are pleased to report that these errors have been resolved through the Ontario Parcel maintenance process.

We are also working to add

civic address information to the assessment parcel layer. This data should be available later this summer.

Since the start of the fiscal, six organizations have signed an Ontario Parcel agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources including the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, as well as the Long Point Region, Lake Simcoe, Lower Thames Valley, North Bay Mattawa, and Grand River Conservation Authorities.

For more information on the Ontario Parcel, please contact me at carla.jordan-cooke@mnr.gov.on.ca

Ontario Road Network Report

by Carol-Anne Albertson

The Ontario Road Network (ORN) integration phase of adding street names and address information is now complete. The ORN currently contains more than 191,000 kilometres of road geometry, 158,000 of which contain street names and address information.

The ORN will be used to update the National Road Network (NRN). We anticipate that Statistics Canada will reference the ORN/NRN to update census geography bound-

aries for the 2011 Census.

Land Information Ontario has signed a three year agreement with Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN). Through this agreement, NRCAN will contribute funds to the ORN maintenance phase. In return, NRCAN will receive an annual refresh of ORN road geometry and additional attributes to integrate into the NRN. A number of municipalities have signed ORN agreements to ensure data updates are captured and integrated into the

main database. Recent signatories include the City of Belleville, City of Brantford, City of Quinte West, County of Frontenac, County of Middlesex, County of Peterborough, and the Town of Blind River. To become a municipal partner, please contact me at carolanne.albertson@mnr.gov.on.ca.

Registered users can download the ORN from the LIO Warehouse through the LIO Web site at www.lio.gov.on.ca

DID YOU KNOW?

- More than 200 data layers are accessible through the LIO Warehouse.
- LIO processes roughly 30,000 data orders per year.
- The LIO Warehouse now includes approximately 350 gigabytes of geographic data.

Imagery Report

by Mike Robertson

I am pleased to report that the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) Orthoimagery Project is now complete. All imagery products, including the digital terrain model, have been delivered to partners. More than \$6.8 million was invested by 48 public sector partners to deliver the project. The project included the acquisition of images covering over 32,000 square kilometres. The GTA imagery is available to all OGDE members.

The Southwestern Ontario Orthophotography Project (SWOOP) is well underway. A service delivery agreement has been negotiated between the lead partner and First Base Solutions. The imagery has been captured and processing is underway. Unlike the GTA project, images are captured with a digital camera which will improve image clarity and help speed up processing. The overall costs for SWOOP are significantly less than the GTA project because the digital camera reduced processing requirements and digital elevation data was not collected. For more information on

SWOOP, please read this issue's feature article.

In addition, in our first quarter we finalized negotiations with MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates Ltd. and other provincial partners to acquire high resolution satellite imagery for approximately 125,000 square kilometres of Ontario's landmass. DigitalGlobe's Quickbird earth-observation satellite is being used to capture the images. Quickbird provides the highest resolution satellite data available commercially. A flexible licensing arrangement has been negotiated to allow government users to access the data. To date, nearly 45,000 square kilometres of imagery has been captured and processed, including images of all First Nations communities in Northern Ontario, required for fire management and the completion of ground water studies. A total of \$2.3 million has been committed to the project.

For more information about digital imagery, please contact me at mike.robertson@mnr.gov.on.ca

New OGDE Members

- Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities
- Town of Blind River
- Town of Spanish
- Municipality of Huron Shores
- City of Kingston
- Township of North Shore
- City of Pickering
- Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters

Members Listing

Free LIO Training

LIDS and OLID Training

August 17 and September 21

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Robinson Place

300 Water Street, Peterborough

Call (705) 755-1878

or email

info-access@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca

for more information.

Data Exchange Report

by Anne Halverson

The Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) is a central component of Land Information Ontario. The OGDE allows public sector organizations to easily share geospatial data under a single umbrella agreement. Members of the OGDE are granted access to download data from LIO's data warehouse. Last fiscal, 32 organizations joined the OGDE bringing the total number of members to more than 180.

The current OGDE legal agreement expires in July 2007. We have received a number of comments from members and non-members over the last few years on how the OGDE can be improved. We continue to work with the OGDE Governing Board to improve the agreement. Please be assured that all members will have an opportunity to review the new agreement and provide feedback.

Users should be aware that recent service disruptions have caused some delays in processing data orders. Users that placed orders in June and have not received the data should contact our support line at (705) 755-1878.

For more information on the OGDE, please contact us at info-access@webmail.mnr.gov.on.ca

FEATURE ARTICLE

Southwestern Ontario Orthophotography Project

by Mike Robertson

Digital imagery products, such as orthophotography, are used in a wide variety of business areas including emergency management, policing, land use planning, source water protection, and infrastructure management. Orthophotography provides the visual content of an aerial photograph while providing the accuracy of a map. These qualities allow users to easily measure distance, calculate areas, identify features, determine accurate coordinates or locations, and perform change detection. Digital images are used to collect information such as transportation routes, wetlands, streams, shorelines, building outlines, timber stands, land use patterns, and crop types.

In 2004, Land Information Ontario partnered with the County of Lambton and a number of other public and private sector organizations to initiate the Southwestern Ontario Orthophotography Project (SWOOP) to acquire digital orthophotography for approximately 42,000 square kilometres of land in southwestern Ontario.

Since 2004, partnership agreements have been signed with 72 public and private sector organizations, all of which are contributing to the \$1.6 million costs. As a result of this partnership, millions of tax dollars are being saved. More than 20 municipalities are contributing less than \$1,000 to acquire imagery for their jurisdiction. Without such a partnership, acquisition costs would easily have exceeded \$50,000 per municipality.

Digital photography technologies offer organizations significant advantages over film. The digital camera used for SWOOP captures higher resolution images than film, thereby improving accuracy. Organizations will now be able to see more of their infrastructure resulting in fewer field investigations as planners and engineers use the imagery to measure actual dimensions from their desktops. In addition, SWOOP will take twice as many pictures of the area, allowing the best portions of each image to be compiled into a sharper composite. SWOOP also employs false colour imagery techniques that will help rural municipalities to see tile beds, identify drainage problems, as well as show soil moisture and vegetation. Since SWOOP is taking more images from more angles, it also provides better elevation data that will further help users to identify drainage patterns. This will help municipalities better delineate hazard areas and help them comply with provincial water quality legislation.

SWOOP is thought to be the largest digital aerial photography project undertaken in North America to date. Almost every municipality in southwestern Ontario is involved in the project. Regional partners include Land Information Ontario, Hydro One, and Union Gas. Other partners include municipally-owned utilities, independent telecommunications providers, pipeline companies, conservation authorities, and several First Nations. The imagery is expected to be delivered to all partners this fall.

Land Information Ontario will continue to help coordinate the development of strategic partnerships to help ensure that digital imagery exists for all areas of the province. If your organization is considering exploring partnership opportunities to acquire digital imagery, please contact Mike Robertson, LIO Policy Analyst, at (705) 755-1280 or by email at mike.robertson@mnr.gov.on.ca.