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LIO SUPPORT DESK STATISTICS:

- 100% of clients that use the help desk say they find it useful
- 74% of clients speak directly with support staff
- 94% of clients rate the support staff's problem solving skills at 80% or better
- 93% of clients rated the friendliness of support staff at 80% or better

Note: Statistics also include NRVIS support calls.

Coordinator's Update

By Raphael Sussman

Welcome to the second issue of Land Information Ontario's quarterly newsletter.

Those of you receiving the Ontario Parcel from LIO will be pleased to know that parsed civic addresses are now included with parcel data. This makes it possible to use parcel data much more effectively than ever before. In addition, more than 5,000 copies of the Ontario Road Network (ORN) have been downloaded through a number of Web sites and it is actively being used in a number of applications in both its segmented and linear reference system formats.

On the technology front, we are continuing to make improvements to our applications and data warehouse. Some of the changes you will notice over the next quarter include a new interface for our map browser called Internet Map Framework (IMF). Tools such as the Make Your Own Topographic Map application on the LIO Web site that use this browser will present geographic data drawn from Web Map Services rather than simply views of data from the LIO Warehouse.

LIO continues to make revisions to the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) membership

agreement to address feedback received from members and potential members. We believe that the revised agreement will encourage more organizations to join the OGDE.

LIO's Data Management Team is busy analyzing a number of new data classes for inclusion in the LIO Warehouse including a variety of emergency management related data sets such as flood plains, oil and gas wells, and private agency dams.

In September, we were pleased to receive, together with our partner, the County of Lambton, a Merit Award in the "Working Together" category at Showcase Ontario. The award recognized the efforts made to bring together more than 70 partners to collect high-resolution orthophotography in southwestern Ontario. Showcase is an annual event that highlights information technology achievements throughout Ontario's public sector.

Thank you for your interest in Land Information Ontario. As always, we welcome your input. Contributions for an upcoming issue of our newsletter can be sent to Carrie Belton at carrie.belton@ontario.ca.

Ontario Parcel Report

by Carla Jordan-Cooke

I am pleased to report that the assessment parcel layer now contains civic address information. When users order the assessment parcel layer, they will receive the geometry of the parcels, Assessment Roll Numbers (ARN), and civic addresses where they exist. The address data has also been parsed to contain street name, number, type, direction, and municipal name.

Ontario Parcel data, including the new civic address information, is

available through LIO to provincial ministries, conservation authorities, and municipalities. Eligible organizations must sign an Ontario Parcel agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources and become members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE).

Since last quarter, eight organizations have signed an Ontario Parcel agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources including the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Nickel District Conservation Authority,

Quinte Conservation Authority, Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority, South Nation Conservation Authority, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Ontario East Economic Development Committee, and Ducks Unlimited.

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

Ontario Road Network Report

by Carol-Anne Albertson

As part of the ORN maintenance program, we are currently verifying the validity and accuracy of street names and addresses to ensure that ORN users have the most current roads data. We continue to work with municipalities to ensure data updates are captured and integrated into the main database. LIO has also field verified and collected hundreds of kilometres of new roads.

The ORN is available through LIO as either a Linear Reference System (LRS) or a segmented data set. An LRS defines road segment attribute information by the linear distance from a defined location such as an intersection. This allows attribute values and feature location changes along a road network to be represented as a linear event such as pavement status, or a point event such as an accident location. The segmented version of the ORN is derived

from the original LRS version and is suitable for routing and context mapping. It is comprised of distinct segments, usually from intersection to intersection, and contains attributes such as street name, alternate street name, address range, road class, and direction of traffic flow.

For more information on the Ontario Road Network, please contact me at carolanne.albertson@ontario.ca.

Free LIO Training

LIDS and OLID Training

October 30th and November 20th ~ 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.

Technology Report

By Greg Bay

In response to requests from clients, we are in the process of making some substantial changes to the LIO Warehouse's common table structure. The changes will simplify the way information about spatial objects is stored by removing unused tables and fields and providing increased security for personal and sensitive data. We plan to implement the new common table structure in December of this year. Although we expect clients will welcome the improvement, clients may be required to change

the way they import and/or re-order data classes they currently use. We will provide clients with more detailed information on this change and its implementation status over the next few weeks.

We are also working to make our Standard NRVIS Interchange Format (SNIF) files easier to use. An enhanced database file format (DBF) has been developed and embedded directly in the graphic (shapefile) component of the SNIF package for 43 of our most popular data classes. We plan to

add the enhancement to all new data classes that are added to the LIO Warehouse and to gradually implement it to all existing data classes. This solution should be available to clients later this month. We will also be providing more information on this change in the near future.

For more information on the common tables or enhanced DBF projects, please contact me at greg.bay@ontario.ca.

Data Exchange Report

by Anne Halverson

The Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (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. Seven organizations have joined the OGDE since July bringing the total number of members to 192.

As previously reported, the OGDE Governing Board recently appointed a sub-committee to review, update, and simplify the current OGDE agreement. The new agreement will contain a number of improvements and

changes which will encourage increased membership in the exchange.

The revised agreement is expected to be available in the spring of 2007. Current OGDE members will not have to sign the revised agreement immediately as their existing agreement will remain valid for five years from its effective date.

For more information on the OGDE or the new agreement, please contact me at anne.halverson@ontario.ca.

New OGDE Members

- Pic Mobert First Nation
- Canadian Ecology Centre
- Township of North Dumfries
- Thames Talbot Land Trust
- City of Elliot Lake
- North Shore Tribal Council of Mamawesen
- City of Ottawa

Members Listing

FEATURE ARTICLE

QuickBird Satellite Imagery Project

by Mike Robertson

Land Information Ontario and a number of other provincial partners are working together to acquire high resolution imagery for approximately 150,000 square kilometres of land in Ontario. The imagery is captured with Digital Globe's QuickBird earth-observation satellite which provides the highest resolution satellite data available commercially. To date, nearly 89,000 square kilometres of imagery has been captured including images of First Nations communities in Northern Ontario, which is required for the management of forest fires and the completion of ground water studies.

High resolution imagery can be used to support a variety of business areas including natural resources management, transportation, policing, agriculture, border security, and emergency management. Wetlands, areas of potential contamination, forest fire management, farming practices, and critical infrastructure such as water treatment plants are just some of the features that can be identified from the imagery.

The QuickBird project will provide a comprehensive and consistent view of major areas across the province for all public sector organizations who participate in the partnership. The overall cost for acquiring this much needed imagery has been significantly reduced because of the large number of contributing partners. For example, the cost of obtaining imagery has been reduced by almost half from \$34 per square kilometre to \$19 per square kilometre.

Imagery for the entire project area is expected to be available next summer. A flexible licensing arrangement has been negotiated to allow government users to access the QuickBird imagery.

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



Sample of QuickBird imagery from southern Ontario