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NEW DATA IN THE WAREHOUSE

Aggregate Site Authorized

TOP DATA ORDERS

Following is a list of the most frequently distributed datasets during the third quarter:

- Waterbodies
- Ontario Road Network
- Wetlands
- Areas of Natural or Scientific Interest
- Significant Ecological Areas
- Nesting Sites
- Lot Fabric
- Trails

Coordinator's Update

By Raphael Sussman

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

The fall of 2006 was a relatively quiet but productive one for Land Information Ontario. Several Ontario organizations, with the full support of LIO, submitted applications for geospatial funding through GeoConnections and we expect to see positive responses very shortly. LIO staff also participated in the development of a North American Profile (NAP) for ISO 19115, the international Geospatial Metadata Standard. Should any of you wish the opportunity to review the first draft, please let us know by contacting us at lio@ontario.ca.

On the technology front, a new map browser interface based on the Internet Map Framework (IMF) will be available on the LIO Web site in the coming weeks. The new map browser uses geographic data drawn from Web Map Services rather than limiting itself to views of data in the LIO Warehouse.

Thanks to all of you who provided feedback on "SNIF", the standard format in which data from the LIO Warehouse is normally delivered. Although we experienced some issues with the new enhanced database file (DBF) format and had to rollback this solution shortly after

its release earlier this month, we expect the enhanced DBF to be available again shortly and ask that you let us know how well the new format responds to your needs.

High quality data from LIO's imagery projects has been coming in and is being re-distributed among project partners. We expect to be able to provide access to this imagery data through Web Services for selected users over the coming months. The Ontario Road Network (ORN), both the segmented and Linear Reference System versions, continues to be a popular data set with improvements to road classification and addressing currently underway.

Please check out the feature article on LIO's Geographic Township Fabric improvement project. Bringing this important part of Ontario's history into today's world of geospatial relevance has proven to be a fascinating experience that we think that you will appreciate.

Thanks to all of you for the positive feedback on previous issues of LIO's series of quarterly newsletters. Contributions to this newsletter from our readers, as well as any comments or suggestions are always welcome. Contributions for consideration in an upcoming issue should be sent to Carrie Belton at carrie.belton@ontario.ca.

Ontario Parcel Report

by Carla Jordan-Cooke

Over the past year, the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC) undertook a project to improve the correlation between the digital assessment mapping layer within the Ontario Parcel and their OASYS attribute database. The project was initiated because numerous situations were identified in which an OASYS record existed, but a corresponding parcel in the assessment mapping layer did not.

Through this project, nearly 15,000

of the approximately 18,500 properties targeted were matched, for a resolution rate of 80 per cent. The OASYS/Ontario Parcel Correlation Project was conducted within mapped areas consisting of 2.9 million properties. Mapped areas consist of those areas, mostly in southern Ontario, where Teranet's ownership mapping existed at the time the Ontario Parcel agreement was signed in May 2002. All improvements made as a result of this Ontario Parcel Correlation Project are reflected in the Ontario Parcel assessment layer available

through the LIO warehouse, Teranet or MPAC.

Since the last quarter the Crowe Valley Conservation Authority and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters have signed an Ontario Parcel agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources.

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

Ontario Road Network Report

by Carol-Anne Albertson

In addition to working with municipalities to update the road fabric and attribution, we are in the process of verifying and standardizing street names and road classes within the ORN.

Street names have been standardized and are now available in both the Linear Referenced System (LRS) and the segmented ORN data set. Standard street names will allow for greater consistency in the ORN and

easier integration with other data sets, including the Ontario Parcel. Arterial and collector roads have been added to the ORN road class and should be available in February.

The standardization of street names and road classes across the province will create consistency throughout the ORN and will allow users to create cartographic products and routing applications based on the ORN.

We are also implementing a project to validate the ORN with the Ontario Parcel to ensure the ORN is current with the parcel fabric. We expect the validation to be completed in March.

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

Free LIO Training

LIDS and OLID Training
February 26th and March 29th
– 10:00am to 3:00pm
Robinson Place – 300 Water
Street, Peterborough
Call (705) 755-1878 or email
lio@ontario.ca for more
information.

New OGDE Members

- Central East Local Health Integration Network
- North Simcoe Muskoka Community Care Access Centre
- St. Lawrence Parks Commission
- Conseil des écoles publiques de l'Est de L'Ontario, District no. 59
- Township of Oro-Medonte
- Ottawa Police Services
- Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre
- Muskoka Heritage Foundation

Members Listing

Technology Report

By Greg Bay

The past quarter has been a busy one for the technical side of LIO. Several patches to the Land Information Data Subscription System (LIDS) were deployed to improve the data ordering process and to improve overall application performance. We also recently made some upgrades to the common table format in the LIO Warehouse. 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.

Unfortunately, we have had some

issues with the enhanced database file (DBF) format improvements which were recently implemented. We had to roll back these changes and are currently testing a solution to correct these issues. Information on these and other issues can be found on the technical bulletins page on the LIO Web site: www.lio.gov.on.ca/en/TechBulletins.htm.

I am pleased to report that LIDS users can now restrict their geography by using the Select by Map option when ordering data. Users that choose this option can digitize their own polygon through a map interface which

LIDS will use to extract structured data from the LIO Warehouse.

On the Web mapping front, we are in the process of migrating our Web mapping environment from an application that was developed in-house to one based on the Internet Mapping Framework (IMF) product. When the migration is complete, Web mapping clients will notice a much improved interface and faster load times. Look for these changes on the LIO Web site in the next few weeks.

For more information, please contact me at greg.bay@ontario.ca.

Imagery Report

by Mike Robertson

LIO continues to make progress with its partners on a number of projects to ensure that public sector organizations have access to current and accurate imagery data.

The Southwestern Ontario Orthophotography Project (SWOOP) encompasses approximately 42,000 square kilometres in southern Ontario and was flown in the spring of 2006. The 30 centimetre resolution imagery is being delivered to partners as we receive it. The whole project is expected to be completed by the end of March.

The Ontario QuickBird Project encompasses approximately 125,000 square kilometres in

eastern and northern Ontario and will provide 60 centimetre true colour imagery to eligible partners across the project area. We anticipate the image collection to be completed by the end of the summer 2007. Processing has been underway for the past two years and many scenes are available to users.

The Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory (eFRI) Project is now underway. This project will acquire over 500,000 square kilometres of 30cm orthophotography over the next 5 years across Crown land and focused forest management areas in Ontario. More information on this project will be provided as it progresses across the province.

LIO is entering into an agreement with the federal government to acquire 10 metre SPOT imagery for the entire province. This data will be made available as images are captured and processed. Other orthophotography projects are also being considered and partnerships are being developed to acquire both imagery and elevation data in selected areas of the province. A series of meetings will be held in locations across the province over the next few months to determine potential funding partnerships for additional imagery projects.

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

FEATURE ARTICLE

Township Improvement Project

by Carla Jordan-Cooke

The Ontario Geographic Township Fabric is composed of just over 2,500 subdivided and unsubdivided townships from a number of separate township survey systems. The townships were created to provide for the orderly settlement of the province, initially resulting from the large wave of United Empire Loyalists that emigrated from the United States to Upper Canada following the end of the revolt of the American Colonies. The first township survey system in Upper Canada was in the Kingston area in 1783. This system provided a method of recording the patents for the ownership of various tracts of land.

The original road allowances between concessions and between lots gave Ontario's urban and rural lands their distinct grid pattern. Originally, land ownership and land assessment parcels in much of Ontario, including almost all of southern Ontario, were referenced to the Geographic Township Fabric. The Geographic Township Fabric continues to be the geographic basis for rural parcels and for managing and regulating activities associated with large geographical areas such as forestry, mining, land development, aggregate extraction, wildlife management, hunting & fishing, petroleum exploration, and recreational use.

Since the 1700's methods of surveying have become far more accurate and southern Ontario has changed from being a largely tree-covered wilderness to intensely populated agricultural, industrial, residential, and institutional lands. The Township Improvement Project comprised two distinct sub-projects to improve the positional accuracy and graphic representation of the digital Township Fabric as maintained by the Ministry of Natural Resources. The Township Realignment Project involved adjusting township and lot fabric to Teranet's more accurate data as assembled through their POLARIS and BIM programs. The Township Improvement project

involved confirming, rebuilding, and/or renaming township fabric based on survey records and opinions. The overall result was alignment of an improved Township Fabric with Ontario Parcel data.

Improvements to the township fabric include:

- replacement of the single-line representation by actual road widths along original road allowances between lots and/or concessions;
- addition of shore road allowances and widths where appropriate;
- positional changes to the geographic location of some lots and concessions and township corners;
- concession name changes to help match with the Land Index System (LIS); and
- some changes to the appearance of water bodies in the Township Fabric (may show the original extent of the lots where appropriate).

The project, which was completed in 2005/06, verified more than 2,000 townships across the province for accuracy. A new data model for the Township Fabric replaced the previous one in the LIO Warehouse, although both the improved and original township fabric continued to reside in the Warehouse to provide users with an opportunity to synchronize their own local data sets. Users will be advised in advance of the removal of the original Township Fabric.

It is important to note that the new Township Fabric may not align with all other data layers in the LIO Warehouse. Although some improvements to the digital Township Fabric have been made, please remember it is not a plan of survey and should only be used for reference purposes on maps, and not for defining the location of a boundary on the ground.

For more information on the Township Fabric or the Township Improvement Project, please contact Carla Jordan-Cooke at carla.jordan-cooke@ontario.ca.