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MOST REQUESTED DATA SETS

Following is a list of datasets distributed during the first quarter:

- Water Polygon Segments
- Wetland Units
- Water Line Segments
- Road Segments
- ORN Segmented with Address
- ANSI
- Lot Fabric
- Land Ownerships
- Nesting Sites
- Contour Lines

Coordinator's Update

By Raphael Sussman

Welcome to the July issue of Land Information Ontario's quarterly newsletter. We are pleased to include in this issue an article by the Nature Conservancy of Canada, a member of OGDE. You will also find an update on the new MNR Road Segment Data Set and the Ontario Trail Network project.

We would like to welcome Favelle Maschke, our new Communications Officer to the Geographic Information Branch. Favelle is backfilling Carrie Belton, who is on an acting assignment in MNR's Communications Services Branch. Newsletter contributions for consideration in upcoming issues should be sent to Favelle at favelle.maschke@ontario.ca.

So far, 2007 has been interesting for Land Information Ontario. This year saw a little more complexity than usual with the introduction of stage two of

our new portfolio project management.

The new IMF version of the Make Your Own Topographic Map application on the LIO Website has resulted in considerable feedback, as has the introduction of our new database file. Don't forget to update your personal bookmarks and weblinks to refresh the new IMF views. LIO has been working closely with GeoConnections Canada on understanding the impact of extending the use of Web Services to new functions.

High quality imagery data from LIO's multiple initiatives has been coming in and is being re-distributed among project partners. By the end of September 2007, we expect to be able to provide selected users access to this imagery data through Web Services.

Raphael Sussman

Did you know...

The Ontario Land Information Directory (OLID) is a metadata repository containing geospatial data holdings that reside in the Province of Ontario. Since 2002, the number of metadata records increased by 600%. 7122 geospatial information holdings are now available through the OLID Metadata Search Tool.

Welcome New OGDE Members

Township of Ear Falls
Municipality of Red Lake
Town of Bancroft
Municipality of Bonnechere Valley
Town of Hearst
Township of Red Rock
Town of Terrace Bay
St. Lawrence Parks Commission
Town of Burk's Falls
Township of Tiny
Township of Severn
Town of Pelham
Canadian Urban Institute
Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
Hamilton Niagara Haldim and Brant
Local Health Integration Network
Temagami First Nation
Universite du Quebec en Outaouais
Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield
Township of Cavan-Monaghan
Municipality of Brighton
Municipality of Machin
Global Forest Watch Canada
Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen
Township of Tay
Champlain Local Health Integration Network
Ancient Forest Exploration & Research
Township of Ramara
Bird Studies Canada
Pic River First Nations
Limestone District School Board
South East Community Care Access Centre
Municipality of Kincardine
Municipality of Leamington
Municipality of Temagami
Great Lakes Commission
Township of Sioux Narrows - Nester Falls
Loyalist Township
County of Lennox & Addington

Click here for a complete
membership listing

Technology Report

By Greg Bay

Many projects continue to keep our development teams busy. One key initiative this quarter involves work on the next version of the Land Information Data Subscription (LIDS) service. Upgrades continue to be made to improve reliability to our GeoCoder service, and we are updating our new technical environment to provide access to large satellite and aerial imagery files through Web Services.

We have been tracking down anomalies in the processing of updates for Ontario Parcel and Ontario Road Network data. These resulted in unexpectedly slow performance leading to a backlog, this issue is now resolved.

Otherwise, our technical environment has been relatively stable over this time, with our services available as needed. When we do run into issues we will continue to communicate to our clients information on these and other issues directly, and via the technical bulletins page on the LIO Website: www.lio.gov.on.ca/en/TechBulletins.htm.

On the Web mapping front, we have completed our migration to the Internet Mapping Framework (IMF) product. Users of our Make Your Own Topographic Map tool, for example, should notice a much improved interface and faster load times. Also, look for changes in the implementation of various other applications using IMF, such as the redesigned Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA), and the soon to be released Wind Power Atlas.

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

Ontario Parcel Report

By Carla Jordan-Cooke

LIO is updating the delivery of the Ontario Parcel. In the past, the Ontario Parcel data has been available by CD or DVD to licensed MNR users by requesting it through LIO. The Ontario Parcel is currently being migrated to the Ontario government's corporate hosting environment. It is expected that by late summer, licenced users will be able to download orders under 100 Megabytes through their LIDS account.

Since January, four organizations have signed an Ontario Parcel agreement with the Ministry of Natural Resources. These organizations include the Central Lake Conservation Authority, St. Lawrence Parks Commission, Eastern Ontario Forest Model and the Corporation of the Town of Terrace Bay.

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

The Ontario Trail Network

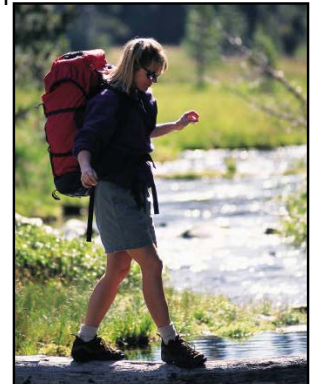
The Ministry of Health Promotion (MHP) recently established the Ontario Trails Strategy, an exciting, long-term plan for the planning, management, promotion and use of trails, toward a healthier and more prosperous Ontario.

To support the objectives of the Ontario Trails Strategy, Land Information Ontario has agreed to facilitate the collection and collation of trail information across Ontario into a consolidated spatial database to be called the Ontario Trail Network (OTN). Since the OTN will include mandatory and optional attributes describing trails across the province, Land Information Ontario has been working with OTN users and managers to define the data standards, collection methods, and long-term data maintenance approaches for trail data.

The OTN will eventually involve all single and shared-use outdoor designated trail networks in urban, rural and wilderness settings. These trails are specifically managed by a named organization for recreation, active living, utilitarian or tourism purposes including:

- Trails with natural (e.g. cross-country skiing) or treated surfaces,
- On-road bicycle routes,
- Walkways, boardwalks and sidewalks,
- Trails located within transportation and utility corridors,
- Access roads (i.e. for forestry and mining) “designated” for trail use,
- Trails that are integrated with public transit services,
- Waterway routes (e.g. canoe routes, canals) and portage routes.

LIO’s objective is to work towards making all Trails data well-managed, accessible, easy to integrate, and affordable. We are using the model of the Ontario Road Network to ensure that intellectual property for trails information remains with the trail custodian and that all commercial benefits and restrictions with regard to sensitivity are respected. Like the ORN, the OTN is a composite product that uses the trail information from custodians but does not make the original material available directly. Trail data will be available from the LIO data warehouse for download, subject to custodian designated limitations, through Web Map Services (WMS), and Web Feature Services (WFS).



If your organization is involved in trails in any way, we strongly encourage you to contact Land Information Ontario. Help us capture data not available in digital form, and share, update, and maintain the OTN, by entering into data sharing partnership agreements.

For more information please contact: Carol Anne Albertson at carolanne.albertson@ontario.ca

Ontario Road Network

By Carol-Anne Albertson

As part of the ORN maintenance activities, we continue to maintain the ORN and have updated the following areas based upon agreements with the following municipalities:

- United Counties of Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry
- Regional Municipality of Waterloo
- Regional Municipality of Halton
- County of Oxford
- County of Bruce
- County of Lambton
- City of Kingston
- City of Barrie
- City of Ottawa

The ORN is available through LIO as either a Linear Reference System (LRS) or a segmented data set. The segmented version of the ORN is derived from the original LRS version and is suitable for routing and context mapping.

Over the next year, we will be evaluating the current LRS model with our ministry partners to ensure optimum functionality. Based on this update to the LRS, the segmented dataset will continue to provide attributes such as street name, alternate street name, address range, road class, and direction of traffic flow.

This spring updates to the Ontario region of the National Road Network (NRN) were made using the ORN. Updates included: improved and new geometry, changes to street names, and the provision of street address ranges..

We continue to work with Statistics Canada to ensure the 2011 Census geography boundaries reference the ORN.

The ORN and Ontario Parcel validation of addressing data is being analyzed to ensure the ORN reflects accurate street names and street addresses for the province.

For more information regarding the Ontario Road Network, contact carolanne.albertson@ontario.ca

The New MNR Road Segment Data Set

Users of road data can now access the following datasets from the LIO warehouse:

- existing MNR road layer (Road_Segment)
- new MNR Road Segment (MNR_Road_Segment)
- Ontario Road Network (ORN_Segment_With_Address)

The existing MNR Road layer is being phased out in March 2008. This layer, designed in 1994, was based on information requirements described in the MNR's 1992 Access Roads manual. Today's requirements related to resource management dictated a redesign, complete with new attributes and a means of managing retired roads data.

The new MNR Road Segment data includes:

- MNR Road Segment
- MNR Road Network
- MNR Road Barrier
- MNR Retired Road Segment

This MNR Road Segment dataset uses existing internal MNR resource roads data holdings and the current Ontario Road Network (ORN) road geometry and selected ORN attributes. Over the course of this year, MNR District staff will be migrating their data

into this new MNR Road Segment layer and populating the new MNR attributes.

While the new MNR Road Segment and the ORN will share common road geometry, attributes are different in each road centreline database. For instance, the MNR Road Segment contains attributes specific to MNR business needs, such as road responsibilities with the forest industry, but it does not have civic address data that the ORN contains.

As a user and contributor to the ORN, the MNR will provide updates to resource roads for use in the ORN, while updates for municipal roads and highways needed in the new MNR Road Segment will come from the ORN.

For more detailed information on the ORN, please visit: www.lio.gov.on.ca/en/ORN.htm

website hints

Don't forget to update your personal bookmarks/favourites and web links to reflect the change from **LIMBS Views** to **IMF Views**.

Imagery Report

By Mike Robertson

It is anticipated that, within the next five years, most of the populated portion of Ontario will be available as high resolution imagery. Since 2002, LIO has coordinated a number of imagery projects through various partnership arrangements, mostly among public sector organizations within Ontario. We are now actively encouraging private sector groups to participate in these projects. The following projects are completed or underway:

QuickBird Acquisition

Over 100,000 sq km of QuickBird satellite imagery has been collected, primarily to update mapping information for source water protection purposes using the highest resolution satellite data available. More images will be collected in the summer of 2007 to complete areas that are within Conservation Authority watersheds. QuickBird imagery is also being collected in northern communities for emergency management purposes related to forest fires.

Digital Orthophotography Projects

Digital orthophotography projects have been initiated largely by local government throughout Southern Ontario for a number of years now to acquire extremely accurate and detailed aerial photography for use within their respective GIS environments. Land Information Ontario has partnered in most of these projects and is amassing a large amount of imagery.

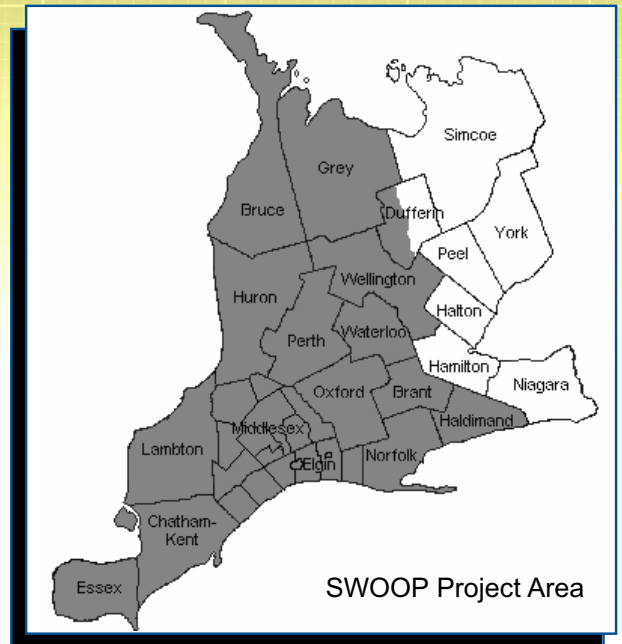


For more information about imagery visit:
www.lio.gov.on.ca/en/OntarioImagery.htm

South Western Ontario Orthophotography Project (SWOOP)

The SWOOP project is nearly complete. All imagery has been delivered to LIO and the data is being distributed to project partners. This project involved 72 partners who shared in the costs to acquire 30 cm resolution imagery for Southern Ontario. Many municipalities in the project also acquired 10 cm data, which is now being used for infrastructure and asset management.

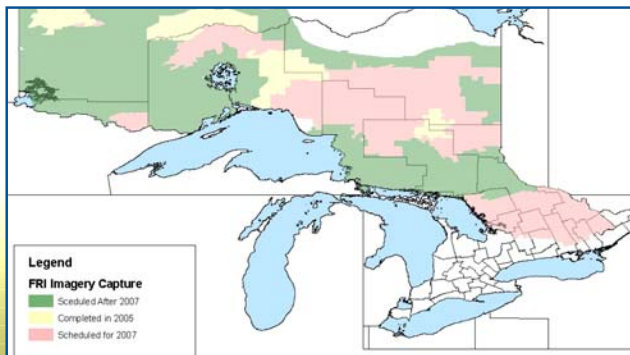
10 cm sample



Forest Resources Inventory

The Ministry of Natural Resources will be updating resource inventory throughout the Area of the Undertaking and Northern Boreal Initiative (primarily all Crown Land south of the tree line). New imagery will be taken so forest stands and other forest assets can be updated and mapped to a common standard. The imagery acquisition for this project will take place over the next four to five years and data will be available as the project nears completion. The products will include 20 cm panchromatic and 40 cm multi-spectral digital Orthophotography, which is similar to SWOOP samples.

Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) is unique, as imagery will be taken in the summer months with trees in full leaf as opposed to trees without foliage that previous projects have done.



Other Imagery Projects and Opportunities

LIO's Imagery Strategy

With funding assistance from the Ontario government's Innovation Fund, LIO is developing an ongoing strategy dealing with the acquisition and maintenance of high resolution imagery. Extending our work to date, this strategy will ensure that imagery initiatives meet the needs of our partners by maximizing collective investments.

Eastern Ontario

An Eastern Ontario Steering Committee has been formed that includes public (federal, provincial, municipal and conservation authorities) and private sector organizations to lead this part of the province in the development of partnerships to acquire high resolution Orthophotography. Land Information Ontario is driving this project and the development of partnerships to encourage organizations that are able to participate in the funding to utilize this data for their own business needs. All public and private sector organizations who work in eastern Ontario are encouraged to participate in this project. The funding model will be similar to the SWOOP project, so that an equitable funding solution can be realized for all participants.

For more information, please contact Mike Robertson at: mike.robertson@ontario.ca

LIO Data Paves the Way for Conservation Study

The Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint is the result of a five-year Geographic Information System (GIS) based project to assemble, classify, analyze, and map biological diversity in the Canadian portion of the Great Lakes Basin. This project relied on Land Information Ontario (LIO) to provide the bulk of the base data.

The Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint project evaluated both terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity using a “gap analysis” approach to conservation planning. Initially, a coarse-filter biodiversity analysis of ecosystems was conducted allowing the ‘best’ representations of systems to be identified. Terrestrial analysis studied unique landform and vegetation combinations for each MNR ecodistrict. Aquatic habitats were assessed using a combination of physical criteria such as size, watershed position, geology and climate. Much of the initial data used for the “coarse-filter” analysis was obtained from LIO, including biophysical features such as vegetation land cover and geological and anthropogenic features (such as roads and hydroelectric corridors). As a final

step, a “fine-filter” analysis was conducted using documented locations of species and communities of concern to ensure all elements of biodiversity, which may have been missed by the coarse-filter analysis, were included. For both analyses, areas of existing protection and conservation were included to identify ‘gaps’ that may have been missed.

The Great Lakes Basin is home to 46 species of plants and animals that are exclusive to the Great Lakes region, as well as 279 globally rare plants, animals, and natural communities

The Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint allows an evaluation of past and current conservation efforts to be measured, and helps identify areas of biological diversity that are in need of conservation. It is intended to be used by all levels of government and non-government organizations to assist in conservation planning.

The result of this comprehensive study has been uploaded and is now available through the LIO warehouse.

For more information about the Great Lakes Conservation Blueprint, visit the Nature Conservancy of Canada website: www.natureconservancy.ca

Project Partners:

- Nature Conservancy of Canada
- Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
- Natural Heritage Information Centre
- Ontario Parks
- Parks Canada
- Environment Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Ministry of Northern Development & Mines
- Bird Studies Canada
- Conservation Authorities of Ontario
- Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters

The Nature Conservancy of Canada combined the results of this study with The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) conservation blueprint to produce the Bi-national Conservation Blueprint for the Great Lakes, which provides a unified analysis of the entire Great Lakes Basin.



The Great Lakes Basin includes large tracts of unfragmented Boreal forest in the north, to mixed and deciduous forests and tallgrass prairies in the south.