

*Natural. Valued. Protected.*

# Land Information Ontario Newsletter



*This newsletter has been specially formatted to be read on-line.*

January 2011

Vol. 3 No.1

## Coordinator's Update

Welcome to the winter issue of the LIO Newsletter.

I am pleased to announce that 233 organizations have submitted Membership Application Forms for the revised Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE) Agreement, which replaces the 2002 OGDE Agreement.

Just a reminder: to ensure continued access to the LIO Warehouse, OGDE Membership Application forms must be received by March 31, 2011. If your organization has not yet signed, please visit the LIO website for the [Membership Application Form and related OGDE information](#).

The completed Agreement, as well as requests for assistance and questions/comments about the process can be sent to the LIO Data Exchange Administrator at [lio@ontario.ca](mailto:lio@ontario.ca), or call (705) 755-1878.

Thank you for your feedback on our new [LIOcoder](#) (our application for geocoding addresses and postal codes) as well as on recent changes to LIO [Make a Map](#). Your comments resulted in some immediate changes and the remainder of the modifications will be incorporated in next year's versions with much faster performance and a completely new look and feel.

Please check out this issue's Feature Article from Statistics Canada. They are moving towards synchronizing boundaries created at the municipal and provincial level with national geographic products. Geographically, you will eventually be able to reliably compare local statistics to provincial and federal data.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please write us at [lio@ontario.ca](mailto:lio@ontario.ca).

Raphael Sussman  
LIO Coordinator

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## Technology Report

By Andrea Bonner

The modernization of the LIO suite of tools and services is well underway and the project team is getting excited as a couple of projects are nearing delivery. The first of the new tools to make an appearance will be Ontario EasyMaps and the Metadata Management & Data Discovery Tool.

Based on ESRI ArcGIS Server, Geocortex Essentials and Adobe Flash technology, Ontario EasyMaps is the model intended to replace many of the public-facing interactive web maps provided by Ontario ministries to their clients and to the public.



Ontario EasyMaps provides an easy-to-use and easily customized interface for the “non-technical” audience to explore geographic data and prepare their own maps and reports. More significantly, new data services have been created specifically to deliver with exceptional speed the cached satellite and aerial photography, as well as background map data. These data services will also be accessible to other internal- and external-facing OPS applications as well as internal GIS practitioners.



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LIO Coordinator: Raphael Sussman

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The Metadata Management & Data Discovery Tool will provide a comprehensive catalogue of metadata describing Ontario’s geographic data, products, and services. Based on GeoNetwork, an open source software product originally developed for world-wide use by the United Nations, this new tool will provide powerful public-facing search and browse capabilities, as well as secure metadata management capabilities for data creators and service providers.

We’ve been listening! The project team redesigning the LIO data ordering and download system is doing some interesting work in response to user feedback to ensure the design of the new system is as user-centric as possible.

Thanks to those of you who have been working with our Usability Design Specialist to design a completely new user interface. The work done through this grass-roots effort will help to ensure that the new system is easy to use and is designed to maximize efficiency for all users.

For more information, please contact [chris.eckstein@ontario.ca](mailto:chris.eckstein@ontario.ca).

### You Asked for It...You Got It!

Starting this March, LIO will deliver data in the much-requested file geodatabase format. Clipped into four OPS Standard Regions and refreshed every six months, these packaged data products will contain data commonly requested by OGDE members in a ready-to-use format.

Check your Inbox next month for a LIO e-blast containing more details about this initiative.



## Ontario Trail Network Report

By Carol-Anne Albertson

Congratulations to the  
Ontario Trail Network (OTN)  
team on their Showcase  
Ontario 2010 Merit Award!

Once again, the OTN has been recognized -- this time specifically related to the technology and information-management aspects of the database and interactive trail map on the LIO website.

We're also pleased to announce that the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport has renewed its partnership with LIO for the next five years to collect trail information in this geographic database.

The OTN supports an active lifestyle by highlighting Ontario's extensive network of trails. The OTN is also useful for planning, analysis and emergency management.

OTN data is available at no cost to OGDE Members, through an Unrestricted Use Licence (UUL), or a Web Map Service (WMS).

For more information, visit the LIO website.

### Do We Have Your Trail?

LIO offers an interactive map based on Google Maps that allows users to search for trails anywhere in Ontario using criteria such as location, trail length or activity.

Check it out!



## Ontario Road Network Report

By Carol-Anne Albertson

The Ontario Road Network (ORN) is a single-line representation of all of the drivable roads in Ontario. It is continuously updated with data from Ontario's road authorities, namely: municipalities (regional and local roads), the Ministry of Transportation of Ontario (Ontario highways and freeways) and the Ministry of Natural Resources (resource roads).

Through an Unrestricted Use Licence (UUL), the ORN is downloadable to your desktop, allowing immediate NO COST access to street names, street address ranges, directionality and municipality name to support your business needs.

Since you are entitled to unlimited ORN updates, ensure that you have the most current ORN data by setting your subscription to send you changes at whatever frequency you wish. Of course, if your organization is a member of Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange (OGDE), you can get the ORN and thousands of other data sets from more than 400 organizations as well.

We are very excited to announce that in 2010, in partnership with Statistics Canada/Elections Canada and Municipalities, the ORN data (geometry, street names and street range addresses) was integrated into Statistics Canada's National Geography Database (NGD) for six areas in Ontario in order to assist in the creation of census geographies for the 2011 Census.

If you would like to learn more about this exciting initiative, please read our Statistics Canada feature article in this issue. Also, please visit the Statistics Canada website for more information regarding the census or statistical data.

For more information on how the ORN can be used to support your business needs, please contact carolanne.albertson@ontario.ca.



### New Data in the LIO Warehouse

- Far North Land Cover 2005 to 2009 – Version 1.1
- Great Lakes Islands
- Ontario Hydro Network (OHN)
  - OHN - Watercourse
  - OHN - Waterbody
  - OHN - Shoreline
  - OHN - Hydrographic Polygon
  - OHN - Hydrographic Point
  - OHN - Hydrographic Line
- Provincial Satellite Derived Disturbance Mapping
- Wetland Interim

## **Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) Report**

By Shawn Kelleher

As anticipated (see LIO Newsletter, July 2010), all MNR water-related data classes were successfully migrated to the Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) in the fall of 2010. The [Data in the LIO Warehouse](#) web page contains links to OHN documentation and OHN-themed technical bulletins (as per list below).

The new OHN data structures contain improved functionality and new attribute fields including: geographic feature names, feature types and -- for watercourse only -- waterflow attributes. These attribute fields will be populated by MNR during ongoing data maintenance activities, with priority based upon user and stakeholder feedback.

Although the percentage of feature names attached to OHN - Watercourse and OHN - Waterbody is now over 96 per cent, considerable time and effort is still needed to bring this up to 100 per cent. It should also be noted that not all lake, river or stream features in Ontario have an official name.

For more information about the OHN, please contact Shawn Kelleher at [shawn.kelleher@ontario.ca](mailto:shawn.kelleher@ontario.ca).

### New Technical Bulletins

- Dec 30: Nesting Site -- New Fields Added
- Dec 9: Forest Insect Damage Event -- Species Name Change
- Dec 9: Forest Misc Damage Event -- New Event Types
- Nov 25: Building as Symbol & Building to Scale
- Nov 18: Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) Post Migration
- Nov 12: Data Class Retirement (3)
- Sept 29: Updates to Monitoring Station Data Class
- Sept 27: Delivery Delay from the LIO Warehouse & Availability of OHN - Waterbody / OHN - Watercourse Classes
- Sept 14: LIO Warehouse - Data Class Retirement Listing
- Sept 14: Changes to Secured Conservation Land Data Class
- Sept 13: Data migrated to new Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) - Hydrographic Feature Data Classes
- Sept 13: Waterline Segment data migrated to Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) - Watercourse Data Class
- Sept 13: Water Polygon Segment migrated to new Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) - Waterbody and Shoreline
- Sept 13: Wetlands in Water Polygon Segment data class migrated to the new Wetland Interim data class

## Ontario Parcel Report

by Carla Jordan-Cooke

In 2002, the Ontario Government (MNR) entered into an agreement with Teranet and the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation to create and maintain a single parcel fabric for the province, to which other land information could be related. This agreement with MNR will expire in May 2012.

Over the next few months, LIO will be asking provincial users of the Ontario Parcel data about their use as well as their required support.

The Ontario Parcel is a standardized, Ontario-wide geospatial dataset consisting of assessment, ownership and Crown parcels of land. The Ontario Parcel database contains parcel boundaries, assigned civic addresses, and identifiers such as Assessment Roll Numbers (ARNs) and Property Identification Numbers (PINs).

There are over 4,260,975 assessment parcels in the Digital Assessment Parcel Fabric, with over 80,000 new assessment parcels inserted each year. The Ontario Parcel GIS product is updated in the LIO warehouse on a bi-weekly basis, and the CAD product on a quarterly basis. Civic addressing is updated on a monthly basis.

Currently, over 80 users (including Ministries, Conservation Authorities, and non-profit agencies) are licenced to access the Ontario Parcel database through LIO.

For more information, please contact Carla Jordan-Cooke at [carla.jordan-cooke@ontario.ca](mailto:carla.jordan-cooke@ontario.ca).



### New OGDE Members

- Adjala-Tosorontio, The Corporation of the Township of
- Alderville First Nation
- Armstrong (Earlton), Township of
- Black River-Matheson, The Corporation of the Township of
- Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation
- Bonnechere River Watershed Project
- Carlton Place, Town of
- Cobalt, the Corporation of the Town
- Collus Power Group/Collingwood Public Utilities
- Concordia University Library
- Englehart, Corporation of the Town of
- Environment Canada
  - Environmental Enforcement Directorate
- Environment Canada
  - Wildlife & Landscape Science & Technology
- French River, Corporation of the Municipality of
- Gravenhurst, Town of
- Halton Hills Corporation of The Town
- Killarney, Corporation of the Municipality of
- Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington Public Health
- Little Grand Rapids First Nation
- Matachewan, Corporation of the Township of
- Ministry of Consumer Services
- Ministry of Finance
- Moosenee, Corporation of the Town of
- Naicatchewenin First Nation
- Natural Resources Canada - Great Lakes Forestry Centre
- Niagara District School Board
- Nigigoonsiminikaaning First Nation
- OCUL (Ontario Council of University Libraries)
- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
- Orillia, The City of
- Pest Management Regulatory Agency, Health Canada
- Seine River First Nation
- Seneca College
- Simcoe Muskoka District HU
- Smiths Falls, Corporation of the Town of
- Smooth Rock Falls, Corporation of the Town of
- Tiny, The Corporation of the Town of
- University of Prince Edward Island
- Wasaga Distribution Inc.



## Ontario Imagery Report

By Mike Robertson

### South Western Ontario Orthophotography Project 2010 (SWOOP2010) Update

On October 27, LIO hosted an information session for the SWOOP2010 partners at the Oxford County Offices in Woodstock. The session was attended by more than 70 individuals representing over 50 partner organizations involved in the project. It provided SWOOP2010 updates on the processing of the imagery, legal agreements and roles and responsibilities that each partner will have as they receive the imagery products.

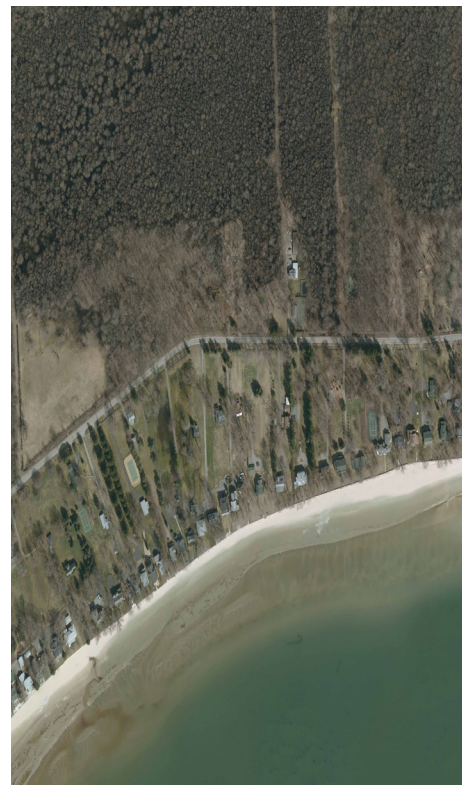
The presentation on Quality Assurance (QA) also demonstrated the complexity of involving and coordinating over 60 organizations throughout the QA process, as well as establishing a process for error reporting. There will be another, more detailed training session held early next year for those partners willing to establish ground control points that can be used to check the accuracy of the imagery.

MNR has begun receiving the SWOOP2010 stereo imagery from the vendor and we are in the process of conducting QA on those products. The stereo models and images are looking very good and we expect the imagery to meet or exceed our quality expectations.

A new [SWOOP2010 mapping website](#) has been launched to keep the stakeholders informed of the progress of both the processing and deliveries of the products for each municipal block. This mapping application was developed by Ejay Lai from the Long Point Region Conservation Authority and we would like to acknowledge him for his efforts. This site truly demonstrates the value of having partners willing to work towards a common goal.

Finally, we would like to thank Graham Smith from the Grand River Conservation Authority for his efforts, guidance and involvement in this project. Graham played a major role in the SWOOP2010 project as Co-Chair and “resident GIS expert” on the Steering Committee, as well as implementing the map viewer for the stakeholders. He has now moved on to an exciting position involving pandemic GIS analysis at St. Michaels’ Hospital, as part of a global initiative.

While we will miss his expertise, we wish Graham all the best in his new position!



### Digital Raster Acquisition Project East (DRAPE) Update

The final corrections and deliveries are underway for the DRAPE.

LIO will be issuing a communication to the over 50 partners in this project to finalize the delivery process.

While this has been a challenging project, we are looking forward to the next updates in eastern Ontario.

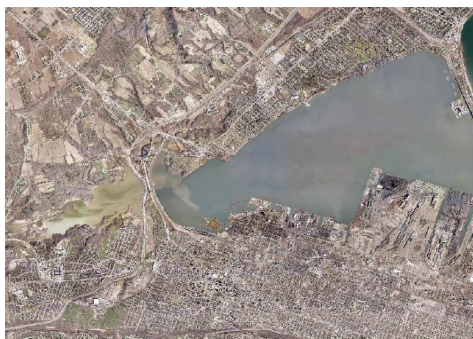
For more information on these and other [imagery projects](#), please contact Mike Robertson at [mike.robertson@ontario.ca](mailto:mike.robertson@ontario.ca) or visit the LIO website to access the data.

## Feature Article: Statistics Canada National Geographic Database (NGD) Convergence Activities in Ontario

by Glen Hohlmann

The National Geographic Database (NGD) Program came into existence in 1997 as a joint Statistics Canada/Elections Canada initiative to develop and maintain the common topographic data inputs serving the needs of both organizations. In May 2005, the NGD Steering Committee identified a set of key strategic priorities for the next five years (2005 - 2010), and mandated the NGD to determine how best to advance the Program in these directions. One of these key priorities was to begin the process of geometrically converging the NGD to provincially supplied road network datasets. This was in line with wider government initiatives designed to improve the coordination and rationalization of geographic data maintenance operations.

In early 2006, work began on developing a convergence methodology that would not only adjust road network features but also reposition boundary features such that they remain in the correct relative position to the updated road network geometry. By 2008 a methodology based on an iterative process to integrate all data sources and progressively correct data errors had been developed. In 2009 work began on converging the NGD to a dataset supplied by British Columbia. This work was completed in early 2010. Work has now shifted to converging in select Census Divisions in Ontario.



The following six Census Divisions were selected (given the limited amount of time and resources available prior to the extraction of data for the 2011 Census):

- City of Ottawa
- Halton Regional Municipality
- City of Toronto
- Waterloo Regional Municipality
- City of Hamilton
- Peel Regional Municipality

The selection of these regions was based on an analysis of population, dwellings and potential growth performed by Statistics Canada and a priority list solicited from the ORN which was influenced by:

- Early support to the development and maintenance of ORN
- Early adoption of data supply agreements
- Data supply agreements with municipality/region
- Consistent data supply

As of November 2010, the NGD has completed convergence activities in the City of Ottawa and the Halton Regional Municipality and is nearing completion in the City of Toronto and the Waterloo Regional Municipality. It is expected that the remaining two Census Divisions will be completed by June 2011.

Convergence activities will likely resume in the remainder of Ontario sometime in 2012 for the 2016 Census.

For more information on this project, contact: [Glen.Hohlmann@statcan.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.Hohlmann@statcan.gc.ca).

"Geography is important to the national statistical system.

Well-defined geographic areas provide the framework for the collection, presentation and analysis of data."

Statistics Canada\*