

December 2012



# Regional GIS Update

OLDMAN RIVER REGION URBAN GIS PROJECT

## GIS Staff

Steven Ellert - GIS Technologist

Mladen Kristic - CAD/GIS Tech.

Jaime Thomas - GIS Analyst

Jordan Thomas - GIS Analyst

# 2012 Update

2012 marked the ten year anniversary of the Urban GIS Project which has seen the membership grow from 18 members to 40 with the inclusion of the Village of Alix and the Town of Sundre in 2012.

The look of the Urban GIS Project is about to go through somewhat of an overhaul as a migration to an updated software system is now underway. We have contracted Pacific Alliance Technologies from Vancouver to help us with this transition as trying to migrate 40 individual sites is quite a large undertaking. Once the complete migration occurs, the users will be equipped with tools which are unavailable on the current platform. A user will be able to theme and save their own layers, save redlining for future sessions, create automatic mailing labels from a selection set, view Google Maps and Google Street view directly from the GIS, and have the ability to view the GIS in any internet browser. ORRSC GIS Staff hopes to have full migration complete by the fall of 2013.

Once the new GIS is released next fall, the data will no longer be served out of the ORRSC office, however all GIS data will be stored and served out of Blackbridge Geomatics' Data Centre located in the Sherring Industrial Park in North Lethbridge. This will provide a much more secure data location in case of hardware failures, power outages, or disaster situations. Additionally, the bandwidth provided by the data centre far exceeds anything the ORRSC office could ever provide thus giving us the opportunity to serve out more data to members. GIS Staff are now finalizing the details with Blackbridge Geomatics and hope to start the data transfer early in the new year.

For 2013, the Town of Milk River has stepped forward as a sponsoring municipality for the

2013 Oldman River Region Urban Orthophotography Project. An application was submitted to Alberta Municipal Affairs in late October and we hope to have confirmation from Municipal Affairs very early in the new year as we require the imagery to be captured by the beginning of June. If successful, this grant will cover the full cost of acquiring new high resolution imagery for 40 municipalities, as well as the creation of some terrain files for those municipalities who were not part of the 2008 project. If anyone would like any additional information regarding the upcoming project, you can contact Jaime Thomas at the ORRSC office.

On November 14 ORRSC played host to GIS Day, a gathering of local geospatial users demonstrating a variety of GIS applications being used in the region. The all-day event featured 11 presenters representing private industry, the federal and municipal government, and the University of Lethbridge. In all, there were 55 individuals in attendance, representing 25 different organizations. The event featured sponsorship from URISA Alberta, the Alberta Geomatics Group, and tecconnect, which provided food, beverage, and door prizes for those in attendance. The event hosted at ORRSC was featured in GoGeomatics Canada magazine, as well as publications by ESRI, URISA, and the Alberta Geomatics Group.

2013 will prove to be an extremely busy year for GIS Staff with three large projects being managed. However these projects are necessary not only to provide up-to-date data with new orthophotos, but to provide an enhanced user experience for all of our 40 member municipalities. (Below, a sneak peak at the new interface)



## Partnering Municipalities

**Village of Alix**

**Village of Arrowwood**

**Village of Barnwell**

**Village of Barons**

**Village of Carmangay**

**Village of Champion**

**Village of Coutts**

**Village of Cowley**

**Village of Glenwood**

**Village of Hill Spring**

**Village of Lomond**

**Village of Milo**

**Village of Nobleford**

**Village of Rosemary**

**Village of Stirling**

**Village of Warner**

**Town of Bow Island**

**Town of Cardston**

**Town of Claresholm**

**Town of Coaldale**

**Town of Coalhurst**

**Town of Fort Macleod**

**Town of Granum**

**Town of Innisfail**

**Town of Magrath**

**Town of Milk River**

**Town of Nanton**

**Town of Olds**

**Town of Penhold**

**Town of Picture Butte**

**Town of Pincher Creek**

**Town of Raymond**

**Town of Rocky Mtn House**

**Town of Stavely**

**Town of Sundre**

**Town of Taber**

**Town of Vauxhall**

**Town of Vulcan**

**Municipality of Crowsnest Pass**

**Cardston County**

## More GIS News

- In May, GIS Staff attended GeoAlberta in Calgary, a Provincial conference held annually that brings geospatial practitioners together for a variety of presentations
- In June, Jaime Thomas earned his GISP Certification by meeting specific educational and professional criteria outlined by the GISCI Institute

## Now Hiring

ORRSC GIS Staff is looking for a CAD/GIS Technologist to join the team. If you know of anyone send them in our direction.

After 35 years of dedicated service to ORRSC, Cal Kembel has retired as CAD Technologist. We wish Cal the best in his retirement and again thank him for his fantastic work over the last 35 years.