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OLDMAN RIVER REGION URBAN GIS PROJECT

Regional GIS Update

GIS Staff

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2013 Update

2013 was extremely busy for the ORRSC GIS staff as the primary focus has been the migration of the existing Urban GIS Project to a new platform. The migration process is extremely extensive as there has been a vast accumulation of municipal data since the inception of the GIS project in 2002. Many things have to be taken into consideration when migrating the data such as data types, projections, size and naming conventions. An intricate workflow has been developed that not only takes the aforementioned data nuances into account, but also pushes data to a new, secure location located at Blackbridge Geomatics. ORRSC entered into a partnership with Blackbridge this spring which provided an off site location to store and serve the data. Prior to the partnership with Blackbridge, the Urban GIS was hosted locally from our office which in the case of power or internet outage would result in the GIS being down. Now, with the data being stored in a data centre the new GIS will no longer experience outages as the data centre has measures in place in case of power or internet disruptions.

The new GIS platform will provide users with a variety of new tools that will enhance the experience. A user will now have the ability to create and save redlining as a layer, theme and query their own data, and have integrated access to popular mapping products Google Maps/Street view.

The new platform can also be delivered to mobile devices as early next year ORRSC will be releasing the mobile solution to those municipalities that wish to use it. Finally, the new GIS platform allows for a version to be

released to the public which would adhere to FOIP regulations governed by the province. It has been a wish of many municipalities to provide a public version of their GIS not only to their rate payers but also to the general population. This can act as a fantastic medium to promote a municipality, and will be accessed via linkage directly from the municipality's existing web page. The better part of 2014 will be dedicated to completing the rollout of the new platform as well as training users on the new features of the product.

The final delivery of new Orthophotography is expected by the end of the year as ORRSC has already received imagery for half of the municipalities involved. The new photography, which was acquired between April and July of this past year was captured by fixed wing aircraft with the final processed image producing a 7cm pixel. To put this in perspective, the best imagery provided by Google Earth in roughly 50cm which means that a user could identify an object that size on the ground without pixilation. 7cm imagery provides much greater detail and ORRSC can provide custom plots of anything located within a municipality such as schools, emergency service buildings, recreation facilities, golf courses, etc. The new imagery will also be accompanied by commercial and industrial digital building footprints. These digital footprints provide both municipal employees and ORRSC planning staff a comprehensive overview of specific uses within a municipality on which many different types of location analysis (density, growth patterns) can be performed.

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 Bassano
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

The Town of Bassano is the newest member of the Urban GIS Project. Bassano joined earlier this year and now brings the membership up to 41.

In September, GIS Staff attended GeoAlberta in Edmonton, a Provincial conference held annually that brings geospatial practitioners together for a variety of presentations

Kaylee Kinniburgh is the newest member of ORRSC's GIS staff. Kaylee, who is a graduate of the Lethbridge College geomatics program began work in February.

Features

The ORRSC Urban GIS Project was featured in the January publication of GOGEOMATICS Canada Magazine.

GIS staff member Jaime Thomas was a presenter at the 2013 GIS Day hosted by the University of Lethbridge. The topic of his discussion was GIS Systems in Small Urban Municipalities.

