



# Regional GIS Update

## Database Progress

The Urban GIS Project is proceeding as planned. We are in the process of collecting tax roll databases from the partnering municipalities. The information we are requesting consists of roll numbers, owner name, mailing address, civic address and lot, block, plan.

The Town of Coalhurst was the first municipality to provide us with their database, which was given to us in the form of a paper printout. The Towns of Milk River, Pincher Creek, Magrath, Picture Butte, Vulcan along with the Villages of Coutts and Cowley have all since sent their databases via email, and work has begun on their

files. Receiving the files in a digital format, such as EXCEL, is the best option, but we are capable of accepting other formats.

Work on the forwarded databases includes checking the integrity of the tax roll information against the title mapping layers. By doing so, we have discovered inaccuracies of some of the titles within each municipality.

For example, some titles indicate the parcel is located in the wrong municipality. In addition, we have also been uncovering parcels of land that are unaccounted for by the municipality's tax roll. These problems have been corrected by

ordering the required titles, updating the information on the title as well as adding the missing parcels to the municipality's tax roll.

One of the most important parts of this project is keeping the information up to date. Therefore, we have been asking each municipality to send us the updates to their tax system as they receive them in order to keep our records current.

Tom Graham is the lucky guy who will be working on keeping all 18 databases up to date. You can contact Tom either by email or fax at:

**gisorisa@telus.net**  
or **(403) 327-6847**

One of the major obstacles so far in the database development process has been the creation of unique parcel ID numbers. The problem is that a single roll number may be used for multiple lots and the corresponding line number might be for a different collection of lots. This means that a unique number for each lot or portion of a lot does NOT exist. We have solved this by using the tax roll databases, title mapping files and our own base map drawings to determine all the individual parcels in each community.

We then assigned our own unique number to each parcel of land and link this value to the tax roll database.

### February Highlights...

- Following up from the December meeting, the GIS team researched the possibility of partnering with some of ORISA's Rural Members to acquire updated air photos. The GIS team has concluded that it will be more cost effective to fly the photos ourselves in Year III as originally proposed.
- The Town of Claresholm has expressed an interest in learning more about the GIS project and the GIS team will be making a presentation to Town Council in February. As discussed in one of the preliminary meetings, the cost to join the Project would be an average of the partnering municipalities contributions, which would be approximately \$13,000. ORISA will keep the partners updated as to any developments.

### Partnering Municipalities

*Village of Barnwell  
Village of Coutts  
Village of Cowley  
Village of Lomond  
Village of Nobleford  
Village of Warner  
Town of Cardston  
Town of Coaldale  
Town of Coalhurst*

*Town of Fort Macleod  
Town of Magrath  
Town of Milk River  
Town of Nanton  
Town of Picture Butte  
Town of Pincher Creek  
Town of Stavely  
Town of Taber  
Town of Vulcan*