Collaboration in GIS: *the West Parry Sound Geography Network*

Presented by:

West Parry Sound
Geography Network

Our Network

- Partnership of 7 Municipalities, 2 Planning Boards
  - West half of Parry Sound District (6,000 sq km)
  - Surrounds Town of Parry Sound but area coverage includes predominately **rural areas**
    - > 22 Communities
    - > 30,000 islands, 1482 inhabited
    - > 400+ inhabited lakes
    - > Large tracts of Crown Land, Parks, Conservation Reserves
    - > 24,000 land parcels in coverage area
      - >> 10,122 Seasonal
      - >> 5,046 Permanent
    - > 1,281 named roads containing 3,810 road segments.

Organization Overview

- Named '**W**est **P**arry **S**ound **G**eography **N**etwork', the Network is a municipal collaboration to provide shared geomatic services among multiple organizations.
  - > Mandate to address municipal data and geospatial needs. Services have since emerged to support many public uses.
- Organizational Structure
  - Administered by one "lead" municipality (use of Corporation's name).
  - Partnership established by Memorandum of Understanding
  - Operating budget supported by all partners through membership fees.
  - Operational resources managed by "lead" municipality.
    - > Coordinator (employee of lead municipality)
    - > 'GIS Data Management Specialist' is only dedicated employee of Network
    - > Centralized Resources (infrastructure) - IT Support

Evolution of ‘Network’

- Originated with lead municipality’s existing GIS
- 2004-05 catalyst for growth/expansion was funding opportunities
- Strategic Plan and recommendations paved way for:
  - Parnership (governed by Memorandum of Understanding)
  - Shared and centralized resources
  - New dedicated GIS staff (shared amongst partners)
- Staff acceptance, Pulbic use
- Technology advances

Key growth aspects of the Network

- Lead organization (Champion)
- Opportunities (funding, savings, efficencies)
- Existing needs must be identified
  - Support community services
  - Fullfill Municipal business requirements (services)
  - Expertise
- Technology consumed by community

Key aspect to the Networks success

- Efficient, simple, effective delivery of services.
  - Browser & internet connection ONLY requirements
- Users have seamless access to many different datasets
  - Municipal Partners (specific data needs - internal)
  - Community /Public (general uses)
- ability to let partners manage their own data
- selfserve tools and services
- active communities engaging their municipalities (collaboration, participation, awareness)

Users & Collaborators

- Municipal Organizations

  Township of The Archipelago, Township of Carling, Municipality of McDougall, Township of McKellar, Town of Parry Sound, Township of Seguin, Municipality of Whitestone, Parry Sound Area Plng Board, Archipelago Area Plng Board

- Essential Services

  9-1-1 Dispatch, Ambulance, O.P.P, Fire Departments

  Health Centre, Social Services, School Board Transportation Services

- Community Organizations

  Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

  Community Based Networks,

  Active Transportation Group

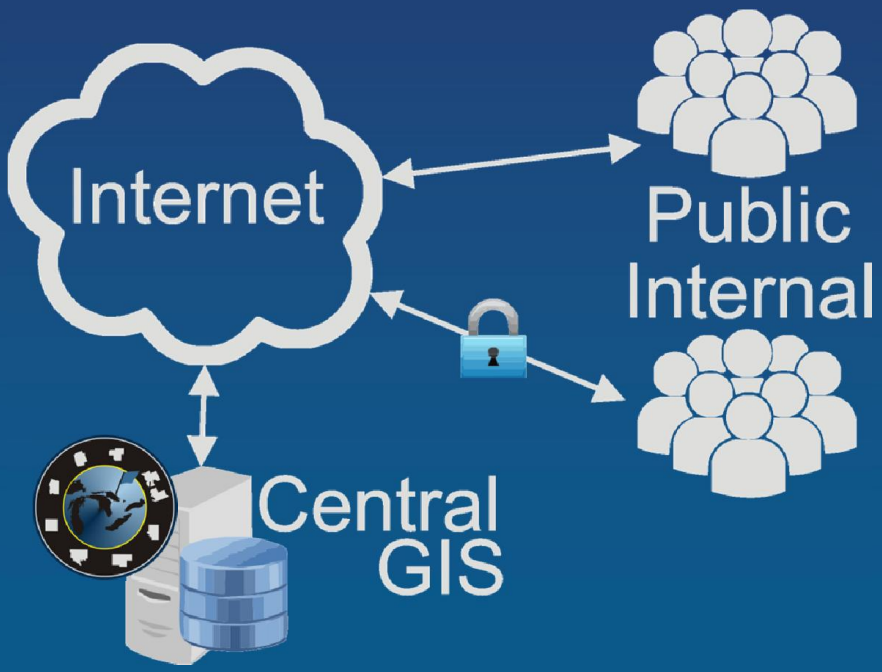
- Businesses

  Surveying Firms, Consultants,

  Real estate, Internet Service Providers

- Public
  - Residents, Tourists, Students

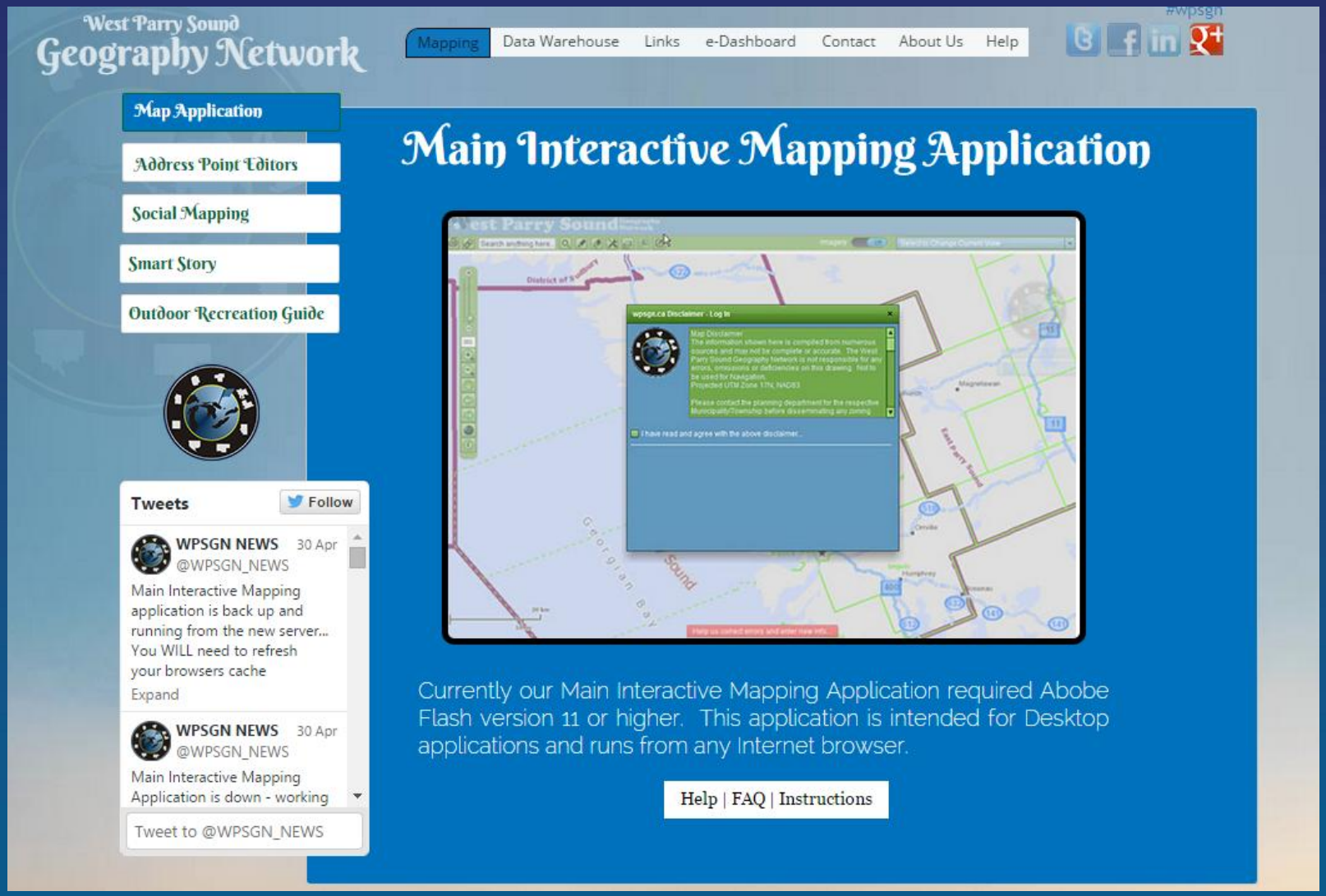
**All users can contribute to Improved data



Services of the Network

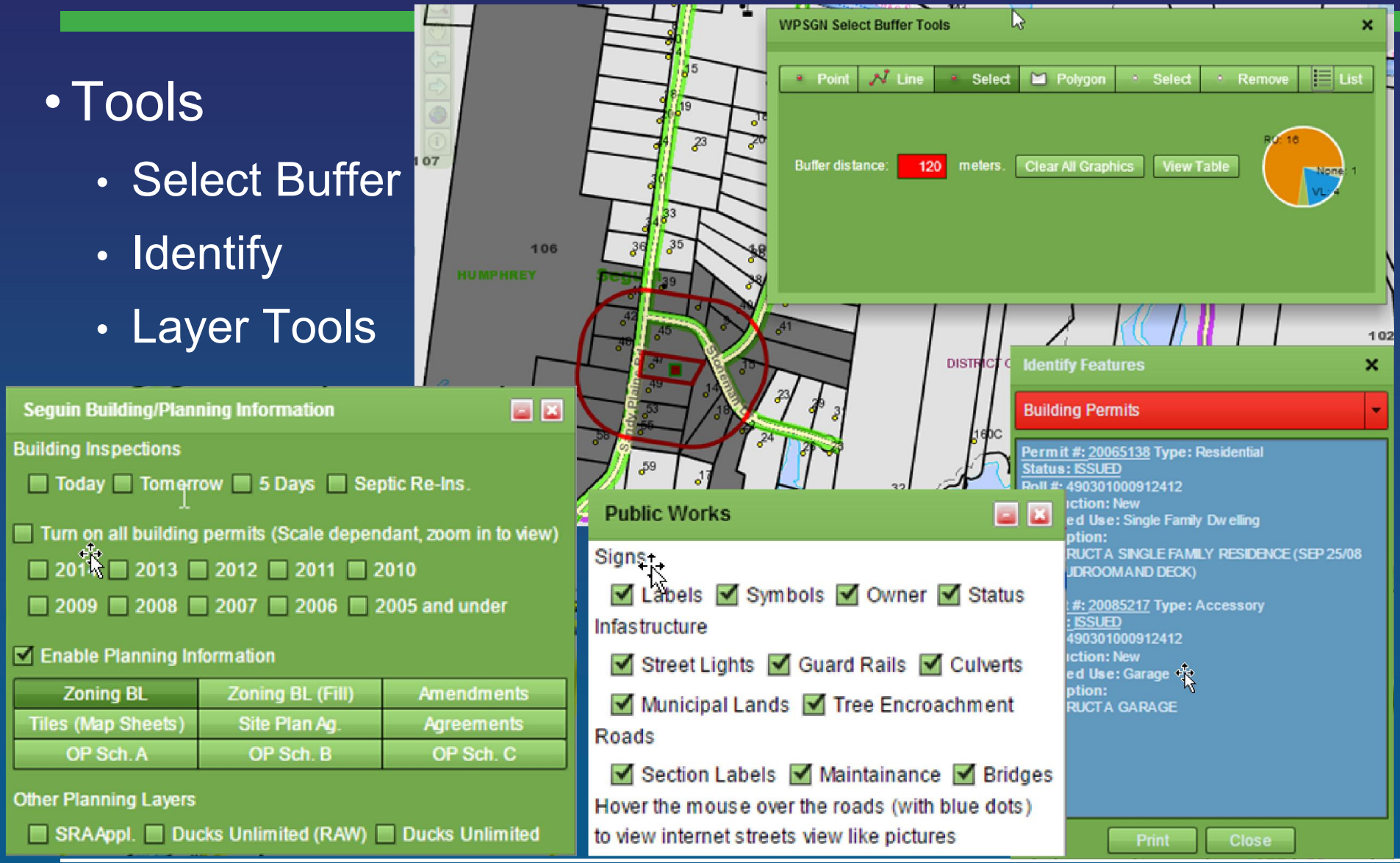
- Mapping
  - Hard-copy, Soft-copy & Embedded (Website) Maps
- Web Mapping
  - Interactive Applications for Desktop and Mobile Devices
    - > Public & Internal
- AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location)
    - > Boats, Snow Plows, Garbage Trucks, Sidewalk Plows
- Open Data Portal
- Spatial Data Management
  - Data Capture
  - Tools to allow our users to update & maintain their own data
- Expertise, Consultation & Training

Website: wpsgn.ca



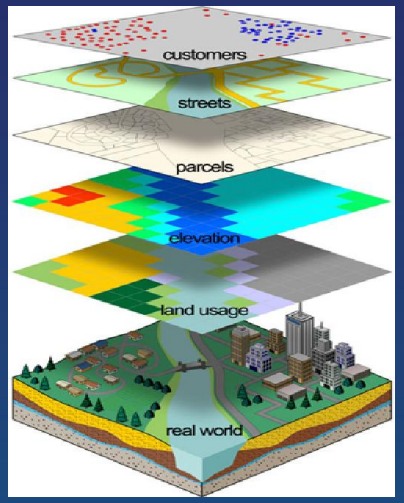
Internal Applications

- Tools
  - Select Buffer
  - Identify
  - Layer Tools



Data of the Network

- Civic Addresses
- Roads
- Islands Names and Numbers
- Administrative Boundaries
- Aerial Photography
  - Years available 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013
- Planning Department - Zoning & Official Plan datasets
- Building Department - Building Permits (active and closed)
- Public Works – feature locations (Asset Management)
- Community Data - Businesses, Points of Interest, Communities



Benefits and Achievements

- Efficient & cost-effective implementation of information technology for small/rural-typed municipal organizations.
  - > GIS implemented without large budgets and numerous staff required.
- A very popular publicly-available web mapping application to be used for a variety of community uses.
  - > Browser and Internet Connection is all that is needed!
- A strong and robust data warehouse.
  - > Technology allows various users to be data contributors.
- Improved collaboration on community initiatives.
  - > Use of data & mapping to facilitate projects where required.
- Accessible information to facilitate self-serve environment
  - > Data Portal with Real-time Data – no specialized skillset required.

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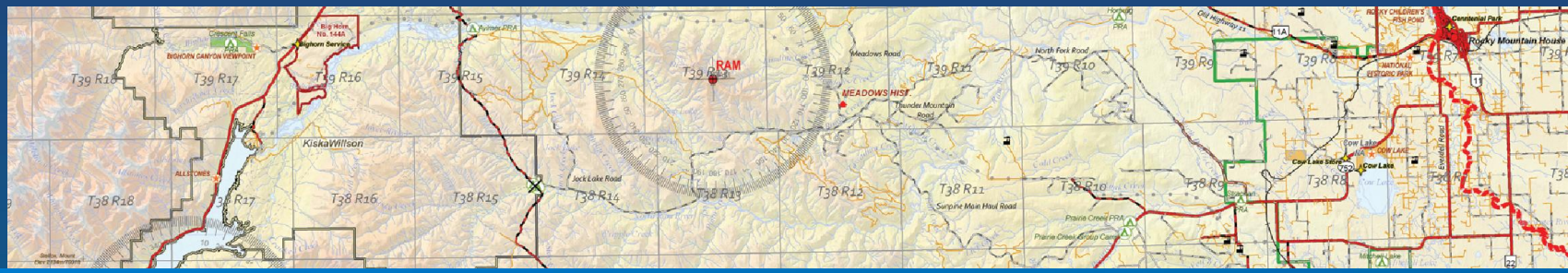
West Parry Sound Geography Network

Q & A



- THANK YOU
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