

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



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 '**West Parry Sound Geography Network**', 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:
  - Partnership (governed by Memorandum of Understanding)
  - Shared and centralized resources
  - New dedicated GIS staff (shared amongst partners)
- Staff acceptance, Public use
- Technology advances





# Key growth aspects of the Network

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- Lead organization (Champion)
- Opportunities (funding, savings, efficiencies)
- 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 Planning Board, Archipelago Area Planning 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**

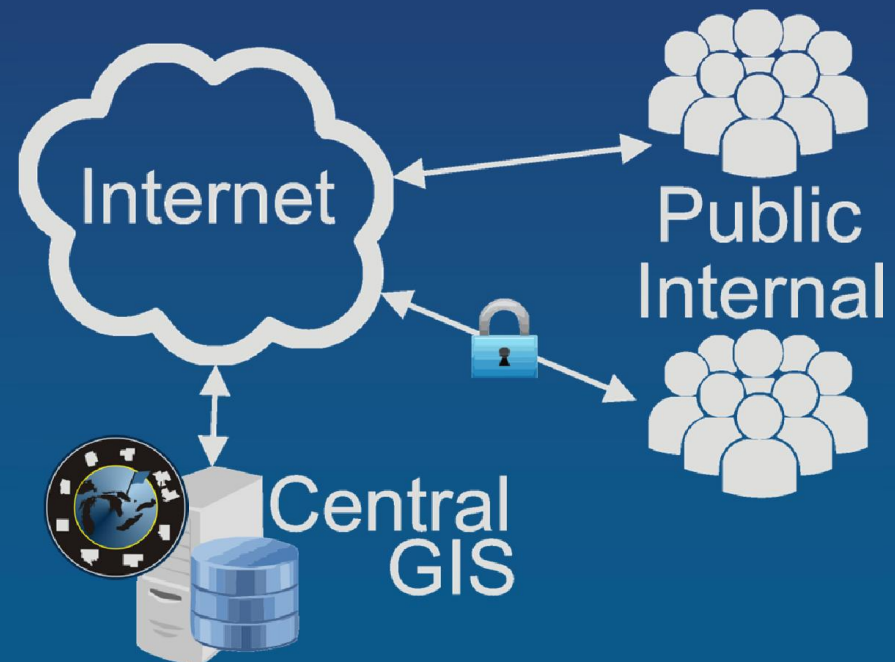
Surveying Firms, Consultants,

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

The screenshot displays the homepage of the West Parry Sound Geography Network (wpsgn.ca). The header includes the site logo, navigation links (Mapping, Data Warehouse, Links, e-Dashboard, Contact, About Us, Help), and social media icons. A sidebar on the left lists various applications: Map Application, Address Point Editors, Social Mapping, Smart Story, and Outdoor Recreation Guide. The main content area features a large map of the West Parry Sound region. A disclaimer window is overlaid on the map, stating that the information is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Below the map, a text box explains that the application requires Adobe Flash version 11 or higher and is intended for desktop use. A button for 'Help | FAQ | Instructions' is located at the bottom right of the main content area. A Twitter feed on the left shows two tweets from WPSGN NEWS, one announcing the application is back up and the other stating it is down.

West Parry Sound Geography Network

Mapping Data Warehouse Links e-Dashboard Contact About Us Help

#wpsgn

Map Application

Address Point Editors

Social Mapping

Smart Story

Outdoor Recreation Guide

## Main Interactive Mapping Application

West Parry Sound Geography Network

Search anything here

Imagery

Select to Change Current View

West Parry Sound

Map Disclaimer

The information shown here is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. The West Parry Sound Geography Network is not responsible for any errors, omissions or deficiencies on this drawing. Not to be used for navigation.

Projected UTM Zone 17N, NAD83

Please contact the planning department for the respective Municipality/Community before disseminating any zoning.

☒ I have read and agree with the above disclaimer.

Currently our Main Interactive Mapping Application required Adobe Flash version 11 or higher. This application is intended for Desktop applications and runs from any Internet browser.

Help | FAQ | Instructions

Tweets

Follow

WPSGN NEWS 30 Apr @WPSGN\_NEWS

Main Interactive Mapping application is back up and running from the new server... You WILL need to refresh your browsers cache

Expand

WPSGN NEWS 30 Apr @WPSGN\_NEWS

Main Interactive Mapping Application is down - working

Tweet to @WPSGN\_NEWS



# Internal Applications

- Tools
  - Select Buffer
  - Identify
  - Layer Tools

The screenshot displays a GIS application interface with a map of a residential area. Several tool windows are overlaid on the map:

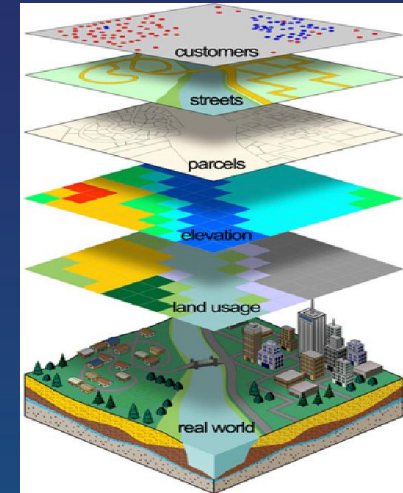
- WPSGN Select Buffer Tools**: A window with a toolbar containing buttons for Point, Line, Select, Polygon, Select, Remove, and List. It shows a buffer distance of 120 meters and a pie chart with segments labeled 'None 1' and 'VL 4'.
- Seguin Building/Planning Information**: A window with a section for Building Inspections, including checkboxes for Today, Tomorrow, 5 Days, and Septic Re-Ins. It also has a section for Public Works with checkboxes for Signs, Infrastructure, and Roads. A table at the bottom lists various planning layers.
- Identify Features**: A window showing details for two building permits. The first permit is for a residential building, and the second is for an accessory garage.

The map itself shows a street grid with a red circle highlighting a specific area. A green line runs along a street, and a red rectangle is drawn around a building. The map also shows a green area labeled 'HUMPHREY' and a blue area labeled 'DISTRICT C'.



# 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

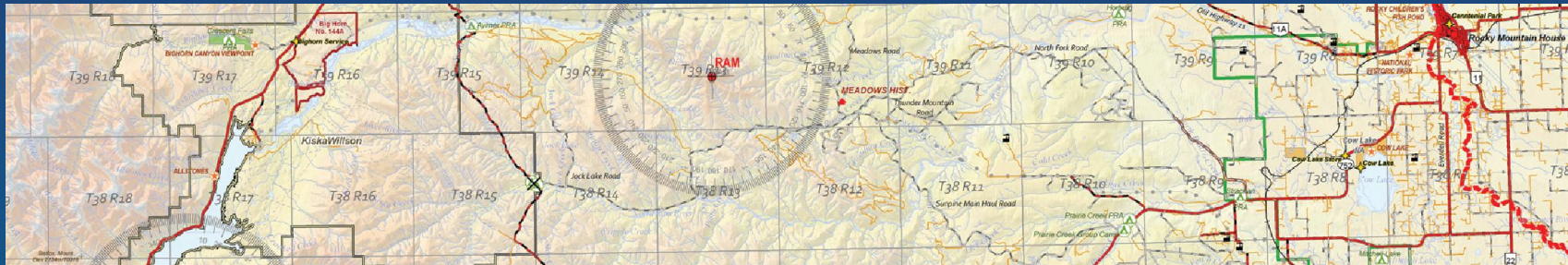
- Efficient & cost-effective implementation of information technology for small/rural-typed municipal organizations.
  - > GIS implemented without large budgets and numerous staff required.
- A very popular publicly-available web mapping application to be used for a variety of community uses.
  - > Browser 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.







## Q & A



- **THANK YOU**

- Email: [wpsgnca@gmail.com](mailto:wpsgnca@gmail.com) | Website: [www.wpsgn.ca](http://www.wpsgn.ca)