

ABOUT THE REGIONAL DISTRICT OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is located in the southern interior of British Columbia; bounded by Manning Park on the west, Summerland to the north, Anarchist Mountain to the east and the United States to the south. The RDOS spans an area of 10,400 km including the municipalities of Penticton, Summerland, Osoyoos, Oliver, Princeton, Keremeos and surrounding rural areas.

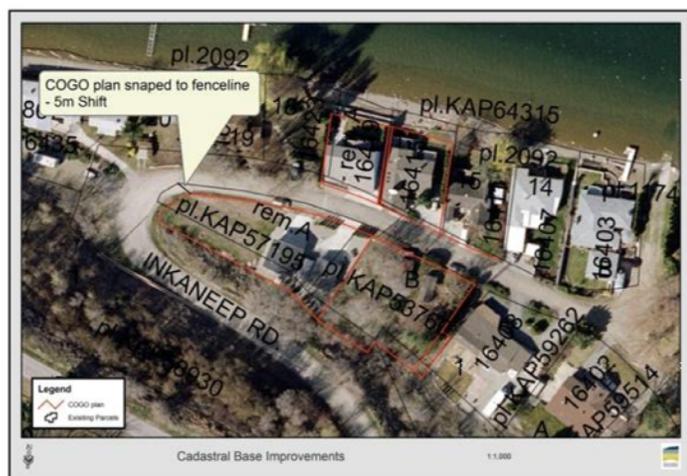
With a mild climate, scenic environment, abundant business opportunities, enviable lifestyle advantages, the allure of small town living and wide variety of recreational opportunities, the Regional District continues to attract new residents. The area's population is projected to grow by 36% (28,791 additional people) from 79,457 in 2006 to 108,226 by 2031.

Inviting and energizing, the Okanagan-Similkameen is good for business and good for life.

SLIVERS & GAPS

Tim Bouwmeester is the Information Services Manager for the RDOS and with a team of three GIS staff is responsible for GIS technology and initiatives. A huge amount of data and information is required to support the services provided by the RDOS. Information Services promotes and facilitates the use of this information; creating efficiencies within the RDOS and enabling staff, Board members and citizens to make better more informed decisions.

The Information Services team is responsible for updating and maintaining the RDOS parcel base with current legal boundary information. The team was challenged with trying to clean up the Regional District's cadastral base. "Each municipality was working independently on GIS initiatives," states Bouwmeester. "When compared, the maps just didn't line up. Our key objective was to improve accuracy of the cadastre by cleaning up the slivers and gaps."



FUNDING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

The Regional District joined ICIS in 2007. Their membership with ICIS provided access to funding through the CivicSpatial Grant Program. This important ICIS initiative was designed to help local governments improve the quality of their cadastral base and the maintenance and sharing of this data. Funding for projects is provided by the Utility and Provincial members of ICIS and the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia.

The funding provided by ICIS allowed Tim and his team to initiate two projects to improve the accuracy of the Regional District's cadastre. The first was to clean up the slivers and gaps. The funding helped to offset the extra 300 hours of staff time it took to work on the parcels.

A second objective for the CivicSpatial funding was to align the cadastral fabric to new Ortho photos of the Regional District. New, ortho-rectified photos were taken that facilitated corrections to the cadastre for hills and valleys. By the end of the second phase of the project, over 1,500 parcels were adjusted covering approximately 1,127 hectares.

"As we continue to improve the cadastre, other things become more accurate – like zoning, ALR, stream data and more. ICIS and funding from the CivicSpatial Grant Program has been essential in helping the RDOS and its member municipalities improve our cadastral information."

Tim Bouwmeester
Information Services Manager