

Member Stories

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District of Sooke



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The District of Sooke is located on the south-west coast of Vancouver Island in British Columbia; 35 kilometers west of Victoria. Part of the Capital Regional District, it is approximately 57 square kilometers in area.



Well-known as an outdoor recreation destination, Sooke is popular for hiking, mountain biking, and water sports such as fishing, whale watching and sea kayaking. Sooke also celebrates the arts with its own Philharmonic Orchestra and Vancouver Island's premier juried Fine Arts Show.

Sooke has a population of 11,435 - as of 2011; an increase of almost 18% since 2006. The District is facing a bright economic future with unprecedented growth forecasted. Business in the area includes Tourism, Marine, Forestry, Industrial, Retail and Hi-Tech.

Brian Goble is the Head of Geographic Services for the District of Sooke. Geographic Services is part of the Development Services Department and consists of the Head of Geographic Services and a GIS/Land Records Analyst.

Brian came to Sooke after working for the Cowichan Valley. ICIS was working with Cowichan Valley to bring their data up to standards and Brian became familiar with ICIS during his time. This experience helped a great deal when he moved to Sooke in 2008. At that time, the District of Sooke had been a member of ICIS since 2006.

As a member of the Capital Regional District, Sooke benefits from the regional decision-making and shared local government services. Like other members of the CRD, Sooke participated in the high level of data sharing that was already in place. The members of the CRD routinely share data and the costs of obtaining the data. ICIS provides the

vehicle that allows the members to share data in a standardized format. The ICIS GeoShare process is used to facilitate the delivery of the dataset - simplifying data sharing and distribution.

The District of Sooke was also able to make use of available funding offered by ICIS to improve the data they were sharing with the CRD. "There were two grants in particular that ICIS provided," states Brian Goble. "With the CivicSpatial grant we were able to improve the integration of our software tools and the AddressBC funding was used to help with confirming addresses and address points added to GeoShare."

In 2009, when Sooke was working on a new land records database, access to ICIS data helped the District work through all of the parcels in GIS and to validate the data against the BC Assessment database.

Sooke was also able to improve the quality of their aerial photography in 2011. "There is a large area that emergency responders like the fire department need to cover," says Brian. "With new subdivisions coming in incredibly quickly, it is critical to be up-to-date with roads and other changes that are outside the District's borders. It would be difficult to expand coverage without assistance from ICIS. Now, emergency responders are getting more frequent updates of detailed, reliable information."



"Working with ICIS is a critical tool for our Engineering and Planning departments and has helped us to solve a number of challenges. Having a formal conduit for our cadastral information allows us to spend less time packaging data for individual requests. It also facilitates updating the

DISTRICT OF SOOKE

QUICK FACTS

Population: 11,435

ICIS Member since: 2006

GeoShare Delivery:

Parcels ✓

Addresses ✓

Event Host

Board Member ✓

Strategic Advisor

Funding Organization

Grant Recipient:

Parcels ✓

Addresses ✓

Data Quality ✓

ICIS Labs Participant ✓



Sharing Spatial Data

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