



## News Release

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### **State-of-the-Art Online Map System Unveiled**

A new, more powerful and functional mapping system is now available for visitors to the Regional District of Central Okanagan website.

Communications Coordinator Bruce Smith says, "The new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program was developed by our staff, using the latest industry leading technology from the Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) and using the Microsoft Silverlight development platform."

Information Services Manager Richard Bruneau adds, "By utilizing Silverlight, online map users will be able to take full advantage of its powerful development tools, providing an engaging and interactive internet mapping experience."

Bruneau says, "The new online GIS system uses the latest technology and replaces three older applications and an aging internal application. This will benefit the wide range of people that use the online mapping service, as well as Regional District staff and our Regional GIS partners from the municipalities of Lake Country, Peachland and the Westbank First Nation."

Some of the great new features offered include:

- Easy map navigation and searches for properties, roads or parks
- View details of any map feature
- Fully cached orthophotos for fast and seamless display
- The ability to compare current with past orthophotos to view development history
- Using a simple drag and drop the industry leading Document Management System allows users to link any number and type of document to any number of map features

For those who may not want to immediately move to the new map system, links will be left in place until the New Year to the older programs. The online maps are a very popular feature of the Regional District website. More than 37,000 visits have been logged so far this year to the GIS maps from over 11,000 unique visitors. The maps are often used by real estate professionals, consultants and staff and students from the University of British Columbia Okanagan and Okanagan College.

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