



INTEGRATED  
CADASTRAL  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY

## MEMBER PROFILE



*Sunshine Coast  
Regional District*

Aptly named, British Columbia's Sunshine Coast averages 2,000 hours of sunshine every year. Although part of mainland British Columbia, this 86 km stretch of coastline is accessible only by air, sea or a six day wilderness hike from Pemberton. Stretching from Port Mellon to Earls Cove, the Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD) has an area of 381,000 hectares and provides regional government to nearly 28,000 residents.

The SCR D's GIS and Mapping Section operates with a staff of 4; managed by GIS Administrator Trevor Fawcett. Their role is to create, maintain, publish and manage spatial data related to property within the SCR D. The GIS and Mapping Section's goal is to provide efficient access to property information to internal clients, other local governments and the public through automated systems including the Internet.

The challenge for Trevor and his team was the creation of an accurate cadastral fabric. Their fabric was complete but parcel data was not positionally accurate. When other layers from external sources were added to their cadastral fabric, they didn't line up and, in some cases, were several metres out of their true position. This was because the Sunshine Coast has very few survey control monuments. They have to

rely on global positioning technology in order to establish control points so that they could make adjustments to the fabric. To achieve this, it was necessary to contract a legal surveyor to perform GPS surveys. The SCR D recognized that this was necessary but the cost was significant.



A member of the Integrated Cadastral Information Society (ICIS) since 2001, the SCR D applied for funding for this project from the Society under the Civic Spatial Grant Program. ICIS was incorporated as a non-profit society in 2001 and is a partnership of British Columbia's major utilities, provincial government

ministries, crown corporations and local governments. The Society was established specifically for the purpose of developing, maintaining and sharing a province-wide cadastral fabric and other related data sets for the use of the Society's members.

The Civic Spatial Grant Program is a 3-year grant initiative designed to help local governments improve the quality of their cadastral base and assist in the maintenance and sharing of this data. Local governments can apply for this funding to:

- ◆ Undertake specific projects which help meet the program's objectives or,





- ◆ Commit to frequent automated submission of data as changes occur

The general funding allocation is:

- ◆ \$10,000 per region (as defined by the Regional District boundary) for improvement of cadastral mapping accuracy or other projects that meet the program's objectives
- ◆ \$1,500 per local government where the local government commits to submitting their cadastral data to ICIS standards as changes occur

With a total projected cost of \$40K and funding of \$14.5K from ICIS, Phase 1 of the project went forward. The grant provided \$10,000 for the SCRCD plus an additional \$1,500 for each of the 3 municipal governments within the regional district. "With ICIS providing the funding and leveraging the technical resources of the SCRCD, it was a win-win situation for all," says Trevor Fawcett. "SCRCD considered this project a high priority but the cost was a potential barrier. Having a third of the project funded provided an incentive to get the project moving. For ICIS and its members, the benefit is access to an accurate cadastral fabric that they can rely on and use in their

business to improve the quality and accuracy of their spatial information."

There are over 20,000 parcels within the SCRCD. Phase I included collecting 90 GPS points throughout the developed areas of the SCRCD. These points allowed Trevor and his team to adjust approximately 30% of their parcels. The SCRCD has applied for a second grant in order to start Phase 2; collecting more GPS points. Over the next 5 years, the plan is to continually update ICIS with the corrected data using SCRCD resources and ICIS funding.

[www.icsociety.ca](http://www.icsociety.ca)

[www.scrd.ca](http://www.scrd.ca)



*"Being a member of ICIS has not only benefited the SCRCD's data accuracy but also provides access to government data sets used in our business. We can now access government information directly through secure web sites that we use daily. This has increased the efficiency of SCRCD staff answering inquiries from the public and referrals from outside agencies. The combination of accurate data, free access to data and sharing data is helping the SCRCD meet their goals and ICIS succeed in their mission and vision," states Trevor Fawcett, GIS Administrator.*