



COUNTY OF GRANDE PRAIRIE No. 1

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County's New Web Tool Brings Maps to Life

At today's GIS Day (Geographic Information System), the County of Grande Prairie launched its new Enterprise Web Map, a computer-based tool that makes it easier and more convenient to access, analyze and understand geographically-related data.

Members of the general public, along with staff, local businesses and municipalities had a chance to learn first-hand how to put the new technology to work at home, at school and on the job.

"GIS technology brings maps to life," said Glen Kilian, the County's GIS Coordinator. "The County's Enterprise web tool makes it very easy for people to access and manipulate all kinds of information, right from their own computers."

A GIS is a computer-based mapping tool that takes information from a database about location such as roads, buildings, terrain, points of interest and other physical elements and depicts them as visual layers. The technology allows users to locate geographic features on a map and better understand a particular location. It also enables planners to make more informed decision about their communities.

Participants at today's GIS Day celebration heard presentations about the many uses of GIS, and had the opportunity to take advantage of some hands-on training on new Enterprise web tool.

GIS around the world has many applications including natural resource management, transportation planning, acquisition of census data and business analysis, to name only a few.

The County of Grande Prairie's GIS Day is part of a global event held each year. The worldwide event helps generate awareness of GIS technology and the important contributions it makes in the fields of science, technology, information, and the humanities.

To access the County's Enterprise web tool visit the County of Grande Prairie website at www.countygp.ab.ca and click the link *Maps and GIS*. The public can also call the County at (780) 532-9722 for more information about the technology and how to use the new tool.

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