Web app Builder and Municipalities
How one municipality is using web app builder for public information

https://maps.countygp.ab.ca/publicmap
Who is the County?
Our Web Map history....

Late 1990’s - 2005 Telus Geomatics (Staff Only)

2006 - 2010 Accurate Assessment
Our Web Map history....

2011 – 2016
Target audience...
Web App builder (developer edition)

2016 – Current (Public)
Key Features – Custom popups

What does the public want?

• Variety of property identification
• Zoning information
• Printable report
• Tax Certificates

Parcel Lots: (1247400) County of Grande Prairie No. 1
LINC / Lease: 0015084908
Roll Number: 1247400
Area: 10.00 Acres
Address: 703033 RGE RD 65
Subdivision:
Hamlet: County of Grande Prairie No. 1
Plan/Block/Lot:
Alberta Township Reference: SW-20-70-6-W6
LSD Reference: 5-20-70-6-6
Zoning: County Residential
Zoning Requirements CR-5

Purchase Tax Certificate
Property Report
Zoning Map 28 From Land Use Bylaw
Default assessment image

Click on the image to view a larger version

Parcel Lots: (1247400) County of Grande Prairie No. 1
LINC / Lease: 0015084908
Roll Number: 1247400
Area: 10.00 Acres
Address: 703033 RGE RD 65
Subdivision:
Hamlet: County of Grande Prairie No. 1
Plan/Block/Lot:
Alberta Township Reference: SW-20-70-6-W6
LSD Reference: 5-20-70-6-6
Zoning: County Residential
Zoning Requirements CR-5

Purchase Tax Certificate
Property Report
Zoning Map 28 From Land Use Bylaw
Default assessment image

Click on the image to view a larger version

County of Grande Prairie No. 1

Roll Number: 1217400
LINC: 2013064005
Title Number(s): 721702046
Municipality: County of Grande Prairie No. 1
Area: 15 - A
Zoning: CR-5 - COUNTRY RESIDENTIAL
AFS: 6W-30-70-6-0
Short Legal(s): 5/07/26/SW
Address(s): 703033 RGE RD 65
Subdivision:
School District: Public
Last Tax Notice: 2015 - 5 - 20
Permit Zone: 2
Councilor District: 4
Fire Permit:
Victim Permit Required From March 1 - Oct 31
Fire Contact:
Fire Contact:

Assessment Information
Total Assessment: 453,000
Assess. Year: 2015 Effective Year: 2012
Assessment Class(es): RESIDENTIAL MARKET VALUE
Access Improv: Bylaw Improv:
SPD - After 1970
1,200 sq ft 1500
Warehouse (Metal Clad) 1,185 sq ft 2000
Carport
400 sq ft 2012
Key Features – Map Printing
Key Features – Custom Base Maps
Key Features – Routing
Key Features – Search

- Roll number
- Address (sorta)
- POI
- Legal description
  - Quarter
  - LSD
  - Plan;block;lot
- LINC (Provincial parcel identifier)
Key Features – Comprehensive Help

- Short “How do I...?” help and videos based on common questions
- Comprehensive tool help
- Videos!! Created in Camtasia.
- Used HelpNDoc to create very nice help files
Helpful Technology

• HelpNDoc for creating help documentation
• Camtasia Studio for creating help videos
• FPDF for creating the PDF reports on the fly
What did we learn?

• Being an early adopter can suck. Many of the issues and work around we needed at the beginning are not longer required
• Proxy from github. The config files are all the same, so poke around the help documentation for the other versions if the one you are looking at isn’t helpful.
• If using arcgis online you need to share the map, and layers publically so everyone can access it.
• Become friends with your favourite browser based developer tools.
• Do everything (EVERYTHING!!) using HTTPS. It’s a bit more work ensuring it’s set up, but 100% worth it.
• There’s lots of custom widgets out there. Before you build, use some google-fu.
• Ensure you know WHY you are changing so you can explain it easily to less than happy customers.
• We created a custom “Url shortener” so we could open and zoom the map based on roll number, address or anything else we desired. The Query function may replace this need
• Save the HTML code for customized popups. Sometimes they get wiped when doing rather basic things.
• Data standardization. This project forced us to kick into gear some of our data standardization so we could do routing and geocoding.
What did we learn?

• It wasn’t as scary as we thought it would be once we actually dove in
  • Most of the default widgets were “good enough”
• Learning curve for users wasn’t huge. They generally could use it with little coaching.
• Our official colors and logo are kinda tough to work with in the internet.
• If you have added layer items to the map and update the layer item, the change may not flow through to the map unless you remove and re add it.
• Server crashes cause chaos. Have redundancy built in early.
• Spend the time to ensure your searches work the way you expect. We’re still working on ours.
• Portal?
Web app Builder and Municipalities

How one small municipality is using web app builder for public information
Contact

tarchibald@countygp.ab.ca
@deepsheep (twitter)

https://maps.countygp.ab.ca/publicmap

http://www.countygp.ab.ca