

# **Information Sharing Techniques and Platforms**

**for Right Of Way Management**

**Presented by the OPWA ROW Management Data  
Intelligence and Information Sharing Subcommittee**

# Agenda

---

- Introductions
- Technology Updates
- Impacts of a Virtual Workplace - Access to Information
- Public & Private Utility Perspectives
- Industry Trends
- Future Directions

# Introductions - Who We Are

---

- Data Intelligence and Information Sharing Subcommittee
- Comprised of Public and Private Industry professionals
- Many (Many) years of experience between us
- Variety of backgrounds and disciplines
- Members:

Chris Gill	Bell Canada
Praful Mistry	C/o Richmond Hill
Steve Dearborn	C/o Markham
Fadwa Samara	Metrolinx

David Gill	YNET, York Region
Shane MacDonald	YNET, York Region
Joe Scarcelli	C/o Hamilton

# Technology Updates

---

- Current Trends - Go Digital as much as possible
  - Web based platforms
  - Draw from Single Source of Truth
  - Encourage Accuracy
  - Encourage Collaboration
  - Encourage Sharing
  - New Provincial Mandate: Building A Digital Ontario
- <https://www.ontario.ca/page/building-digital-ontario>

# Virtual Workplace - Access to Information

---

## Challenges and Victories of a Virtual Workplace

Flow of Paper based information      Forced to become digital

Access to paper records

Electronic Format & Delivery

Access to equipment  
(scanner/plotter)

Minimize Staff Time

Mail Delivery, Delayed etc.

Faster Turnaround to Field  
Operations

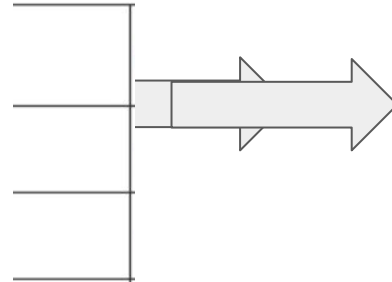
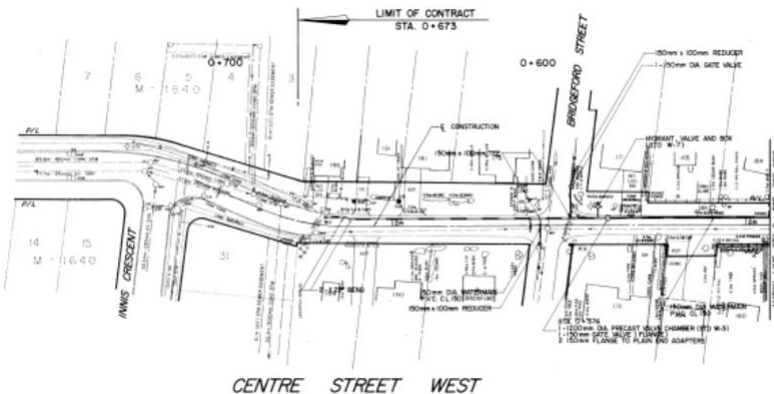


# Perspectives from the Industry - Public

- Municipal race to Digitize, Obsolete Paper Map Drawer
- High effort to convert, manage, sustain - process driven
- High rewards for those in need of information
- GIS needs to reflect drawing - think about automation!

**CENTRE STREET WEST**  
(Total 13 records)

Plan Name	Plan Type	P
<a href="#">1754PP01.tif</a>	Plan and Profile (PP)	C
<a href="#">1754PP02.tif</a>	Plan and Profile (PP)	C



# Perspectives from the Industry - Utility

---

- A Balance must be found when it comes to record sharing and the competitive landscape that has to date, limited record sharing in the past between companies and road authorities.
- Moving forward, we need to be looking at a standard land-base approach where a universal system could be implemented
- Currently each utility has it own program that may or may not be interactive with CAD, or other software used by Road Authorities
- Utilities also face the enormous task of looking at archive records and getting them put into a new interactive base where they can be shared

# Industry- Locates & Utilities - Record of Plant

---

- Locates are the most wide spread way in the field to show active utility plant - ensuring its updated to current in real time is the challenge.
- Previously the Utility relocation manual that was issued from another sub committee had some great ideas on the way the SUE information can be managed for specific projects.
- [Guidelines for the Coordination of Utility Relocations](#)
- Biggest question- who will be the keeper of the records ? How is it managed and how can access be scaled to appease a competitive structure between utilities?



# Moving Forward - Recent Industry Trends

---

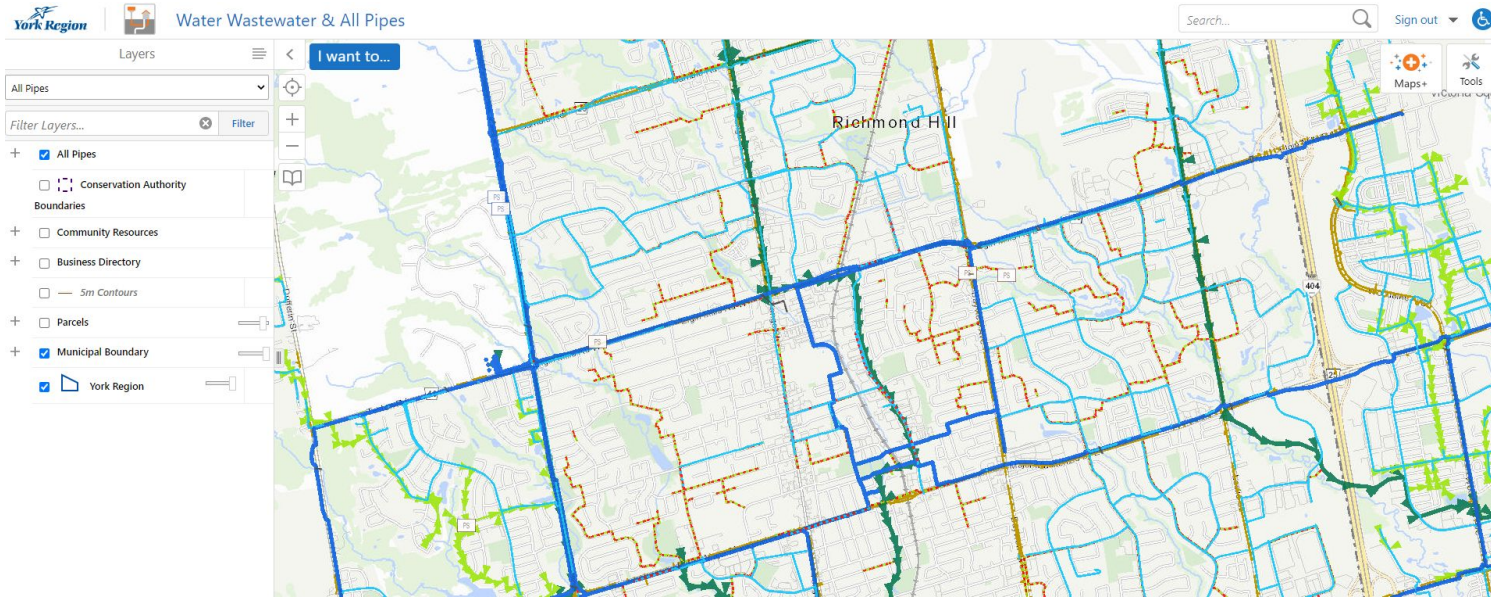
- Ontario adopts policy to reduce underground utility risk on public construction projects through collaboration
- CSA S250 Mapping of Underground Utilities

## Application of the CSA S250 should result in:

- Reduced injuries to workers and the public
- Improved management of utility records
- Improved as-built drawings
- Decreased costs in the design phase of utilities
- Improvement in timelines to update systems
- Fewer infrastructure damages
- Less environmental incidents
- Accurate capture of underground utility infrastructure data for future projects

# Moving Forward - Recent Industry Trends

- Share and Collaborate
- Federated sharing model, like a peer to peer system



# Future Directions

- Augmented & Virtual Reality is the new wave
- Take your data into the world in place
- Check out vGIS
- Check out FME AR



# Questions?

---



[chris.gill@bell.ca](mailto:chris.gill@bell.ca) [praful.mistry@richmondhill.ca](mailto:praful.mistry@richmondhill.ca)