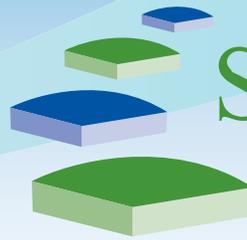


# OLDMAN RIVER REGIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION



**SouthGrow**  
Regional Initiative

### **Oldman River Regional Crew a One-stop Shop**

In successful partnerships, the sum is greater than the parts. Such is the history of the Oldman River Regional Services Commission which, under various names for six decades, has provided the southern Alberta municipalities it comprises with top-level services and planning assistance.

And, at 60 years old, the ORRSC is keeping up with technology: it provides its 32 participating partners with cutting-edge geographic information system service, something each on its own would be unable to afford.

For its devotion to keeping its members ahead of the technology curve with its Oldman River Region Urban GIS Project, the ORRSC was presented with SouthGrow's Award of Recognition in its Collaboration or Partnership category.

"We were thrilled to get the recognition on behalf of our municipalities," says director Lenze Kuiper. "Many of our members would be unable to afford the type of service and advice we offer if they had to do it on their own."

The goal of the project was to give small- and medium-sized municipalities the technological tools they need, while capitalizing on the efficiencies gained by sharing resources and expertise. The benefits are huge.

GIS is a major advantage to the orderly administration of an urban municipality. And, because the ORRSC had the foresight to create a web-based system, its members have at their fingertips a snapshot of their communities.

It assists them in answering rate-payers' questions, creating public-works orders, sending notifications to citizens, analysis and modeling and traffic studies. To create their own, each would have paid \$200,000 just for start-up costs, says



*Lenze Kuiper, far right, and the ORRSC crew are a municipality's best friends.*

"We're doing it for slightly more, but sharing it with 32 municipalities," he says.

With four ORRSC employees dedicated to the service, GIS is used by front-line staff, public works and employed in council meetings to illustrate various features of communities. Built from scratch in 2003, the system is updated every two weeks to reflect land sales and changes to subdivision records. It can even plot cemeteries, and advise people of where their loved ones are buried.

"We're now moving into analysis, such as flood-plain planning," says Kuiper. "It saves our planners from having to make trips to each location."

The GIS is an evolving service, much like the ORRSC itself, a modern tool to strengthen services to southern Alberta communities.

### **For more information contact:**

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