

INTRODUCTION TO OPEN DATA

July 12, 2011

- Purpose: to explain Open Data
- Open Data Examples
- Benefits & Challenges
- Next Steps
- Open Halton

What is Open Data

Open Data is data that is provided in raw (machine readable) form so that interested users can perform their own analysis, combining government data with that available from other sources to provide useful new insights or even applications that may be used by others.

Open Data is data that is provided in open standard formats that are adaptable and reusable.

It is an emerging trend within government organizations and is being used to deliver benefits to the community.

Government and Open Data

Federal Government	The Federal Government : <ul style="list-style-type: none">• National Open Data Site Pilot Project (780 general datasets, geospatial data)• Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada
Provincial	The Province of Ontario: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of the Environment Datasets available
Municipal	10+ Canadian municipalities have open data sites: general and geospatial data G4: Vancouver (133 datasets), Edmonton (42 datasets), Toronto (43 datasets), Ottawa (37 datasets). <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaborating on tools, process, data Nanaimo, Calgary, London, Medicine Hat, Mississauga, Windsor, Winnipeg (Transit), Surrey, Guelph

Vancouver – Open Data Catalogue

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Vancouver Open Data Catalogue Beta v2 website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://data.vancouver.ca/index.htm>. The website header includes the City of Vancouver logo and the title "Open Data Catalogue Beta v2". A navigation menu lists various categories: Residents, Business, Visitors, Jobs with the City, Services, Departments, City Projects, and Pay & Purchase Online. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Open data home**: A central graphic of a globe with data points.
- Get the data**: Links to "Data catalogue" and "City web feeds".
- About the data**: Links to "Data formats", "Data updates", and "Terms of use".
- Feedback**: A link to provide feedback.
- Collaborative Cities**: A section mentioning that the Cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, Ottawa, and Toronto have joined forces to collaborate on an "Open Data Framework".
- Updates**: Two recent updates are listed:
 - Parks Listing Data Added to Open Data Site** (May 26, 2011): A paragraph explaining that the City is publishing the highest ranked parks related dataset - Parks Listing to the Open Data web site. The Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation maintains over 220 parks and 40 major facilities throughout the City of Vancouver. This dataset provides information of the parks and facilities that are available in them. A note follows: "Please feel free to provide us with feedback on this or any other aspect of the Open Data website on our feedback page. As always, your use of the data available from this site is governed by the City's Terms of Use and by downloading the data, you are agreeing to be bound by these Terms of Use."
 - Council Expenses Data Added to Open Data Site** (April 27, 2011): A paragraph stating "The City has just added Council Expenses to the Open Data web site. These are the

On the right side of the page, there are several utility boxes:

- Give us your feedback**: A survey link asking which data items users would like to see added.
- Open Data updates**: A section for receiving updates on developments, with links to subscribe to the RSS feed, the mailing list, and the update history.
- Connect with the Community**: A section for community developers, including a link to the Vancouver Open Data Wiki and a Discussion Group. A note states: "Please note: These community sites are not affiliated with the City of Vancouver."
- Background**: A link to a document titled "City Council Motion: Open Data, Open Standards and Open Source (PDF) 22 KB".

The bottom of the browser window shows the Windows taskbar with the Start button, several application icons, and the system tray displaying the time as 10:32 AM and the date as 10/27/2011.

Open Data Example - Vancouver Parks Finder

Vancouver Parks Finder | OpenHalton.ca - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://openhalton.ca/vanpark/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Vancouver Parks Finder | OpenHalton.ca

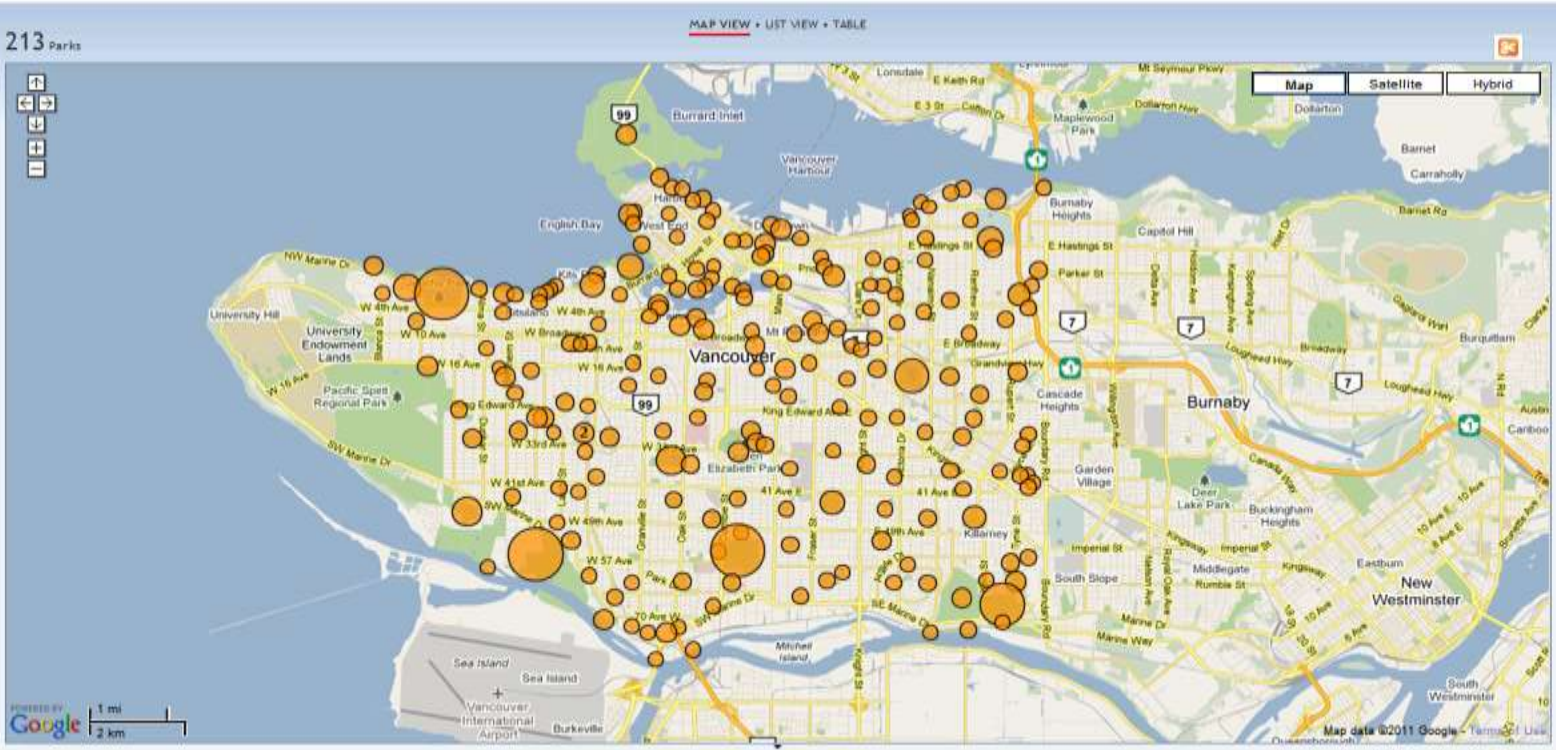
VANCOUVER PARKS FINDER

AN OPEN DATA PROJECT BY [OPENHALTON](#) AND [PORT25.CA](#)

213 Parks

MAP VIEW • LIST VIEW • TABLE

Map Satellite Hybrid



Search Parks:

Neighbourhood:

- 10 Arbutus Ridge
- 23 Downtown
- 9 Dunbar-Southlands
- 7 Fairview
- 14 Grandview-Woodland

Washrooms:

- 144 N
- 88 Y

Facilities:

- 111 Playgrounds
- 63 Soccer Fields
- 65 Field Houses
- 44 Tennis Courts
- 39 Softball

Washroom Hours:

- 86 Dawn to Dusk
- 3 7:00 am - Dusk
- 2 8:00 am - Dusk

Special Features:

- 1 Designated Wedding Ceremony Site
- 1 Designated Wedding Ceremony Site (x3)
- 1 Hellenic Garden

start

Search Desktop

2:37 PM

Open Data Example –Vancouver: iPhone App to check zoning based on an address

iPhone App for Zone By-Law Lookup - Vancouver Data | Google Groups - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://groups.google.com/group/vancouver-data/browse_thread/thread/d8effe025e74592b

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

iPhone App for Zone By-Law Lookup - Vancouver Data

Vancouver Data

Search this group Search Groups

iPhone App for Zone By-Law Lookup

Options

2 messages - Collapse all

Jason Leach [View profile](#) [More options](#) Apr 28, 4:00 pm

Hi:

I released an iPhone app that lets you lookup Vancouver zoning by-law information on a property. Unusual app to build I know but the rationale behind it is interesting; you can read more about it at this link: <http://bit.ly/fb9FvB>

Regards,

Jason Leach
Fullboar Creative Corp.
jason.le...@fullboar.ca
<http://fullboar.ca/>

David Eaves [View profile](#) [More options](#) Apr 28, 4:27 pm

Jason - this is awesome! Going to share this with a ton of people. Congratulations!

cheers,
dave

On Apr 28, 1:00 pm, Jason Leach <jason.le...@fullboar.ca> wrote:

[- Show quoted text -](#)

Home

Discussions

[About this group](#)
[Apply for group membership](#)

View this group in the new Google Groups

Sponsored links

[Tourism Marketing Funds](#)
Tourism Improvement Districts
New funds for tourism marketing
tourismimprovementdistrict.com

[Scotiabank Mutual Fund](#)
Find Easy Ways To Invest Your Money
Get Expert Advice Online Now!
www.Scotiabank.com/MutualFunds

[Pennant Capital Partners](#)
Not All Exempt Market Dealers are Created Equal!
www.pennantcap.com

[See your message here...](#)

start | Internet | 100% | 2:45 PM

Open Data Example Vancouver: Garbage collections reminder service

VanTrash - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://vantrash.ca/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

VanTrash

Map Frequently Asked Questions Tell a friend Donate Technical API Follow us on Twitter

Vantrash collections reminder service

149 West 4th


VanTrash helps you manage your neighbourhood garbage schedule more effectively.


You can find out your garbage schedule, download the schedule to your calendar or set a reminder to your email. Never forget to take the garbage out again.

To start, simply click on the zone in which you live or search for your address below, then click "Remind me".

PLEASE, KEEP PLASTICS OUT OF YOUR YARD TRIMMINGS CART

TRY WRAPPING YOUR FOOD SCRAPS IN NEWSPRINT





Map data ©2011 Google
©2009 Luke Closs and Kevin Jones

start Outlook Today - Mic... DEPARTMENT Data ... Microsoft PowerPoin... VanTrash - Microsoft... 11:30 AM

Open Data – Ottawa's Open Data Contest

Apps4Ottawa—An Open Data App Contest - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://www.apps4ottawa.ca/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Business :: City of Edmonton Apps4Ottawa—An Open ...

Ottawa

ABOUT DATA Apps4Ottawa IDEAS APPS FRANÇAIS

Register Sign In

OTTAWA OPEN DATA APP CONTEST

IDEAS

Have a fantastic idea for using Ottawa's open data?

[Share an Idea](#)

\$50 000 IN PRIZES

Ottawa's first application creation contest has wrapped up. Congratulations to all our winners.

APPS

Want to see the apps that were submitted?

[View Submissions](#)

[RECENT IDEAS →](#) [ABOUT →](#) [RECENT TWEETS →](#)

Done Internet 100%

start Inbox - Microsoft O... DEPARTMENT Data ... Microsoft PowerPoi... Apps4Ottawa—An ... 2:40 PM

Open Data Example – Ottawa Guide

Ottawa's Open Data Contest - Examples of Apps

Apps · Apps4Ottawa - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://www.apps4ottawa.ca/en/apps

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Business :: City of Edmonton Apps · Apps4Ottawa

Trackr Location for iPhone/iPod
Reza Pekan
Trackr Location is one of the best Tracking Apps! Track YourSelf with the 5 0

Scenic Route - You have an alternative.
Sebastien and Etienne Martin 25 193

Bus Stop Info (gm2.ca for mobi)
Gordon Murray
Webpage offers server-date/time & link '6099' to 2 5

Ottawa Rinks
Philippe Guitard
This is an iPhone app that lists all the indoor rinks in 2 11

Parking Ottawa
Bill Wilson
Ottawa Parking displays all the city run parking 0 3

Stops
Lucas Harding
A simple and elegant OC Transpo iPhone app. 3 9

Ottawa Dog Park Finder
Thomas J Bradley
Ottawa Dog Park Finder allows Ottawa residents 24 136

Closest Clinic
Matt Chan & Jonathan Edwards
Closest Clinic delivers geographically aware SMS 5 0

Ottawa Account
Fenqiang Zhuang
CanadaAccount.ca/ottawa is a network for pertinent 0 2

OC Transpo Info
Vu Nguyen
This is a simple iPhone app that allows Ottawa 3

OXA BlackBerry App
Craig Mackay
Event Booking for Ottawa 1

Ottawa Recreation Guide
Alain Achkar
Easily search the Ottawa 1

http://www.apps4ottawa.ca/en/apps/103

Internet 100%

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Open Data Example: City of London

Apps Catalog - Open Data London Ontario Canada - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://www.opendatalondon.ca/apps-catalog/

London Overnight Parking Exemptions

London Overnight Parking Exemptions

In the spring of 2010 the City of London **passed a bylaw** to allow overnight parking, included in the bylaw was a clause allowing streets to opt out and disallow overnight parking on their streets. A local student plotted the street exemption list on Google Maps to demonstrate a bias against the students of local post-secondary educational institutions.

NextStop – London Transit Guide

A mobile application which provides you with the ability to receive London Transit Commission data on your hand held device. Imagine "Google Maps" but instead for the London Transit (LTC) and on your mobile devices.

Done Internet 100% 3:14 PM

Benefits: Community and Staff

Community

- Transparency, accountability of government
- Enhanced service delivery for municipal services
- Economic driver in the community
- Opportunities for citizen engagement
- Consistent with the right of access purpose of MFIPPA and the federal Open Government Resolution

Staff

- Reduced data requests
- Leveraging the open community to enhance service delivery

Challenges

- **Data quality** - must be kept up to date, accurate, documented
- **Privacy, Confidentiality, Security**
- **User Interpretations** - may vary on published data
- **Sustainment** – Applications may be developed by a 3rd party, used, then abandoned.
- **Data Licensing Agreements** may prevent the distribution of data
- **Selection and Approval Process** – which data and when; data may be published but not used
- **Overall management of the service** - plus the management of individual datasets; administrative ownership and the need to establish processes in the organization

City of Burlington

Approach and Next Steps

- We have data that can be published in an open format. A reasoned and effective approach is required.
- Recommendations on Open Data to Council via e-Government Strategy
 - Identify criteria for selection of data
 - Identify immediate opportunities - proof of concept
 - Terms of Use and Policy
- Maintain awareness of Open Data initiatives
- Engage special interest groups; community advocacy groups (e.g. **Open Halton**)

Local Advocacy Groups

- Ontario: Guelph, **Halton**, Hamilton, London, Mississauga, Ottawa, Toronto, Waterloo Region, York Region
- British Columbia, Alberta: Surrey, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton
- Quebec: Montreal
- **Open Halton:** We are a group of citizens who believe in transformational power of open data and open government, our mission is to bring Open Data to the Halton region.

E-Government Focus Group

- Open data will help citizens and improve collaboration and feedback
- Open Halton is ready
- Transit, Parks, events, parking are immediate areas of interest

Open Halton

Open Halton | Citizen Driven Open Data Initiative - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by City of Burlington

http://www.openhalton.ca/

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Open Halton | Citizen Driven Open Data Initiative

OPEN HALTON

Open Halton

Open Data Open Minds

HOME PROJECTS ABOUT TEAM CONTACT/JOIN TOOLS

A Halton Region Citizen Initiative

We are a group of citizens who believe in transformational power of open data and open government, our mission is to bring Open Data to the Halton region.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR FEEDS: ALL POSTS

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER: @OPENHALTON

OPENHALTON ON FACEBOOK: OPENHALTON

07 July 2011 - 2 COMMENTS AND 18 REACTIONS

Toronto's Data: Open. Rinse. Repeat.

Posted by: Nil

Yesterday's article in Toronto Sun claims: Toronto's data open but almost useless.

SEARCH

RECENT POSTS

Open Halton: We are a group of citizens who believe in transformational power of open data and open government, our mission is to bring Open Data to the Halton region.

Thank You