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:  
|--------------------|-------------------------|
|                    | • National Open Data Site Pilot Project (780 general datasets, geospatial data)  
|                    | • Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada  |

| Provincial | The Province of Ontario:  
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<td>• Ministry of the Environment  Datasets available</td>
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| 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).  
|           | • Collaborating on tools, process, data  
|           | Nanaimo, Calgary, London, Medicine Hat, Mississauga, Windsor, Winnipeg (Transit), Surrey, Guelph  |
Vancouver – Open Data Catalogue

Open Data Catalogue Beta v2

Updates

Parks Listing Data Added to Open Data Site
May 26, 2011

After reviewing the result and feedback from the Parks related dataset survey, 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.

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

The City has just added Council Expenses to the Open Data web site. These are the...
Open Data Example – Vancouver: iPhone App to check zoning based on an address

Vancouver Data

iPhone App for Zone By-Law Lookup

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 rational behind it is interesting; you can read more about it at this link: http://bit.ly/kb9FyB

Regards,

Jason Leach
Fullboar Creative Corp.
jason.leach@fullboar.ca
http://fullboar.ca/

David Eaves

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.leach@fullboar.ca> wrote:

- Show quoted text -
Open Data Example Vancouver: Garbage collections reminder service

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
Open Data – Ottawa’s Open Data Contest

IDEAS
Have a fantastic idea for using Ottawa’s open data?
Share an Idea

OTTAWA OPEN DATA APP CONTEST
$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
Open Data Example – Ottawa Guide

OttawaGuide →
Jacob Ekwa Duaia-Ekoko →
Economic Development

717 Votes

OttawaGuide provides turn-by-turn GPS direction, and links to wiki page, if available.
Ottawa’s Open Data Contest - Examples of Apps

- **Trackr Location for iPhone/iPod**
  - Reza Pekan
  - Trackr Location is one of the best Tracking Apps! Track Yourself with the

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

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

- **Ottawa Rinks**
  - Pierre Guitard
  - This is an iPhone app that lists all the indoor rinks in

- **Parking Ottawa**
  - Bill Wilson
  - Ottawa Parking displays all the city run parking

- **Stops**
  - Lucas Harding
  - A simple and elegant OC Transpo iPhone app.

- **Ottawa Dog Park Finder**
  - Thomas J Bradley
  - Ottawa Dog Park Finder allows Ottawa residents

- **Closest Clinic**
  - Matt Chan & Jonathan Edwards
  - Closest Clinic delivers geographically aware SMS

- **Ottawa Account**
  - Fenqiang Zhuang
  - CanadaAccount.ca/ottawa is a network for pertinent

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

- **OXA BlackBerry App**
  - Craig Mackay
  - Event Booking for Ottawa

- **Ottawa Recreation Guide**
  - Alain Achkar
  - Easily search the Ottawa
Open Data Example: City of London

London Overnight Parking Exemptions

In the spring of 2019 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 handheld device. Imagine “Google Maps” but instead for the London Transit (LTC) and on your mobile devices.
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
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
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Thank You