Fading away: (Agricultural) land use change in Victoria, BC

WAML Sep.2014 UCLA
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An Anti-Fading away technique: Web map(s) to highlight map collection?
20 yards diet: (Remnant) orchards in Victoria, BC
Introduction

• Why?
  • last year’s project was “unfinished”
    and “only” displayed then & now

• What? / How?
  • show change over time
  • highlight map library collection

• Lessons learned

• Future?
“To know a place is also to know the past. Place...is the past and the present...”

Yi-Fu Tuan, 1975. Place: An Experiential Perspective. Geographical Review 65(2)
Why? Previous presentation/project detailed “only” then (late 1920s) and now
UVic CJVI lands (dog park)
...limitations of using earliest air photos

UVic CJVI farm land: BC2042-55, 1956
UVic CJVI farm land: BC5091-266, 1964
Why?

• Change is incremental (usually)
  • show change over time

• Community / University engagement
  • Are paper collections and websites about the collection enough for promotion?
  • Web map highlights collection

• Land “ownership”

• historic urban geography
  • provide sense of past
How to display change over time

**Touch History** YouTube video (1:20 min mark)
(Louis-Pascal Rousseau, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania)

ahhhh; how do they do that?
How to display change over time

• Can airphotos and maps detail the loss of agricultural land?
  • (or any land use change over time?)

• What kinds of maps?
  • Road / Street (networks)
  • Fire Insurance
  • Zoning
  • Cadastral (property / land title) plans

Map Libraries are filled with “change over time”!
area in Saanich, Victoria, BC
BC Cadastral (property / land title) plans

• Lot

• Section

• District

• etc depending where in the province...
Maps and land “ownership”

• Who?

• From When to when?
First Peoples “Traditional” Lands

Deborah Reade, Seattle Art Museum
Hudson’s Bay Company “administered lands”
James Despard Pemberton, 1821 – 1893

Surveyor: Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Victoria (1851-1859)
Surveyor General: Colony of Vancouver Island (1859-1864)
[part of] South Eastern districts of Vancouver Island, from a trigonometrical survey...(1855)
[part of] Map of Victoria...Districts, Sections LIII & LIV, 1861
[section of] Victoria Districts Official Map, 1858

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Owner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LIII</td>
<td>Robert Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIV</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Rosemount house, Robert (Bob) Scott, c.189?

Saanich Archives # 2011-024-097
[part of] Map of the South-eastern Districts of Vancouver Island, B.C. 1880
Lot 32: 5.7 acres (approx. 4.3 football fields)
surrounding area more apparent on next slide...
[part of] Plan [868] showing subdivision of part of Sec.53..., 1907 over 1926 airphoto BA24-37
[part of] Map of Greater Victoria, 1921
Plan [868] showing subdivision of part of Sec.53..., 1907
Lots 5 & 6
north of Lot32

[part of] Plan [6370] of subdivision...Section 53..., 1947
Lot 33 west of Lot 32

first plan with owner signatures, 1954
[part of] Plan [26785] of subdivision of Lot 30, Section 58..., 1973 (east of Lot 32)
[part of] Plan [33983] of subdivision of remainder of Lot 33, Section 58..., 1980 (east of Lot 32)
difficult to follow all the sub-dividing?
How to show the change over time from the above previous slides?

- ArcGIS on-line recently started supporting raster files as “tile layers”
- Cartodb supposedly supports rasters
- Click2Map?
- GeoCommons?
- MangoMap supposedly supports rasters...
- ScribbleMaps?
- ZeeMaps? (also $20 month!)

BUT....with all of the above....I don’t just want a raster (background) layer AND I want users to have some control over what they display
Types of webmaps

- (static) image (.jpg, .png)
- .pdf with elements to turn off/on
- zoom, pan
- zoom, pan, elements to turn off/on
- download data
- upload data
- some spatial analysis

Jan-Menno Kraak *Web Map Classification*, 2001
How to display? **Turn layers on/off?**
How to display? **Auto-Cycle Layers**
MapBox has hundreds of examples with code.
Why the growth / land change?

Population:
1901: 26,884
1911: 43,604
1921: 63,896
1931: 69,733
1941: 86,011
1951: 121,712
1961: 162,452
1971: 195,845
1981: 233,481
1991: 287,897

40.8% increase!
33.8% increase

“We’re waiting for the city to come to us...”
Why the growth / land change?

Zoning: 1924 Oak Bay Zoning by-law
    1936 Saanich by-law (Lot 32 study area)

BC’s Agricultural Land Commission was (“only”) established between 1972 – 1974 which in turn established Agricultural Reserve Land(s)
Pearce Cres. in the midst of agricultural land built in early 1960s before the establishment of the BC ALC in 1972-74
(part of sheet) 92F/12: before / after 1952-54 dam construction
Map Libraries are filled with “change over time”!

- Can web maps highlight our collections?

- Web maps: “hot like chicken s**t”
Conclusions...

- Urban agriculture is a good thing...

- Web maps of items in our collections might increase awareness...
“Place...is sustained...by the quality of human awareness.”

Yi-Fu Tan, 1975. Place: An Experiential Perspective. *Geographical Review* 65(2)