Re: Locating the orchards of Victoria, BC
20 yards food diet!

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Contents

• Why?

• What? / How?

• Lessons learned / limitations of data

• Future
“To know a place is also to know the past. Place...is the past and the present...Every row of trees...”

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

Jules Pretty (2002)
While...

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
George Santayana, The Life of Reason, Volume 1, 1905

(Although primarily referring to the discipline of geography) I need to mention:

“...loud insistence that the history of geography must be explored in order to throw light upon the contemporary...is a way of avoiding looking in the most obvious places...
...best place to start is...here and now...”

“...previous experience suffuses all present perception...
We need to be sure that we are dealing with the actual past, not with a modern simulacrum..
...All the lineaments of the present are historical, yet they are continuously reborn in the minds of every culture and of every generation.”

The past I have re-constructed is through my eyes.
Why?

- 20 yards
- local
- food bank
- tree pruners
- provide sense of past
- community engagement

- loss of trees and forests

- planting new fruit trees
- Fruit Tree Project
Feb. 22, 2014
Fruit tree pruning clinic
Royal Roads University
“...You always said people don’t do what they believe in, they just do what’s most convenient, then they repent...”

*Brownsville Girl*

Bob Dylan, Sam Shepard
Why? Curiosity...

UVic CJVI lands (dog park)
"regular spacing and alignment of trees..."

Shelbourne Valley from Mt.Tolmie (1908)
Saanich Archives Photo 1989-008-175

"...near human occupancy..."
Aerial Photography and Image Interpretation
(Paine & Kiser, 2012)
Gordonhead, Saanich neighbourhood
Mosaic of Victoria, 1928 but 1:12,000 scale
Flight line index map (from NAPL)

Individual airphotos are at 1:8000 and 1:9000
Flight-line index map (from NAPL)
How? Hundreds of aerial photos: 1926 and 1928

A227-65 1928

1934 map
geo-reference 1934 Victoria map to current road/street network
geo-reference airphotos to current road/street network & 1934 Victoria map
some fieldwork

A229-24, 1928
Make public?

At minimum,
want users to be able to click on / off layers of the:
- historic air photos
- 1934 Victoria map
- current roads / streets
ArcMap desktop
Make public: How?

• ArcGIS On-Line (currently) does not support raster files
  • GeoCommons (currently) does not support raster files

• QGIS-Cloud (currently) does not support raster files

• generate .pdf from ArcGIS or QGIS but both...
  • “flatten” 2 or more raster layers into one inseparable layer

• Adobe Illustrator (to generate a .pdf)
  • does not support geo-ref’d files

• MAPublisher (Avenza): plug-in for AI
  • cannot delete / eliminate “no data” area of geo-ref’d raster file
  • need to clip raster inside of “no data”
  • $800 year single license
Safe FME translator(s) (Feature Manipulation Engine)

...but still “just” produces a .pdf
Make public: How?

on-line webmap service(s)

• CartoDB
  • 5 mb (not enough space!) free
  • 50 mb $30/month
  • 100 mb $50/month

• GIS-Cloud
  • “special” of $100/month
  • 60% off for lifetime subscription...going....gone??
Canada Census of Agriculture

1921: only Victoria recorded:
   153 acres of farm land (3%) in city of 4800 acres
   no mention of Orchards; small Fruit: 5 acres

1931: Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich (Victoria City is no longer recorded)
   Orchard and Vineyards: 719 acres

1941: Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Saanich
   Orchard and Vineyards: 234 acres: 67% decrease from 1931

1951: only Central Saanich and Saanich recorded
   Tree Fruits: 12 acres
1961: 11 acres

but...
terminology changes
and
incorporated (geographic) areas are added / changed
Canada Census of Agriculture

2001: Capital Region District (CRD): apples, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums
  120 acres (producing and non-producing)

2011: Capital Region District (CRD): apples, apricots, cherries, peaches, plums
  346 acres (producing and non-producing)
  65% increase from 2001
Remember UVic lands...

UVic CJVI lands (dog park)
...limitations of using earliest air photos

UVic CJVI farm land: BC2042-55, 1956

no orchard yet in 1956
UVic CJVI farm land: BC5091-266, 1964

orchard planted between 1956 & 1964
UVic CJVI lands (dog park)
must use these browsers: Firefox, GoogleChrome, IE10+, Safari
community partnership?

LifeCycles Fruit Tree Project

Thanks to hundreds of volunteers and a couple of ladders, the Fruit Tree Project harvests apples, cherries, pears, and other fruit from privately owned trees that would otherwise go to waste. We then share the harvest among homeowners, volunteers, food banks, and community organizations within Victoria. A unique aspect of this project is that a portion of the harvest is set aside to make value-added products that help defray our costs.

Last season our fantastic volunteers and tree owners made it possible for us to collect and redistribute over 39,000 lbs of fruit that would have otherwise gone to waste.

Another season is upon us! Please join us again

If you are a TREE OWNER with fruit to share, please use our online form to register your fruit tree(s) for picking from July 1 until October 31.

PLEASE NOTE: We do our very best to accommodate and meet everyone's needs but are not always able to pick every single tree. We will call homeowners to confirm our arrival time if and when a picking team has been arranged to pick your fruit. Thank you for your patience and support for this important and innovative project!

If you are a VOLUNTEER with a few hours a week to spare between July and the end of October, we will need Fruit Pickers (lots), Tree Assessors, and Office Volunteers (4 max.).

New volunteers: Use our online form to sign up.
Registered volunteers: Sign up for Picks
“Place...is sustained...by the quality of human awareness.”

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


