



Frequently Asked Questions

Geographic Township and Lot Fabric Improved Data Layers

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1. What is the difference between a geographic township and a municipal township?

Geographic Townships are the original Crown subdivisions of land surveyed and established from the late 1700's into the early 1900's for land administration (title) purposes. All Crown Survey Records are indexed by the original geographic township name, not the municipal township name.

Municipal Townships are areas which have been incorporated as a municipality for political administration purposes (e.g. taxation). Municipal townships may consist of one or more Geographic Townships or parts of Geographic Townships, and can change for administrative reasons.

2. Why are some townships in the old Geographic Township Layer not in the improved data layer?

The Geographic Township Improved Layer represents the original geographic townships as shown on the original plans. Some townships shown in the original digital layer were not geographic townships but rather municipal townships, and as such they have been removed from the improved layer. Some examples of townships which have been removed include the townships of Hillier, Athol, Euphemia, Storrington and Metcalfe. These townships were not created under instruction from the Crown and are not Geographic Townships.

3. How accurate is the digital township fabric and how can it be used?

Township fabric is a visual portrayal of actual lot lines on the ground. While improvements to the accuracy of the digital township data have been made, it cannot be used in place of a Plan of Survey and should not be used to define the location of a boundary on the ground.

4. Why do geographic township boundaries stop at the water's edge while municipal boundaries go to the centre of water bodies?

The Geographic Township Improved Layer represents the original fabric of the geographic townships as surveyed and shown on the original plans prepared at the time of the original survey. For the most part, they only go to the water's edge and do not include the water, whereas the municipal jurisdiction extends to the centre of the waterbodies in accordance with the *Territorial Divisions Act*.

5. Why is Williams Township not shown as East and West Williams?

The Township of Williams was surveyed as one township and is shown in the Geographic Township Improvement Layer as Williams Township. There are two plans titled “Part of the Township of Williams, West of the Centre-Road” and “Part of the Township of Williams, East of the Centre Road.” The concession names in the Lot Fabric Improved Layer are consistent with the names on the plans.

For example: “Lot 2, Concession 7 East of Centre Road, Geographic Township of Williams.”

6. Why is Camden Gore shown as part of Dawn Township?

Camden Gore was created from the original Township of Dawn by several pieces of legislation in the 1800’s. Records show that the lands were patented as lots and concessions in the Township of Dawn. The Lot Fabric Improved Layer correctly reflects the way the original townships were surveyed and subsequently patented

7. Why are lots and concessions not shown in Canborough Township or on Amherst Island?

Canborough Township and Amherst Island were each patented in their entirety to single individuals. Lands within the patents were then subdivided privately. The subdivision plans are available at the local Land Registry Offices, not in Crown Land Survey Records.

8. Why do maps showing Haldimand Tract, Earl Tract and Sheehan Tract in Dunn Township differ from the data in the Lot Fabric Improved Layer?

These tracts of land were leases issued to Joseph Brant for 999 years. When Joseph Brant transferred his lands to the Crown, Dunn Township was subdivided as shown in the Lot Fabric Improved Layer. The tracts were replaced and patents were issued based on the Crown’s fabric.

More information

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To download the data visit

www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/geographic-township-improved.

