

NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES PLAN FOR THE FUTURE*McGuinty Government Invests In Data Collection Project***NEWS**

April 25, 2008

The Municipality of Greenstone and other small towns in the Northwest will soon have a new tool to help them get the information they need to plan for their communities.

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation ([NOHFC](#)) is providing \$299,000 to the Geraldton Community Forest organization to implement a password-protected system that will help users collect data and share information in a secure fashion over the Internet.

The Community GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Solution project will be a valuable tool for municipalities as they guide the future growth of their communities.

QUOTES

“By improving access to electronic information, the GIS project will help municipal leaders make better-informed decisions and help their communities attract investors and new businesses,” said Northern Development and Mines Minister Michael Gravelle, who also chairs the NOHFC.

QUICK FACTS

- GEOMA, the GIS division of the [Geraldton Community Forest](#), has implemented cutting edge technologies and innovative products enhancing the way data is archived, displayed and distributed.
- The 2008 Ontario Budget commits to increase annual funding to the NOHFC by \$10 million a year from \$60 million in 2007-08 to \$100 million by 2011-2012.
- This NOHFC investment is provided under the [Emerging Technology Program](#) which is designed to encourage both the private and public sectors to develop exciting and viable new technologies that will contribute to future northern prosperity.

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