

**COMMUNITY LEARNING SPACE PROJECT**  
**Canada's Technology Triangle – Pilot #2**  
**Site Review #2**  
**Friday September 12, 2003**

**URL:** <http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/>

Follow the link to **economic development**

**User Name/Password:** ctt/ctt

The economic development learning space is under development. During development of the learning space, we are using a copy of the CTT database taken several months ago. For production the learning space will either connect directly to CTT's database or synchronize with it frequently.

### **Summary of changes since first version**

Home page – partners names added to the “information provided by” text.

Added logos and partner names to each learning space page except the home page

Added images to the topic “folder” pages – CTT can update the content of “folder” pages as outlined in the “Evaluation” section below.

About this site – simplified the page

#### **Business Directory**

- Listing – added location, NAICS and removed email
- detail listings – more detail and maps zoomed in where detail maps are available
- added Update link to a form to update a business directory entry (see Outstanding Issues below)
- business search – additional search fields

#### **Real Estate**

- Land Listing – added zone, fixed lot size formatting, sorted by city and lot size, added link to detail page
- Land Detail – added a detail listing with geo-mapping
  - o mapping reference coordinates are UTM
  - o Update application lets you add/modify UTM coordinates and/or data
- Land search – search form added
- Land map search – added map search – speed issue – not yet resolved
- Building Listing – sorted by city, added link to detail page
- Building detail – added a detail listing with geo-mapping
  - o mapping reference coordinates are postal codes added to existing db field
  - o coordinates could be UTM and could be added as per land
- Building search – search form added
- Building map search – added – speed is a huge issue but will be resolved

#### **Resources**

- News archive – added link to news release title to display details
- keyword search added for news archive
- added related links

## Evaluation

1. Briefly review the changes and record any feedback.

**a. CTT logo ... please keep our logo 'together,' text with symbol.**

I have removed the logo from the home page so that none of the partners show a logo. We had decided to omit logos from the home page to keep it simple. The logo does appear on subsequent pages.

**b. Partners logos ... I can send you better resolution vector-based artwork for the Cities and Region, although you've got great Cambridge and Waterloo logos there already.**

We retrieved the logos from their web sites so some are better than others. We could use good quality images for the Region and Kitchener.

**c. Partners logos on every page will go a long way to generating buy-in to the project from municipal partners.**

Do you think that we need all of the logos on the home page? I also noticed that they are not appearing on the Site Map etc. but I will fix that issue.

**d. In general, I don't think we've supported you enough in terms of offering photos for you folks to use. Can we do a big exchange of photo content.**

I am not sure what you mean by an exchange of photo content – we don't have much to offer - but we could use images to enhance the site.

2. Changing the colour scheme

The feedback provided several comments about the colour scheme – some wanted CTT's colour scheme, others did not and some found the colour scheme dull. Because there was no consensus, the colours were not changed. However, you can experiment changing these values using the Environment Expression administration tool.

To access the tool enter:

<http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/ctt/AdminListings.cfm?ListType=EnvExpressionsCTTAdmin&SubMenu=Styles>

You can modify values for style related fields such as: ActiveLinkColour, BodyColour, HighlightColour, LinkColour and so on. For example, to change the colour of the learning space name “economic development” from yellow to CTT's colour (referenced as B20121): scroll down the list to the entry for TitleColour, click on the title, change the Variable Value field from EEAD0E to B20121, and choose Update. Refresh the page in the learning space to view your changes.

**a. I couldn't access the tool at this time (3:10pm, Wed Oct 29, 2003) but that's probably just something that needs to be turned on? In general, I don't think the colour scheme should be an overriding concern. Your current site is more than wonderful.**

Since I sent out the questionnaire, a change was made to “simplify” things a bit. The corrected URL is:

<http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/ctt/AdminListings.cfm?ListType=EnvExpressionsAdmin&SubMenu=Styles>

Is changing the layout/style useful?

Is the tool easy to use?

3. Updating “folder page” content

A “folder page” (e.g. about this site, business directory...) contains a description of the enclosed menu items. The content is text that can include HTML tags or could be a simple paragraph. The partner administrator can easily modify the content using the Topic Edit administration tool.

To access the tool enter:

<http://csg.uwaterloo.ca/beta/learningspace/ctt/topicedit.cfm?SubMenu=Styles>

Click on the topic title, edit the Description field and then choose Update. Refresh the page in the learning space to view your changes.

Did you make a change?

Is the tool easy to use?

- a. **I changed Region of Waterloo to “Waterloo Region” on the real estate content page. It was a very easy tool to use and to make the change. When I had finished making the change, I wasn’t exactly sure the change had been made. Returning to the Learning Space to refresh and review the change was intuitive for me, but perhaps not as intuitive for others. Consider hard-coded comments beside the “submit change” button advising the administrator to refresh and review.**

**I added a comment following the “Entry Updated” message.**

4. Updating a business record

The detail listing for a business includes a link to an update form that specifies several of the fields from the business directory (company) table. The form shows proof of concept for updating a business record but additional fields can be easily added.

When a change is made, the production copy of the table is not modified so that the change can be vetted and then moved to the production table (public view) when the change is approved. The application is not yet complete; the notification of the change and the “vetting” application are not yet implemented.

Is this a good way to provide an update?

- a. **I don’t think this is a good means to provide an update utility. It only allows the company to update a few aspects of the total business record we survey them by mail for annually. If we are to offer a business update utility, it needs to represent all possible fields displaying the current information we have on them, as well as some other fields which may currently be blank.**

**The update page only presented a sample to get some feedback. The intention would be to create a complete form with all fields if this feature would be useful. The application is not yet complete for the administration of the update feature. We will discuss at our meeting on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.**

5. Adding UTM coordinates

The detail listing for a real estate land entry includes an “Update” link to a form that shows a map and any current UTM settings and data fields.

If the coordinates do not yet exist (a red dot does not appear on the map):

- Select the zoom out tool and click on the map to zoom out until the map includes your land location.
- Select the mark point tool (fourth icon) and click on the map location for the land.
- To save the coordinates, click on the **Update** button.

To change existing UTM coordinates ( red dot appears on the map):

- Click on the red dot and drag it to the new location. The UTM coordinates will be modified on the form when you release the mouse button.
- Use zoom in or zoom out if needed to move it to the appropriate location.
- To apply the change, click on the **Update** button.

Is the tool easy to use?

- I'm consistently retrieving an "Object Doesn't Support this Property or Method" advice when I attempt to use the map tools. I will defer until you folks can advise on this. I expect, due to the lack of postal codes, that the need to add the location onto a map be quite widespread?**

We are looking into this issue. When do you get the message; i.e. immediately when you are displaying the update page, or when you move the red dot, or when you submit a change?

## Outstanding Issues

The following have not been resolved from the first version:

- Business directory update application is not complete  
How will the validity of submissions be evaluated? **There will have to be an e mail sent to the relevant person responsible at the Economic Development Department or CTT who can validate the changes before the changes are inserted into the database. There will invariably have to be a way to validate the sender, such as a field where the sender will enter a name.**
- Map search is slow **Not too concerned about this until we're off the production server.**
- Need to follow-up on Linda's mapping error – check browser and SVG viewer versions ?? **We don't recall what this is about? Can we detail this?**
- Geo-mapping from CTT's site – see below for considerations

## Geo-Mapping Considerations

1. Database changes would be required in order to use UTM coordinates
  - added columns for UTM coordinates (UtmX, UtmY, UtmZone)
  - added table postal\_utm
2. Postal Codes or UTM coordinates could be used with real estate buildings. The individual adding/modifying the record would need to record the postal code or the UTM coordinates.
3. UTM coordinates would be used for land since postal codes likely do not exist. The individual adding the record would need to record the coordinates.
4. The current set of map images is not complete and map images are only available for the research project. These should not be used for production.
5. To incorporate a link from CTT's site (a public site) to the CLS geo-maps, the following changes should be addressed:
  - EDOs need to geo-reference real estate entries **Next update could include this.**

CTT's web site and production databases would need to be modified **No problemo – some cooperation from TRIKE required.**

Include credit for the “learning space” **Defintely not a problem.**