

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: DLIS 2025-03

Date: May 22, 2025

Originator: Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Technology & Innovation

Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report (May 2025)

BACKGROUND

The Province's ***Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)*** for application-based Designated Broadband Projects continues into its 5th year (year 5 of 5). This program was part of the support for the government's \$4-billion commitment to providing accessible high-speed internet to every region of Ontario by the end of 2025.

The official project page and news updates originate at the Provincial Government's website: <https://www.onewindow.ca/>

NEW INFORMATION



Program progress in the Township of The Archipelago

May 2025 – In alignment with activities conducted throughout 2024, Bell's various subcontractors have once again been observed on Township roads this spring, extending the fiber-optic infrastructure.

Bell Canada's approved vendors for the work done in the Township are [Pickard Construction](#), [UTS Consultants](#), and [Mike's Communications](#). Questions about this work should be submitted to these vendors directly.

The Township of The Archipelago advises residents to be aware of service provider impersonation scams. The ongoing work on internet connectivity is exclusively focused on constructing new fiber-based internet infrastructure and does not entail any solicitation for internet services. There are no financial commitments required from residents to benefit from the province-funded Accelerated High-Speed Internet Program (ASHIP) aimed at deploying fiber optic infrastructure.

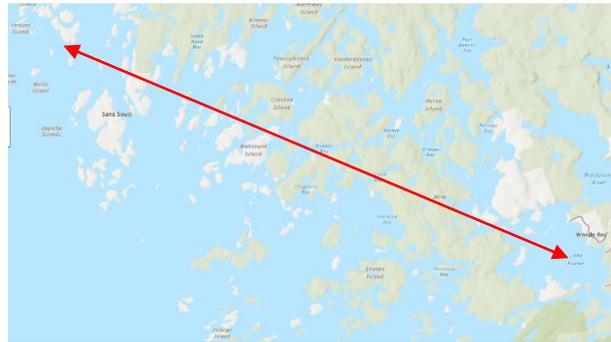
South Archipelago - Mainland/ROADS

Work crews have been visible, and new signboards have been placed to engage residents in potential expanded infrastructure on their property. Mike's Communication is associated with Bell's larger undertaking and is a reported subcontractor to Bell.



South portion – offshore/Woods Bay to Sans Souci, Georgian Bay

UTS Crews  are currently active with plans to float the area's waterways and lay-out a design for submersible fiber-optic internet to many shoreline residences. Ratepayers are invited by UTS coordinators to engage their team members with interests, help identify property markers, and clarify any preferences to locate potential fiber-surfacing areas and resultant equipment pedestals to service properties. Once design-planning work is completed, property owners will be further engaged regarding formal construction notices.

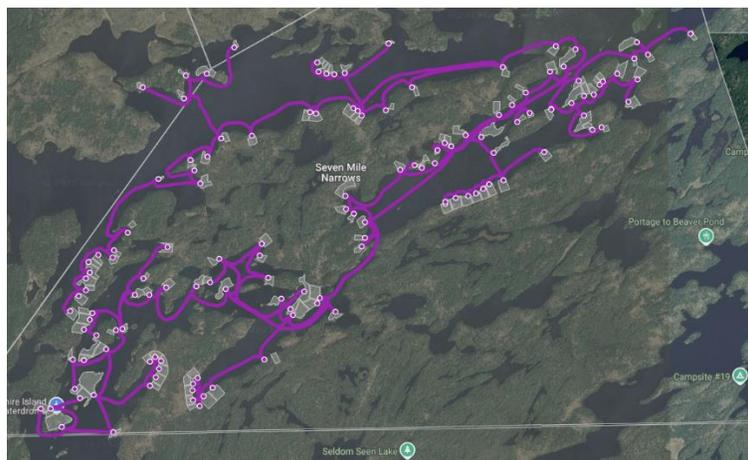


South portion – offshore/South Channel, Georgian Bay.

This area closer to Parry Sound will see crews this summer lay new fiber optic cable along the lakebed with runs coming ashore to numerous properties. Again, residents are invited to communicate with the various crews and establish any preferences for proposed pedestal locations.



Isabella Island area



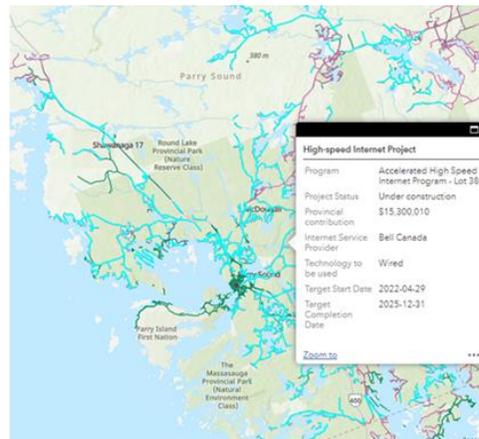
McLaren Island and Seven Mile Narrows area

General Notes and Reminders

The Township of The Archipelago is experiencing new broadband infrastructure buildouts primarily in the southern portion of the Township. The north portion of the Township is still in early design and planning phases. There is a deliberate south-to-north progression of the work that Bell and sub-contractors are performing.

Bell is the internet service provider that has signed agreements with the Ontario Provincial Government to complete the build of new infrastructure in the Township of The Archipelago.

While this Bell program has the broadest reach, other internet service providers continue to work in our region.



Property boundary flagging has been observed widely across the township. Property markers (survey pins/posts) are being located and flagged to assist with the design and layout of future fiber optic infrastructure.

Affected residents should receive BELL correspondence (Construction Notice, Infrastructure Upgrade or Submarine Servicing) to inform them of planned work to, or around their property. Property owners associated with this phase of the project have reported receiving notices via mail to registered mailing addresses and/or notices left on the physical Archipelago residence door.



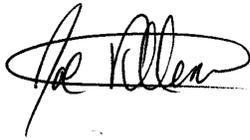
Township Council and staff have encouraged property owners to get involved in any notifications for work or service and leverage the infrastructure investment to their property.

Ratepayers are invited to ask questions to the field crews who are observed working in their area and apply their knowledge of property markers near the water.

CONNECTIVITY NEXT STEPS

- 1) Township staff continue to monitor progress of the AHSIP initiative and resulting activities in the Township. Through the Municipal Consent application process, the Township can monitor application requests to use municipal lands (road shoulders, shore road allowances and concession road allowances) to support new infrastructure equipment in both the north and south Archipelago.
- 2) Staff have engaged with Blue Sky Net and Vianet to discuss options and interests for funding opportunities that might support any AHSIP/Bell “out-of-scope” areas.
- 3) Staff will continue to update the Township website’s Internet Connectivity page with news and pertinent information: www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/internet-connectivity

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Villeneuve
Manager of Technology & Innovation

I concur with this report.



Shauna Lehtimaki
Director, Legislative & Information
Services



John MacKinnon
CAO