

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: Corporate Services-2022-05

Date: October 10, 2022

Originator: Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Corporate Services
Glen Barnden, Connectivity Advisor

Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report

HISTORY

Internet Connectivity remains a topic of interest for many residents and Council is active with various initiatives, news and service providers in understanding how our residents will acquire service or benefit from enhanced services. A complete list of undertakings and events spreading over multiple years can be found on our website's Connectivity page.

One of the more significant initiatives unfolding this year is the Province's - **Ontario Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)**.

The Township of the Archipelago is named as one of the municipalities that will be partially served by the service agreements under the AHSIP. The announcement references The Archipelago in a project awarded to Bell Canada. The Township's Connectivity Ad Hoc Committee continues to engage Bell representatives to express interests and learn details of their project. So far we've learned the rules of this funding are to *service residential addresses on roads*. Service type will be Fibre To The Home (FTTH) and it will be the better part of year before planning efforts result in any new service hookups.

Reference: <https://www.thearchipelago.on.ca/p/internet-connectivity>

NEW INFORMATION

Autumn Interim 2022 Activity Update

Identified by the Connectivity Committee is the issue that mapping, used to establish the scope and deliveries in Bell's project contract, is largely incomplete and misrepresenting the water access properties/community. *There remains a need to also provide a solution to service water access residents within our municipality.* Township representatives continue to engage Bell - and all Internet Service Providers- to identify the offshore/water access community and facilitate internet solutions for these markets.

Leveraging Existing Township Assets to enhance internet coverage

As noted in the Summer 2022 Activity Report, Vianet had erected a 250' tower in Pointe Au Baril with the purpose to offer fixed wireless internet connectivity to local land-based residents. To further capitalize on this investment and enhance connectivity coverage, Township representatives invited Vianet to review the Township of the Archipelago's underserved markets with a closer examination of offshore residents and existing Township assets such as the Lighthouse, the Ojibway Club and the Range Tower. An in-person boat tour was arranged and held on September 14th. The Vianet representative discussed information captured on this tour with Vianet owners and they are interested in developing a high-level service plan. A second tour with Vianet engineers and technicians was held on September 29th to utilize drone readings to discern any additional reach required at the 3 Township assets mentioned above.

Next Steps

A meeting with Vianet and the connectivity committee is being arranged for early November to discuss Vianet's findings and their high-level service plan. This will be an opportunity for the committee and staff representatives to ask any questions and address any township criteria and concerns. This will also be an opportunity to identify any resources necessary for further assistance should it be required.

Survey to Identify Current Residential Service and Demand

In order to determine current resident and business internet service and demand, a draft resident survey is to be reviewed and approved by the Connectivity Committee. Once defined the survey will collect information and comments to define our underserved areas and support information flow back to both the Ministry of Infrastructure and local ISP's. The survey is intended to be available as a link on the Township website for residents to complete. The data will be collected and reviewed for use in determining any network coverage priority for the entire Township.

Ongoing Internet Service Provider (ISP) Connectivity Initiatives

Vianet

- As outlined above

Bell

- Accelerated High Speed Internet Program vendor for Archipelago region.
- proposal for a new Kapikog Lake Tower (adjacent Penn Road) in project build queue.

Rogers

- N/R

Lakeside Wireless

- New equipment upgrades and improved bandwidth.

NetSpectrum

- N/R

Other ISP News/Announcements

Starlink

- N/R

Telesat

- N/R
-

STRATEGIC PLAN

- Sustainable & Cost-Effective Services
 - Effective Relationships & Partnerships
 - Leadership & Communications
-

Respectfully Submitted,



Joe Villeneuve
Manager of Corporate Services



Glen Barnden
Connectivity Advisor