

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: Connectivity 2024-01

Date: January 18, 2024

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

Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report

BACKGROUND

Ongoing activities related to the ***Province's Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP)*** for application-based Designated Broadband Projects which will support the government's commitment of providing access to high-speed internet to every region of Ontario by the end of 2025. Note: within the Township of The Archipelago projects will be undertaken by Bell.

Designated Broadband Projects have been created with the goal for everyone in Ontario to have access to reliable highspeed internet connections at home, work, and in our communities. Supported by legislative and regulatory changes and backed by a nearly \$4 billion investment, the projects seek to solve the challenge of inadequate access to broadband by working closely with stakeholders and making legislative and regulatory changes to ensure that broadband connectivity can be achieved. This is an exciting step forward to support the objective of expanding the reach, quality, and connectivity of high-speed internet to all Ontarians.

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) is working closely with the Ministry of Infrastructure to support delivery of the projects and working with stakeholders to accelerate broadband infrastructure deployment. Partners involved in application-based designated broadband projects are being coordinated through IO's Technical Assistance Team to work together to enable connectivity in an expedient way.

JANUARY INTERIM

- 1) Township staff are monitoring the Province's Broadband One Window - <https://aship-landing-bow2.hub.arcgis.com/pages/broadband-one-window> for work applications that require municipal sign-off. To date nothing has been submitted through the BOW application. Staff are in receipt of the one project interest for the Healey Lake area that was submitted by Bell's Planning and Implementation Team in October.

2) Staff from Archipelago and Seguin townships continue to collaborate and converse with Bell's primary contractor (Pickard Construction) around the scope of work starting in the respective municipalities. Coordinated municipal mapping activities are underway to examine and assess the potential for improved internet servicing and communicate interests back to Bell and contractor.

3) Staff continue to liaise with regional connectivity advocates - Blue Sky Net - to identify and pursue opportunities and solutions for consumer internet interests in the region.

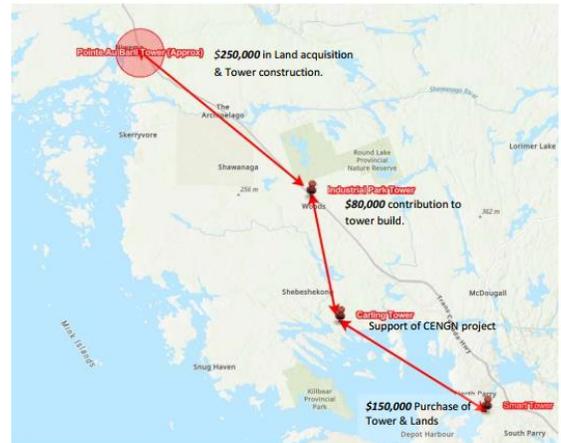
4) Staff are began working with Infrastructure Ontario (IO) representatives in January. Both parties are further examining what AHSIP "out-of-scope" areas exist and evaluating future servicing opportunities with the support of Infrastructure Ontario.

Efforts continue to highlight Council's investment in several internet infrastructure builds (Tower Hill, Industrial Park and Pointe au Baril towers) and its efforts through GIS analysis in mapping the anticipated outcomes of AHSIP in our region. The focus remains on addressing the need for equal value investment to its off-shore community on the same basis of what is being afforded to mainland property interests.

Staff will continue to report on activities with Infrastructure Ontario.

Township of The Archipelago Investments in West Parry Sound Area Connectivity

Approximately \$500,000 invested in addressing connectivity – Parry Sound to Pointe au Baril



Infrastructure and an OPEN ACCESS model to support connectivity growth in the West Parry Sound area.

5) Staff continue to evaluate all internet service methods/options for residents and businesses in the township and engage with existing Internet Service Providers to evaluate opportunities.

Spectrum Telecom (Skerryvore and Pointe au Baril tower infrastructure) has requested Council amend an existing agreement regarding use of municipal land in Skerryvore. Documents from Spectrum Telecom reflecting proposed interests attached.

- 1) Current Township By-law and Agreement with Spectrum Telecom
- 2) Proposed amendment agreement document

Vianet has completed installation of an additional repeater tower in Pointe au Baril that will support service enhancements to properties along Hwy 69 near the Pointe au Baril Station. Additionally,

Vianet has expressed interests in enhanced service coverage for the Pointe au Baril Islands though additional antennas placed on the Pointe au Baril Range Tower.

NEXT STEPS ON GOING

Staff continue to update the Township website – Connectivity page – with updates and pertinent information relating to the activities referenced in this report.

Also, analysis of the AHSIP in-scope/out-of-scope properties continues in discussions with Infrastructure Ontario.

Prop_Code	Property_Num	AccessType	SenHydro
301	490302000105501	Y	Y
301	490302000105501	Y	Y
100	490302000105400	S	N
100	490302000105700	N	N

Efforts continue to review potential infrastructure/assets in the township with the intent to leverage resources and engage ISPs to advance services and solutions that increase the connectivity possibilities and choices for our residents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Villeneuve
 Manager of Corporate Services

Glen Barnden

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