

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: Connectivity 2023_03

Date: March 07, 2023

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Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report

HISTORY

Identified by the Connectivity Committee, *there remains a need to 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.

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

WINTER INTERIM

Ongoing activity related to Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) installation through Bell for land-based connectivity.

NEXT STEPS

1) Attend Canada's Rural & Remote Broadband Community (CRRBC) Eastern Conference in North Bay Ontario May 9th& 10th 2023. This will provide an opportunity to network with representatives from other AHSIP "Lot" winners to learn about their current deployment experience and more importantly to lend a voice and discuss solutions for the underserved and non-served communities left out of the Accelerated High Speed Internet Program.

2) Engage Blue Sky Networks for additional connectivity support. Blue Sky Net is a non-profit corporation funded by FedNor providing mapping coverage and speed service availability in Northern Ontario. The primary functions are to enhance broadband access to unserved/underserved areas, develop and implement ICT (information and communications technology) applications and to offer training, education and awareness of technology to residents and businesses alike.

3) Launch the Residential Internet Connectivity Survey with the aim to determine current connectivity demand, speeds currently available, what effect connectivity might have on duration of seasonal residence and resulting Economic Impact this might produce for local businesses, employment and accommodation.

4) Continue to pursue updates from the AHSIP installation through Bell and identify the connectivity Gaps to be addressed with local ISP support. This may require the testing of NEW alternative technologies to reach residents with connectivity barriers such as rocks and trees.

Ongoing Internet Service Provider (ISP) Connectivity Initiatives

Maplewifi

- AT&T SIM from the US. Since AT&T have blanket roaming agreements with major Canadian Carriers using this service means you likely could be on any of the major carrier networks. They just route the traffic back to AT&T and you look like you're a US customer roaming on those agreements in Canada.

Vianet

- New 250' tower in Pointe au Baril offering fixed wireless internet.
- Various infrastructure in region and new services being examined.

Bell

Accelerated High Speed Internet Program vendor for Archipelago region. We are waiting for a breakdown of what homes are scheduled to connect to fibre.

- High level fibre plan is completed.
- Installation of fibre has begun on Bell owned poles
- Construction vendors are in place.
- Detailed Plan is underway
- Islands targeted to start are Sans Souci, Wahsouné, Bernyk.
- Marine fibre targeted to start in May.

Rogers

- <https://www.rogers.com/internet>

Lakeside Wireless

- <https://www.lakesidewireless.ca/wireless-internet-services>

NetSpectrum

- <https://netspectrum.ca/en/blog/process-to-get-netspectrum-wireless-internet-at-your-rural-location/>

Other ISP News/Announcements

Starlink

- <https://www.pcmag.com/news/spacex-prepares-to-test-next-generation-starlink-dishes>
- <https://www.thestar.com/business/2023/02/01/elon-musk-just-got-competition-for-satellite-broadband-over-canadas-northern-skies.html>

Telesat

- <https://www.telesat.com/press/press-releases/spacecom-completes-successful-testing-campaign-of-telesats-leo-demonstration-satellite/>

CRTC

- <https://mobilesyrup.com/2023/01/30/new-crtc-chair-promises-revamped-internet-pricing-model-coming-soon/>

Respectfully Submitted,



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