

The Township of The Archipelago

Information Report to Council

Report No.: Connectivity 2023_07 **Date:** July14th, 2023

Originator: Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Corporate Services
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Subject: Connectivity – Activity Report

BACKGROUND

Ongoing activities related to the ***Province’s Accelerated High Speed Internet Program (AHSIP) installation - through Bell*** - for connectivity.

The Province of Ontario has launched the Ontario High-Speed Internet Access Map. <https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-connects-making-high-speed-internet-accessible-in-every-community> This interactive map identifies the locations and details of provincially funded high-speed internet projects, as well as the location of existing high-speed internet service availability.

JULY INTERIM

1) Staff met with Vianet’s representatives to discuss the use of existing towers within the Township. Vianet continues to determine possible business cases to expand service considering the AHSIP implications to smaller ISPs and the Bell “LOT” subsidy for residential locations on mainland roads.

2) Staff are planning a follow-up discussion with Net Spectrum to discuss availability of a shared tower co-locate to expand service to underserved and non-served residents in the North Archipelago. In addition, staff are seeking statistics from Net Spectrum on how many customers they currently have that are being served from the Skerryvore and Pointe au Baril towers and any plans for increasing bandwidth to those customers.

3) Staff had a discussion with a representative from Telonix – Fiber Optic, Broadband & Wireless Solutions company - and staff from Sequin Township, to determine interest in a connectivity solution for the South Archipelago area. Representatives from company said in light of the Bell subsidized contract for FTTH, ISPs would need a firm commitment in advance of any new builds from residents to buy their service should they consider network builds or enhancements.

4) Staff reached out again to Infrastructure Ontario for any updates for second round funding for solutions to connectivity for residents not included (out of scope) in the Provincial government's AHSIP funding. There have been no new announcements as of this writing.

5) Staff and Councillors from Ward 3 are developing a strategy to assist Cottage Associations, though a grass-roots approach, in undertaking Expressions of Interest for new internet services that an Association can provide to an ISP(s) that encourage a local build and demonstrate interests.

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 with the intent to engage Infrastructure Ontario with interests to fund projects that provide internet solutions to all properties in the township.

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
Connectivity Advisor