

November 6, 2009

The County of Frontenac announces expanded high-speed Internet availability through the Rural Connections Program

Glenburnie, Ontario, November 9, 2009 -- The County of Frontenac is pleased to announce the expanded availability of high-speed Internet for residents in Central Frontenac, South Frontenac and the Frontenac Islands.

These services are the result of a broadband infrastructure project launched in July with funding from the Government of Ontario's Rural Connections Program. Now nearing completion, the project is being undertaken with private sector partner Barrett Xplore Inc., through its Xplornet Internet Services brand.

Xplornet fixed wireless, high-speed Internet services are now available in Port Metcalf, the Inverary area and on the south shore of Howe Island. In late November, these services will be available in the areas of Glendower, Cole Lake, Piccadilly, Oak Flats, Perth Road, Raymonds Corners, Wilmer, and Burnt Hills. The Bedford Mills area will have services available in mid-December. In the Arden area, Xplornet will offer a discounted rate on high-speed satellite services in late November.

"We expect this project to significantly contribute to economic development and quality of life across the County," said Frontenac County Warden Janet Gutowski. "With newly available high-speed Internet access, Frontenac County residents and businesses will be able to make the most of the latest innovations in online commerce, education, government services and entertainment."

On November 26, from 5:30 to 8:00 the network will be officially launched and residents may sign up for service at Perth Road School in Perth Road. Open Houses where residents may also sign up for service will be held on November 30, 1:00 to 3:00 at the Piccadilly Hall, 1025 Oak Flats Road, Piccadilly and December 1, 5:00 to 7:00 at the Frontenac Islands Township Office, 1191 Road 96 Wolfe Island.

In order to help residents and local businesses take full advantage of the new Internet capabilities available to them, the County of Frontenac will offer seminars on Internet use. Details will be posted on the County web site, www.frontenacounty.ca.

The announced expansion of services complements pre-existing high-speed Internet access available around Elginburg, Sydenham, and Marysville.

Residents or businesses interested in more information about high-speed Internet services should contact Xplornet at www.xplornet.com or 1-866-841-6001.

About the Frontenac County Broadband Project

The broadband project in Frontenac County is supported by The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs' \$30 million Rural Connections Broadband Program. This program was designed to reduce broadband infrastructure gaps in underserved rural regions in southern Ontario. The program awarded Frontenac County up to \$789,078 in government funding, the full amount requested in an application filed on behalf of its municipalities in November 2008.

The project's private sector partner, Barrett Xplore Inc. was chosen through a rigorous, technology neutral, competitive bidding process to be the vendor of choice to construct, own and operate a fixed wireless network to provide additional high-speed Internet coverage in the County of Frontenac.