



Kingston Area Broadband Project Brings High-Speed Internet to Rural Schools, Homes and Businesses

Kingston, ON, April 3, 2009 – The City of Kingston’s plan to bring broadband services to rural schools, businesses and residents is now complete. The infrastructure project was funded and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; the Limestone District School Board; Utilities Kingston; OmniGlobe Networks; Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation; and the Kingston Economic Development Corporation.

“We were very pleased to participate in this project to make broadband services available to the rural areas of our region,” said Gerard Hunt, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Kingston. “We couldn’t have done it without help from the provincial government.”

The Province of Ontario contributed \$480,000 to the Kingston-area broadband project through Rural Connections...The Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program.

“Our government understands the importance of affordable and accessible broadband services to rural communities. Through this partnership, we are making it easier for residents in the Kingston area to access education and skills training, government information and services, and health care,” said John Gerretsen, MPP for Kingston and the Islands.

“As a consequence of this project, Utilities Kingston is now delivering broadband services to students, teachers and administrators in all the schools in the Limestone District School Board,” says Jim Keech, President and CEO of Utilities Kingston. “Providing broadband infrastructure to our community-based organizations is a key part of our mandate.”

According to Wayne Toms, Manager of Information Technology and Planning for the Limestone District School Board, “this broadband access is critical to students, teachers, and administrators and we are very pleased to have it available to every school.”

Residents and businesses in the communities of Selby, Godfrey, Mountain Grove, Plevna, and Cloyne also get access to affordable, reliable high-speed Internet services. “The new service delivered by our



OmniGlobe Broadband division supports a wide range of advanced applications including high-speed Internet access, Voice over IP (VoIP) and Virtual Private Network (VPN) services,” says Jason Neale, OmniGlobe’s CEO. “The introduction of broadband access will create new and exciting opportunities for local residents and businesses, which now have access to the same services readily available in urban areas.”

“Lack of access to broadband can be a barrier to a community’s economic and social well-being. The Frontenac Community Development Futures Corporation realizes this and provided \$75,000 of funding towards the wireless towers in Plevna and Cloyne as part of its ongoing commitment to see that all residents and businesses in our county receive access to broadband services,” stated Anne Prichard, Executive Director, Frontenac Community Futures Development Corporation. “These funds were made available through the Eastern Ontario Development Program”.

“The broadband initiative will have a positive impact on the residents and businesses in our area that will ultimately benefit the entire community,” added John Paul Shearer, Director of Business Development, Kingston Economic Development Corporation.

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