

News Release

County of Dufferin
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For Immediate Release:
County of Dufferin

August 29, 2007

THE COUNTY OF DUFFERIN IS GOING HIGH SPEED

Funding Approved for Infrastructure Improvements to Provide Broadband Access to Rural Areas in the County of Dufferin

Orangeville- Residents and businesses of the County of Dufferin will soon have access to high-speed Internet services thanks to funding from the McGuinty government.

"The Ontario government supports rural municipalities and recognizes that broadband access in these communities is vital to the prosperity of their economies," said Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. "By investing \$10 million in Rural Connections, the Ontario government is investing in the future of rural Ontario."

Rural Connections ... The Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program is a one-time, \$10-million initiative. Following an application and review process, 18 municipalities that are ready to implement and sustain broadband capability in their communities will receive funding to help with infrastructure and implementation costs. The program is a joint effort between the ministries of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs, Government Services, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

These municipalities are:

- County of Elgin
- County of Hastings
- County of Perth
- Regional Municipality of Durham
- County of Peterborough
- Township of Dawn-Euphemia
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- County of Grey
- Huron County
- Township of South Glengarry
- Town of Georgina
- Township of North Glengarry
- **County of Dufferin**
- Lanark County
- City of Kingston
- County of Haliburton
- United Counties of Leeds & Grenville
- Town of Milton

The majority of the funds, \$8.5 million, will go directly to infrastructure costs, while the balance of the funds, \$1.5 million, will be allocated to communities for outreach to promote uptake and use of the new infrastructure by residents, businesses and the community at large.

Dufferin County has been approved for its full application totalling \$1 million from the Ontario government equalling one third of eligible, approved project costs. Area municipalities, The County of Dufferin, telecommunications providers, and other private partners will contribute the balance of the project costs.

The County in partnership with the local municipalities will now develop detailed business and technical plans, including selecting a telecommunications service provider through a tendering process. The Ontario government will assist in preparing these plans.

Objectives and Priorities

- Reduce broadband infrastructure gaps in rural Ontario.
- Enable small and medium size business in rural Ontario to fully participate in the digital economy.
- Improve public access to government services and information.
- Support businesses and citizens to effectively use broadband for economic and social development.

Benefits

- Help make Ontario more productive, innovative, and competitive in the global economy.
- Enable a diversified economy in rural communities that fosters entrepreneurship and enables the growth of small and medium enterprises.
- Enhance the quality of life of people in rural areas of Ontario through improved access to multi-level government information and services, education and skills training, health care, and community and global information resources.

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