

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES  
REPORT

Council Meeting Date: January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008  
Council Meeting Time: 1:00 PM  
Council Meeting Place: Council Chambers

WARD:

**Subject:** Rural Broadband Service Expansion Project

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**Signature:**

**STATUS REPORT:**

**Background**

Xplornet, a division of Barrett Xplore Inc. (BXI), is to provide broadband coverage in rural areas of the City where high-speed Internet service was previously unavailable. These areas are known as the "broadband gap" areas. It is anticipated that the full network will be operational by June 2008. The project is being managed on behalf of the City by the Technology Alliance Group for Kawartha Lakes.

**Technology and network coverage**

Xplornet is using two complementary technologies to provide 100% coverage in the current broadband gap areas – fixed wireless and satellite. Both technologies deliver urban-like quality and speeds at affordable prices.

Fixed wireless service is currently available from 6 tower locations in Wards 16, 8 and portions of 11 and 12. The southern portion of Ward 4 and 9 will be receiving service in early February. Once the full network is constructed by the summer of 2008, it is anticipated that 82% of the dwellings within the current broadband gap will be within the fixed wireless coverage area.

Fixed wireless does have some coverage limitations as it is a line-of-sight technology. Therefore, a small percentage of homes or businesses may not be able to receive a fixed wireless signal due to obstructions or topography. Xplornet will offer its state-of-the-art satellite broadband to residents who are unable to access the fixed wireless network.

**Benefits of Xplornet high-speed Internet service**

- Fast - fixed wireless speeds can reach up to 5.0 Mbps<sup>1</sup> which is equivalent to 185 times faster

faster than dial-up.

- Affordable - fixed wireless service packages start from \$29.99 per month<sup>3</sup> and high-speed packages (1.5 Mbps or above) from \$44.99 per month.<sup>4</sup> Satellite service plans start from \$54.99 per month<sup>5</sup>.
- No phone line required
- Serviced by local dealers
- Free 24/7/365 customer and technical support
- Always on, always ready
- 30-day money-back guarantee

City of Kawartha Lakes residents will also receive Xplornet promotional offers in accordance with the agreement. Once the formal agreement with BXI is signed and the network is operational, details will be available from local dealers.

#### **How can your constituents obtain more information?**

In the weeks ahead, periodic project updates will be available on both the City of Kawartha Lakes and Xplornet Web sites.

If you are interested in more information, you can:

- call or visit an Xplornet Authorized Dealer. The Barrett website **on line dealer locator** will provide driving directions to dealers. Xplornet will also be expanding its dealer network in the City of Kawartha Lakes area.
- complete the no-obligation sign-up form is also available on the Barrett website if you would like to be referred to a dealer in your area.
- contact Lynda Rickard, Executive Director of the Technology Alliance Group for Kawartha Lakes via email at [lynda.rickard@tag4kl.org](mailto:lynda.rickard@tag4kl.org), or by phone at (705) 878-9261.
- contact the Xplornet Customer Care Centre at 1-866-841-6001.

#### **Contract and Lease Agreement**

<sup>1</sup>5.0 Mbps refers to the fixed wireless Xtreme package. <sup>2</sup>2.0 Mbps refers to the satellite KaBoom package. <sup>3</sup>\$29.99 per month refers to the fixed wireless Zip package. <sup>4</sup>\$44.99 per month refers to the fixed wireless Zoom package. <sup>5</sup>\$54.99 per month refers to the satellite KaZam package.