

THE PACKET

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Broadband Update

TOWERS IN SOUTH GRAVENHURST PROGRESSING WELL

There has been good progress on the deployment of broadband in south Gravenhurst. Core Broadband has been working diligently to ensure the towers to support broadband internet in south Gravenhurst are completed quickly. There are currently two towers under construction. These towers are in the Ryde and Kilworthy areas. These builds have been progressing well in spite of winter weather. Completion for these towers is expected over the next few months.

TOWNSHIP OF GEORGIAN BAY HAS MIXED SUCCESS

While there have been successes in the Township of Georgian Bay, there are also some setbacks. The Mactier area has received expanded broadband coverage and this has occurred ahead of schedule.

The original deployment plan for the Township of Georgian Bay includes transmission from the Global Tower. Since this tower is not directly controlled by Core Broadband, progress on this tower has been difficult due to a variety of issues. These issues include complications including structural engineering requirements and access to approved installers. Core Broadband is currently investigating other alternatives to serve this area, and will provide these alternatives and recommendations to MCN.

Deployment schedules for Honey Harbour and Big Chute are not affected and these two locations are expected to proceed as originally planned.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT MCN.

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Muskoka E-Business Forum ONLY A FEW DAYS LEFT to REGISTER!!

The Muskoka E-Business Forum 'E-Biz for Your Biz' is coming up on **March 26th, 2008**. *E-Biz for Your Biz* is a day long event hosted by the Muskoka Enterprise Centre and Muskoka Community Network. '*E-Biz for Your Biz*' is an opportunity for local businesses to have a look at what opportunities are now available with advances in E-Business.

Four different speakers will guide you into the world of E-Business and show you ways to improve your business through E-Business techniques. Our day will begin with **keynote speaker Robert J. Sawyer**. Robert is a renowned author and speaker with his work appearing in many national media outlets and speaking at many prestigious events. Robert will address the future of the web and look at technology trends affecting your business. Following Robert's keynote address, Kenneth Donald, Robert Kozlowski and Rob McPhee will be presenting additional E-business information with additional sessions.

All of our panelists specialize in providing advice and strategies for improving your business through better use of technology. They will present on different topics including; tips for web marketing, improving technology management and business re-engineering. Each presenter will help you find ways to leverage **E-Biz For Your Biz!**
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COLLABORATE ONLINE

BY JAMES WALTON

Collaborate Online & Save Time and the Environment!

Since the internet has entered wide-spread use, this technology has slowly reduced the need for face to face meetings. Now with the advent of Web 2.0 technologies that change is accelerating.

Over the past couple of months MCN has been successfully using new virtual meeting technology. The program allows a user to host a meeting with numerous other collaborators participating remotely. The conference host can share the screen and any programs that are running, such as a Microsoft Power Point presentation, a budget in Microsoft Excel or just about anything else you can imagine! The host can allow other users to take control of the meeting screen and show their programs to the other participants. On top of this there is a chat feature and the ability to support multiple webcams from different users. Combined with a simultaneous conference call, you have the effect of a face to face meeting with out the travel.

You may be saying this sounds great but isn't it hard to manage? The simple answer is, NO! New online meeting software is very intuitive and easy to use. The cost is also very low especially when compared to the amount of time and money spent traveling to meetings. Which brings me to my next point using online collaboration reduces the need to travel to meetings, cutting your output of greenhouse gases, and that is a good thing!

J.W.

E-Biz (Continued from pg 1.)

To **REGISTER** for the **Muskoka E-Business Forum**, or for more information click onto www.mcnet.ca/mebc/

OR CALL:

The Muskoka Enterprise Centre
P:646-9021

Or Muskoka Community Network P:
646-9044

Need Technology Training?

MCN offers a variety of best practices workshops on technology management, E-business, and planning your website. Call or visit www.mcnet.ca

Virtual Training Centre

MCN is offering training to business in Parry Sound - Muskoka through our virtual training centre. All you need is high-speed internet, and a desire to learn. Then you can do self paced learning at your own computer. There are over 450 topics to choose from including office software, accounting, and many other titles.

Contact MCN or visit <http://www.mcnet.ca> and look for the "Virtual Training Centre".