

THE PACKET

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FROM MUSKOKA COMMUNITY NETWORK

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Broadband Update

2nd Tower Completed In Gravenhurst:

There is more progress in the Town of Gravenhurst with the broadband build. A new tower at the Ryde Fire Hall in Gravenhurst is up and running, and available to serve those who need broadband in the area.

This tower is another result of the good working relationship between the Town of Gravenhurst, Core Broadband and Muskoka Community Network. With the Fire Department needing better radio coverage and Core Broadband needing towers to provide wireless internet the fit was obvious. Through careful work, a tri-lateral agreement allowed the Gravenhurst Fire Department to get better emergency communications in that area, and allowed Core Broadband to provide wireless internet to residents in the Ryde, Barkaway, and Housey Rapids area.

This means both the tower at the Kilworthy Fire and Ryde Fire Station are operational. If you need service in this area, please contact an Internet Service Provider regarding coverage availability in this area. See www.corebroadband.ca to find an Internet Service Provider on the network that can serve this area.

Progress also continues elsewhere in Muskoka including The Townships of Lake of Bays and Georgian Bay, and the Towns of Huntsville, and Bracebridge.

TO KEEP UP TO DATE ON THE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE BUILD IN MUSKOKA VISIT:
[HTTP://WWW.MCNET.CA/PROJECTS/BROADSCHED/](http://www.mcnet.ca/projects/broadsched/)
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT MCN.

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Ontario's Digital Economy Conference:

This October, Muskoka will be hosting the Ontario Digital Economy Conference (ODEC). This exciting event will be held at Deerhurst Resort, in Huntsville. This conference is supported by the Province of Ontario and FedNor.

Ontario's economy is changing and the ODEC conference will address that change. ODEC will feature expert speakers and provide workshops on topics related to the digital economy. The focus of ODEC is examining how broadband technology provides opportunity for us to change:

- Our Economy
- Our Communities
- Our Environment

ODEC will examine both the present, as well as the near and far future of the digital economy, and will feature how businesses on the leading edge are applying technologies to their operations.

Come and see how leaders in the digital economy are envisioning, and transforming the world we live in.

For more information, or to register visit:

<http://www.thedigitaleconomy.ca>

Or contact

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Broadband, the Railway of the 21st Century

In the 19th Century, Canada had a problem. It was a country with borders and a government but it had no connection between its two oceans with little population in between. A railway was just what was needed to unite Canada and expand the economy.

By 1885 the Canadian Pacific Railway was complete. The project was funded by government and completed by the private sector, who then ran the railway. Over the next twenty years, Canada's population rapidly expanded, its industry boomed and farm production soared. In short, transportation improved the economy and tied the country together.

Today, railways are experiencing a bit of a renaissance but there is another technology that's driving economic growth, broadband internet. Like the railways in 1870's, broadband is penetrating the country. While there is good broadband coverage in cities and most towns in Canada, in rural areas, there is often little to no broadband coverage. Rural areas, like the prairies in the 1870's, provide some of the most opportune areas for improvement. The reason these areas aren't served is usually that the business model from the private sector doesn't support the development of a broadband network for lower population densities.

With investment from FedNor, MCN is improving rural broadband access to support businesses and citizens in Muskoka. Core Broadband is contracted to build and operate this network. We know that the provision of broadband to unserved areas will spur growth and development like the Canadian Pacific Railway once did. Imagine if that never happened.

J.W.

Another Wireless Internet Service Provider Joins The Network

Cottage. Home and Business High Speed Internet, operated by Indigiinet Corp is also a reseller on Core Broadband's network now. This gives customers a greater choice of suppliers in Muskoka. *Cottage, Home and Business High Speed Internet* joins *SureNet Communications* and *Vianet Internet Solutions* as ISP's providing wireless service across Core Broadband's network

For more information please visit:

www.corebroadband.ca

Virtual Training Centre

Muskoka Community Network is offering training to business and residents in Parry Sound – Muskoka through our VIRTUAL TRAINING CENTRE (VTC). All you need is a high-speed internet connection, and a desire to learn. The VTC allows for self paced learning at your own computer. There are over 450 topics to choose from including office productivity software, accounting, graphic design, e-commerce and many additional titles.

For more information contact MCN or visit

<http://www.mcnet.ca/VTC/>

and look for the "Virtual Training Centre".

If you can't get broadband in Muskoka, we would be interested in hearing from you:

<http://www.mcnet.ca/ineedbroadband/demand/>