

# THE PACKET

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Photo courtesy of North Country Business

## Business Participants Get Tech Tune Up!

MCN's *Best Practices Workshops* give business participants an understanding of the benefits of implementing new technology, an awareness of what's involved, and how their business can benefit. The first workshop series "*Planning Your Website*" provided a starting point for businesses wanting to develop or extend their web presence. Over 50 small business participants in Muskoka and Almaguin have taken the workshops so far.

The next series of workshops focus on **E-Commerce**. MCN has enlisted the expertise of Creative Web Media Director, Steve Spencer of Moosekoka Media. As our guest speaker, Steve brings experience developing E-Commerce sites for customers over the past eight years and has great insight about the opportunities that E-commerce brings.

If you are interested in finding out how to do E-commerce well, you will want to take this workshop! Contact MCN today to register.

[WWW.MCNET.CA](http://WWW.MCNET.CA)

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## High-Speed Internet Demystified!

Everyone loves high speed internet! The question is "WHAT IS HIGH SPEED INTERNET?" There are many different technologies, and many different terms used to describe that technology. For example, broadband as defined by the The International Telecommunication Union Standardization Sector (ITU-T) is 1.5 mbps or greater, however, public policy makers, and some service providers often define broadband as 200kbps or greater. Confused yet? Well...you are not alone.

In addition to these different interpretations there are at least 5 different technologies that can get high-speed internet to your door. (See the quick guide to getting High Speed Internet, which follows).

Let's start at the beginning. A more technical term for high speed internet is "broadband". Before there was broadband, there was narrowband. Broadly speaking (no pun intended) broadband is high speed, and narrowband is dial-up. So if you have dial-up, and think high speed (broadband) might improve your life then you have some decisions to make.

(Continued on Pg. 2, See Demystified)

## Demystified (Continued from Pg. 1)

Broadband (high speed) is available from Internet Service Providers (ISP's) who sell the service to people who want it. ISP's cover different geographical areas, and sometimes one company can't get broadband to you, but another company can. That's why it is important to check with various companies if getting broadband to your location seems to be a challenge.

Market dynamics, technology, and your broadband needs provide for a wide range in price options. There are many different companies and plans that you can subscribe to. Like cell phones, most plans have monthly subscriber fees, one-time installation and setup fees, and indicate a contract term.

Finally, on to the technology. There are a variety of ways that ISP's can get broadband to you including DSL, Cable, Wireless, Satellite and Fibre. Within each of these categories there are often numerous solutions, and the good thing is you don't need to know all about each one. ISP's should be able to recommend the best technology and package to meet your needs.

Fibre, DSL and Cable tend to be available in the core of towns and the ability to get this service drops off as you move away from these cores. That's where wireless comes in. Wireless providers extend the reach of broadband coverage and can more easily cover rural areas. But again, this is not available in all areas. That's where satellite comes in. Satellite internet can get broadband internet to almost any location in Canada. So why doesn't everyone have broadband? The answer is cost! DSL, and Cable tend to be reasonably affordable. Wireless can be more expensive, and Satellite is typically the most expensive when you take the performance into account.

You can use the Quick Guide to High Speed on the next page to help get you started.

So in a nutshell, you may need to check with several providers to find one that can get you covered, and the price you will have to pay may be significantly affected by where you are.

## Progress Report for Rural Areas

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006, Muskoka Community Network issued a Request for Proposal (RFP). The purpose of this RFP is to identify a vendor to supply high-speed internet to areas where high speed is inaccessible.

The deadline for RFP submissions was April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2006. MCN is evaluating the submissions and will choose a vendor to supply high-speed internet to these unserved areas. Based on the submission of the successful vendor, MCN will complete and submit funding applications to appropriate funding agencies including FedNor. MCN expects to have submitted the funding application around mid-June 2006.

Upon funding approval, MCN will contract the selected vendor to deploy broadband to unserved areas in Muskoka.

MCN is currently evaluating submissions to choose a vendor and subsequently determine which areas can be covered, and timing of deployment.

### More Workshops are on the way!

You can call MCN at 646-9044 or find more information about our free workshops at [www.mcnet.ca](http://www.mcnet.ca)





## Quick Guide to High Speed Internet In Muskoka and Almaguin

Types of Broadband Service			
Type of Service	Performance	Price Range (Month)	Available in Muskoka/Almaguin
DSL	.2 TO 5Mbps	\$25 and up	Selected Locations
CABLE	.2 to 10Mbps	\$25 and up	Selected Locations
FIBRE	1 to 1000Mbps	Call your ISP	Selected Locations
WIRELESS	.2 to 10Mbps	\$35 and up	Selected Locations
SATELLITE	.2 to 2Mbps	\$55 and up	Most Locations
NOTE: All prices are approximate for monthly fees. Please check with your ISP for actual pricing including setup and installation fees.			

Service Providers			
Name	Phone	Web	Notes:
Bell Sympatico	310-7873	Bell.ca	DSL
Bell Mobility	1-888-454-2676	Businessonthego.ca/faster	Wireless
Burk's Falls Radio & TV	1-705-382-2726		Satellite
Candlelight	1-866-629-6616	Candlelight.ca	Wireless
Cogeco	1-800-267-9000	Cogeco.ca	Cable
Cottage, Home & Business Wireless Internet	1-705-762-3535	chbhightspeed.net	Wireless
Hemmings TV & Audio service, Huntsville	1-705-789-3662		Satellite
Huntsville Electronics	1-705-789-7951		Satellite
Huronia Satellite Systems, Midland	1-800-553-4419	huroniasatellite.on.ca	Satellite
Indigiinet	1-866-235-7510	Indigiinet.com	Wireless
Lakeland Energy	1-705-646-9014	Lakelandenergy.com	Fibre
MCC Solutions	1-705-635-3473	Mccsolutions.ca	Satellite, Wireless, Hotspot
Muskoka.com	1-705-645-6097	Muskoka.com	Cable, DSL, Wireless, Satellite and Fibre
Surenet	1-866-700-1977	Surenet.net	Cable, DSL
Vianet	1-800-788-0363	Vianet.ca	Cable, DSL, Wireless, Fibre
W3 Connex	1-888-235-9326	W3connex.com	Wireless, Fibre
NOTE: MCN has made best efforts to include all known service providers and properly describe their services. If you are a service provider and we have missed you, or information needs to be updated, please contact us.			