

THE PACKET

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Muskoka.com selected for Broadband Roll out

After a comprehensive review process, Muskoka Community Network has chosen the proposal submitted by Muskoka.com Inc. "Muskoka.com has proposed a consortium with support from other providers and partners. This partnership did a great job of meeting the requirements that we outlined in our Request for Proposal," indicates Rob McPhee of MCN. "Their submission proposes infrastructure development that will allow broadband to be delivered throughout the area in a way that is good for businesses and residents who need broadband. We see this solution as a win-win for the customers and suppliers in the area."

"We are thrilled to be selected by MCN as the vendor to bring this critical service to the businesses and residents of rural Muskoka," stated Kevin Boyes of Muskoka .com. "This is exciting news for any current dial-up users who have been waiting for high-speed Internet to become available to them. The network will allow current dial-up users to perform basic Internet applications such as email and web surfing at much faster speeds than they are accustomed to. But, more importantly, it will pave the road for advanced applications that are not currently possible. For example, it will allow small business owners to work from home offices, enable the use of Voice Over IP telephone services and enable video surveillance for home and office security. We look forward to working with MCN and the other ISPs in the area to roll out this project."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Muskoka.com selected for Broadband Roll out	1
Next Workshop all about Managing your IT	1
Is VoIP right for you?	2

Next Workshop all about Managing your IT

The next workshop offered in the Best Practices series will focus on Technology Management. Two different workshop levels will be offered addressing needs for either a small organization or a medium / enterprise organization. Today's organizations rely on their information systems to store and manage information. The workshop will help business organizations understand how to successfully manage technology purchases, how to minimize technology risks and how to protect their business information. Whatever your level of expertise, participants will pick up some valuable how to's and what you should be doing to protect your company assets. The workshops cover topics including total cost of ownership, backup and disaster recovery planning and technology policies.

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

WWW.MCNET.CA



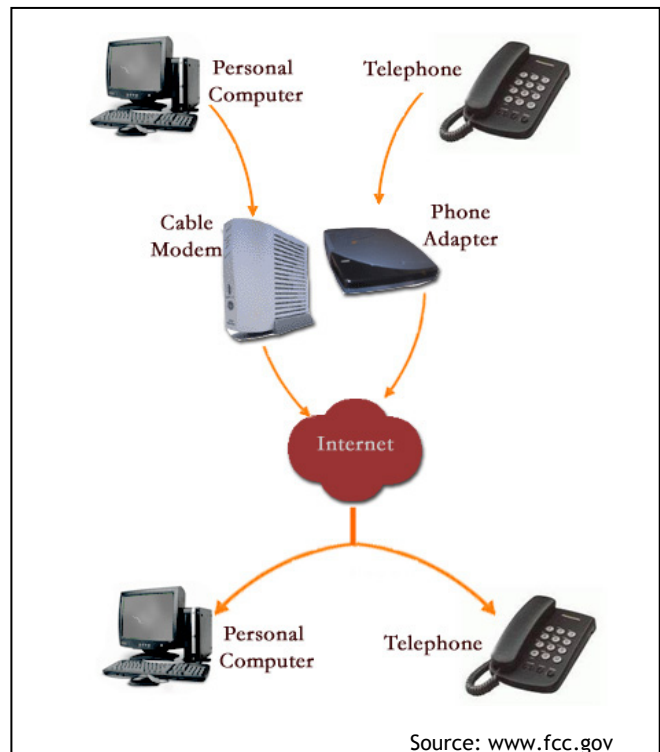
Is VoIP right for you?

VoIP is growing in popularity, but services are slightly different than traditional phone services. So how do you decide if VoIP is for you. Voice over Internet Protocol services or VoIP has become big competition for telecommunication companies as more users are adapting this technology primarily to save money on their long distance phone charges. VoIP lets people make telephone calls using a broadband internet connection instead of a regular analog phone line. Early on this technology was available on dial up, however, the sound quality was extremely poor. As broadband has become more available over the past 10 years, the use of VoIP has gained in popularity, so much in fact that the big phone and cable moguls are now offering this service to both business and consumer markets.

There are three methods to use the VoIP network – using a VoIP telephone, using a normal telephone with a VoIP adapter, and using a computer with speakers and a microphone.

The cost benefits of using internet phone service are very persuasive. For most VoIP customers the savings in phone and long distance charges are huge. Some providers offer free calls in Canada and the US. VoIP Service providers offer flat rate long distance plans which you'll need to compare to your current phone plan. With many VoIP plans you can talk for as long as you want with any person in the world (the requirement is that the other person has an internet connection). The telephone features you have been charged a monthly fee for such as Call waiting, Caller ID, Call transfer, repeat dialing and 3 way dialing are usually included in the low monthly fee from your VoIP provider. You can have access to your voicemails through your Web Account and even play them back through your computer.

For frequent travelers one of the benefits of having a VoIP phone with an adapter is you can



phone anywhere in the world since it's portable. Take your adapter with you and just plug it into any broadband internet connection, connect a phone, and your VoIP phone service is ready to go.

People need to be aware that 911 calls don't always work with a VoIP phone. You should check with your VoIP provider about this. Since VoIP phones are transportable, the service providers use a 911 answering service to call you back to see where the phone is currently located before contacting the local 911 call centre. Another thing people should be aware of is your VoIP phone may not work during a power failure. VoIP service providers may not offer service in all locations and you may have to do some searching to locate a provider that offers service that's accessible to you. Also, if you live in a smaller community you may need to change your existing phone number to an exchange where VoIP is accessible.

So if you have broadband and want to reduce your long distance charges and can put up with more variation in call quality you may want to consider VoIP.



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
Daniel's Computer Services & Web Design	1-705 385 3249	www.CallDaniels.biz	Satellite
Hemmings TV & Audio service, Huntsville	1-705-789-3662		Satellite
Huntsville Electronics	1-705-789-7951		Satellite
Huroniasatellite 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.