

MARCH 25, 2010

OFFICE OF MICHAEL BRAGG
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
COUNTY OF OXFORD

Rural high-speed internet moves a step closer with selection of service provider

Execulink Telecom selected to bring broadband internet to Oxford's underserved and not-served areas

NEWS

The County of Oxford has selected Execulink Telecom to help develop the infrastructure and services that will bring high-speed broadband internet to all corners of the County by fall 2011.

The selection of an internet service provider marks a major milestone for the Rural Oxford Connections (ROC) project, which launched in August 2009 with the support of provincial funding. A project steering committee has been meeting since that time to develop and oversee a work plan, technical plan, and service level agreement for the project.

The Request for Proposals for an internet service provider was issued in December 2009. Execulink's proposal was chosen for its strong local knowledge and resourcefulness in using the County's existing technology infrastructure to manage costs.

QUOTES

"We applaud the Government of Ontario's efforts to make sure no one is left behind on the information highway. In helping municipalities to overcome the financial challenges of building a broadband infrastructure in rural areas, the Rural Connections program helps people explore new avenues of information to help them run a business, raise a family, or become more involved in their community."

- Warden Paul Holbrough, County of Oxford

"The internet is already a key access point for municipal, provincial and federal government services and information. High-speed internet access across all our municipalities will allow Oxford's residents to access these kinds of services more quickly and to participate in the growing culture of online communities regardless of where they live."

- Lynn Buchner, Director, Corporate Services, County of Oxford

QUICK FACTS

- The Government of Ontario's Rural Connections Broadband Program is providing Oxford County with \$988,333 for this project.
- Once completed, all of Oxford County's 2,041 km² will have high-speed internet coverage, offering broadband service to the Town of Ingersoll and the Townships of Blandford-Blenheim, East Zorra-Tavistock, Norwich, South-West Oxford and Zorra. To view a map of current and future service, see <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/rural/ruralconnections/pdf/oxfordjn8.pdf>
- Broadband connectivity, also known as high-speed internet, delivers more internet information at speeds greater than dial-up service. Broadband service is defined as a minimum download speed of 1.5 Megabits per second.

FOR MORE INFORMATION / TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW:

Tommasina Conte | Communications Coordinator

Tel: 519 539-9800, ext. 3503 | Mobile: 519 608-3003 | tconte@oxfordcounty.ca

ABOUT OXFORD COUNTY Set among rolling hills and farmland, Oxford County offers a mix of rural and urban settings as well as a rapidly expanding business sector. The county boasts several heritage sites; a thriving local arts, culture and recreation community; and several park, conservation and natural areas, including more than 100 kilometres of trails. The County has a population of approximately 106,000 people across eight municipalities that are "growing stronger... together" through an upper tier municipal government incorporated as the County of Oxford. The regional seat for the County of Oxford is in Woodstock. For more information visit www.oxfordcounty.ca