

Contact: Lisa Lang
County of Bruce
Phone 519-881-2952
llang@brucecounty.on.ca

P. O. Box 70, 30 Park Street
Walkerton, ON N0G 2V0
Fax 519-881-1619



Press Release

Broadband Bruce County

Helping Rural Bruce County Connect

Walkerton, ON, September 10, 2008: In March 2008, the provincial government announced it is investing \$30 million over the next four years to expand high-speed access to under-served communities in rural southern Ontario. The *Rural Connections Broadband Program*, a joint initiative between the ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Government Services, and Small Business and Consumer Services, will have a positive impact on families in Bruce County, as it will reduce broadband infrastructure gaps, enable our businesses to participate in the digital economy, and will improve access to public services such as e-learning, e-health and e-government.

"In today's economy, high-speed is essential for success and growth. This program is an investment in the future prosperity of Rural Ontario and the McGuinty government is eager to help make that prosperity a reality," said Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Minister Leona Dombrowsky.

The County of Bruce recognizes that a large portion of our residents, as well as small and medium businesses, are limited in their access to high-speed connectivity. Over the course of the next year, the County will be conducting a gap analysis to identify the locations lacking connectivity, meeting with Internet Service Providers (ISP's) to distinguish possible remedies, and preparing a proposal to expand the availability of broadband technology to under-served areas. Once our proposal receives approval, the province will contribute up to 1/3, to a maximum of \$1 million, to implement the proposal. The remainder of the funds will come from County funds and project partners.

To be successful in bringing high-speed to you, Broadband Bruce County needs the help of residents, businesses, the agricultural sector and public services. Plan to attend town hall meetings this fall in your municipality to add your voice. Dates and locations will be announced.

For Immediate Release