

# Rural residents urged to get Internet signal strength tested

Possible gaps in service now being looked into

By Melanie Hennessey  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Town is encouraging rural residents interested in using the new high-speed Internet service to have their signal strength tested.

The message was delivered by Director of Corporate Services and Treasurer Linda Leeds at town council's meeting Monday night.

She told council that Xplornet, the Internet service provider, has its required eight towers in service now and about 400 rural customers have been connected to the service so far.

Xplornet is now trying to determine where there are gaps in service, so Leeds said it's important for rural homeowners who want high-speed Internet to contact one of Xplornet's dealers to have their signal strength tested.

"This data and field testing will determine where there are gaps in service," she said.

Extender towers to fill any void

She said once the gaps have been mapped out, they'll be filled by extender towers by late summer.

After the extender towers are in place, Leeds said 95 per cent coverage of the rural area will be achieved — a number that's required through Xplornet's agreement with the Town.

She added that 25 to 30 per cent of rural customers have been connected so far, but pointed out that a significant number of people are still waiting to get their signal tested.

Ward 3 Councillor Cindy Lunau urged all rural residents to have their signal tested, even if they're not yet interested in getting the Internet service.

"Getting tested is not an obligation to sign up today," she noted.

Lunau, along with fellow Ward 3 Councillor Jan Mowbray and Leeds all said they've received positive feedback from the rural residents who have the high-speed service already, but those who haven't been able to get on-line yet are frustrated.

Last year, the Town was awarded a provincial grant to help improve Internet access in the rural area. Barrett Xplore Inc. — which Xplornet is a division of — was selected by town council as the high-speed service provider for the initiative.

The Town held an event on Wednesday that Leeds said was designed to formally acknowledge and thank the Province for its support and let the public know the first phase of the Internet project is complete.

For Xplornet dealer contact information visit [www.milton.ca](http://www.milton.ca) or [www.xplornet.com](http://www.xplornet.com).

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\* Above prices do not include Admin fee, applicable taxes & license fees. All programs based on advertised sale prices. Pictures may not be exactly as shown.



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