



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRONTENAC COUNTY AND BARRETT XPLORE INC. LAUNCH BROADBAND PROJECT TO EXPAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS IN RURAL AREAS

Glenburnie, Ont., July 21, 2009 – Frontenac County has awarded a broadband project contract to Barrett Xplore Inc. (BXI), through its Xplornet brand, to provide high-speed Internet access to rural areas where it was previously unavailable.

As part of the project, BXI will work with County representatives to expand its existing network of fixed wireless towers in the region to accelerate the availability of high-speed Internet to residents, businesses, educators, and health professionals. It is anticipated that construction of the new towers will begin this fall and will be completed in early 2010.

Fixed wireless service is expected to be available in large areas across Frontenac County, including rural areas around the following locations: Bedford Mills, Glendower, Cole Lake, Piccadilly, Oak Flats, Perth Road, Raymonds Corners, Wilmer, Burnt Hills, Inverary, Port Metcalf and some areas along the south shore of Howe Island. To ensure high-speed Internet is available to all interested Frontenac residents and businesses regardless of their location, Xplornet will also offer affordable satellite packages for more remote areas of the County. Residents are encouraged to register with Xplornet at www.xplornet.com or by calling 1-866-841-6001 so they can be informed as service is made available in their area.

“Access to high-speed Internet allows rural businesses and residents to take full advantage of the latest online applications to support e-commerce, telecommuting, distance learning and social networking,” said Frontenac County Warden Janet Gutowski. “An expanded high-speed network that enables all these activities is an important driver of Frontenac County’s future economic growth, and we look forward to working with our provincial and private sector partners to ensure this becomes a reality for everyone.”

The project is supported by the Government of Ontario’s \$30-million Rural Connections Broadband Program, which was designed to reduce broadband infrastructure gaps in underserved rural regions in southern Ontario. The program, led and administered by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, awarded Frontenac County up to \$789,078 in government funding, the full amount

requested in an application filed on behalf of its municipalities in November 2008. BXI plans to invest approximately \$5 million in Frontenac County over the first next years.

“Barrett Xplore Inc. is proud to be a part of this important project that will support the long-term sustainability of Frontenac County,” said BXI General Manager, Ontario Bob Davie. “We are committed to offering fast, reliable and affordable high-speed Internet solutions to help local businesses and residents access enhanced online services and opportunities not viable through slower dial-up connections.”

BXI was chosen at the conclusion of a rigorous, technology neutral, competitive bidding process to be the vendor of choice to construct, own and operate a fixed wireless network to provide additional high-speed Internet coverage.

About Barrett Xplore Inc.

Headquartered in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Barrett Xplore Inc. operates Xplornet Internet Services, Canada’s largest rural broadband provider, with customers and dealers in every province and territory. Barrett Xplore Inc. aims to bridge the urban/rural digital divide by ensuring that every Canadian, regardless of where they live, has access to broadband, thereby enabling them to compete effectively in the global economy and gain access essential government and educational services.

www.xplornet.com

-30-

For more information:

Anne Marie Young,
Manager of Economic Development,
County of Frontenac
613 548-9400
communications@frontenaccounty.ca

Rick Harari, Hill & Knowlton
416-413-4766
rick.harari@hillandknowlton.ca