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# Seaway News

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www.cornwallseawaynews.com November 23, 2007 Volume 23, Issue 11

**LOCAL NEWS**  
**Protecting local water**  
...The multi-stakeholder group for the Raisin-South Nation Source Protection Region, under the Clean Water Act, has been appointed by the Raisin Region Source Protection Authority.  
pg 2

**LOCAL NEWS**  
**"Nuncracker" rehearsals in full swing**  
Dates for "Nuncracker" are set for November 30, December 1, 6, 7, 8, 14, and 15. There will also be matinee performances on December 2 and 8.  
pg 3

**LOCAL NEWS**  
**MP goes green**  
MP Guy Lauzon launched "Project Porchlight" at a press conference on Wednesday, November 7, at his constituency office. The project is an effort to deliver 5,000 energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs to Cornwall residents.  
pg 18

**Our Goal \$807,000**

**\*INSPIRE \*BUILD \*CHANGE**

**Amount to date: \$203,326 - 25%**

## Broadband service comes to North Glengarry

On Wednesday, October 24, Mayor Grant Crack and North Glengarry's councillors voted unanimously to accept the proposal submitted by Barrett Xplore Inc. (BXI) to bring broadband service to the Dunvegan area under the Ontario's Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) "Rural Connections" program.

A total of four propositions were received in response to the township's Request for Proposals. The companies that made submissions were Barrett Xplore Inc., OmniGlobe Networks, Storm Communications, and Xittel. Bell Aliant sent notification of their intent to submit a proposal; however, they withdrew at the last moment.

Peter Burpee of CEONET and James Joyce of the Dunvegan Recreation Association's Community Broadband Initiative (DCBI) carefully analyzed the proposals using a comprehensive evaluation spreadsheet developed by OMAFRA. While all of the proposals were very good, BXI's received the highest score. In the words of Peter Burpee, "their proposal was, by far, the most professional and is complete in its detail."

While the exact location of its towers have yet to be finalized, BXI's plan calls for the backhaul of its broadband signal from Bonville to a new site in Maxville and then on to the Dunvegan-area tower. Even though there is no provision for it in Dunvegan's "Rural Connections" budget, as a part of its commitment to serving the residents of rural Ontario, Barret Explore also plans to erect a Coverage Extender site east of Dunvegan on Highway 34. In addition ensuring fuller coverage west of Highway 34, this option would extend the broadband signal east of Highway 34 and could serve as springboard for expansion into North Glengarry's Lochiel ward.

Barrett will use 900 MHz for better penetration of wooded areas and 2.4 MHz for larger-volume, business users. However, Brenda Wilson of CEONET cautions that, "regardless of how hard BXI tries, not every household in the area will be able to receive the signal. It all depends on topography and other factors such as tree coverage. Nevertheless, a whole lot more people will have access than do at the present time!" For those still unable to receive wireless signal, Barrett will

offer satellite service. BXI will also upgrade their existing satellite clients in the coverage area to wireless, if they wish.

The next steps in the project call for the development of comprehensive Technical and Work plans, followed by construction as soon as possible. The objective is to have the wireless network up and running in the spring of 2008.

The DCBI Committee would like to thank Mayor Crack, the North Glengarry Council, the Township's Planning Manager/Clerk, Terry Hart, and Treasurer, Annie Levac, for their continuing support. The DCBI sees the Dunvegan-area network build as an important first step in 'turning on the lights' all across North Glengarry. However, much more remains to be done. James Joyce, president of the Dunvegan Recreation Association, urges that the council work closely with citizens in unserved areas and organize door-to-door surveys into the need for high-speed Internet service. "These market studies could help entice companies like Barrett Xplore to expand their networks," says Mr. Joyce, "and would be very useful when it comes to securing additional federal and provincial grants for rural broadband in 2008."

The Dunvegan Community Broadband Initiative (DCBI) is a grassroots organization spearheaded by the Dunvegan Recreation Association and CEONET. The DCBI believes that broadband access in Dunvegan, and throughout the entire Township, would result in

- enhanced competitiveness for businesses;
- speedier access to information, and on-line training for our farmers;
- time and energy savings resulting from increased telecommuting;
- better public access to on-line government programs and services
- improved access to research or distance education programs for students; and,
- enhanced property values

Serving on the DCBI committee are Peter Burpee and Brenda Wilson of CEONET, Julia Addison and James Joyce of the DRA, and Dunvegan-area residents Aidan Burgess, Norm Konlup, and Ben Williams.

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