

# Final tower erected in high-speed Internet quest

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Most of the northwest quadrant of North Glengarry will soon have high-speed Internet access after the erection last week of the final tower in a local broadband network.

The 100-foot-tall structure, located on the farm of Laurie Maus and Bob Garner, just west of Dunvegan, is the third in a series of three towers installed by the Dunvegan Community Broadband Initiative over the past three months.

The Dunvegan tower will have to pass the ISP's (Xplornet) standard testing and "burn-in" procedures, including set-up and power-up trials, before it becomes operational.

Once the tests have been completed by late February or early March, the network will be fully online, giving the vast majority of residences, farms and businesses throughout North Glengarry, including communities such as Dunvegan, Greenfield, Laggan and Maxville

long-awaited access to high-speed Internet.

The first tower was erected in December on the property of Walter and Connie Blaney on SDG 22 near Maxville, followed by a second on the farm of Kent and Marilyn MacSweyn on SDG 34 in Laggan in mid-January.

A "coverage extender" carrying wireless service further west of SDG 34 and east into the Lochiel ward, the second structure initially received its signal from Vankleek Hill, but will now get its signal from the tower in Dunvegan.

A fourth tower that will not be part of the network, but which will provide stability for it, will be placed atop the water tower in Alexandria later this year.

Dunvegan Community Broadband Initiative President James Joyce said he foresees the project making a huge impact on the region.

"I think it will make a big, big difference to everyone - to telecommuters, to students, and to small businesses throughout the area - and I'm

glad we were able to do this."

The Dunvegan high-speed initiative is being funded by the Rural Connections-Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program, and consists of a partnership between Xplornet, North Glengarry township, the Communities of Eastern Ontario Network (CEONET) and the Dunvegan Recreation Association.

It is one of 18 such projects being funded by the provincial government with the mandate to bring broadband service to Ontario's vastly under-serviced rural regions.

For those interested in acquiring high-speed service in the new coverage areas, Mr. Joyce offers the assurance that both the cost and quality of service they'll receive will be as good as it is for any of Xplornet's subscribers throughout the country, despite factors such as unclear sightlines and topographical issues that sometimes hinder rural Internet installations and service.

"As a matter of fact, one of the specifications of the Rural Connections program is that pricing be in line with urban customers," he explained.

"They specifically did that so there would be no penalty or premium on rural subscribers. This network has to supply service that is equivalent to what a person who is living in an urban setting gets," added Mr. Joyce, "and that includes both price and level of service."

Xplornet's residential service packages start at \$29.99 per month, while business service packages begin at \$59.99 monthly, not including installation fees which vary with the length of contract signed by the customer. Customized packaging and prices are also available.

For more information about the Dunvegan Community Broadband Initiative, including high-speed package and coverage information, please visit [www.dunveganrecreation.com/highspeed.php](http://www.dunveganrecreation.com/highspeed.php), or [www.xplornet.com](http://www.xplornet.com).