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News Release

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Greater Madawaska Is Better Connected

CALABOGIE, ON - Greater Madawaska learned last week it was successful in its application for funding to bring high speed broad band to its residents and many visitors. This is a result of a successful partnership with the Province of Ontario. Greater Madawaska's Rural Connections Broadband Program grant in the amount of \$230,413 will, in this phase, reach approximately one half of the land mass of Greater Madawaska.

The Rural Connections Broadband Project is a provincial funding vehicle to assist rural municipalities such as Greater Madawaska to provide high speed internet to rural and remote areas. Reeve Peter Emon notes "this is a great opportunity for us to provide an important tool to our many residents, small and home based businesses. High speed allows our businesses one more asset as they market themselves and the Calabogie area".

The broadly supported application was submitted in September of this year. "Our Economic Development Committee Chaired by Bruce Parker quickly seized on this funding source as an important initiative to pursue. Mr. Parker devoted many hours to the research and development of the application and if he hadn't been such a strong advocate the proposal may not have gone forward. The application would likely not have been as complete" explained Reeve Emon. Former CAO John Baird and Dave Lemkay of the BRAVO task force contributed to the application process. "Our office staff spent many hours assisting Mr. Parker with the final application" continues Reeve Emon.

The process consisted of a request for proposal and interviews with the prospective vendors as well as over 200 hours of research and an additional 100 hours of application writing time. Surrounding municipalities such as Addington Highlands, North Frontenac, Admaston-Bromley, Horton, McNab-Braeside, Lanark Highlands, the County of Renfrew and Lanark County were strong supporters of the application. MPP John Yakabuski and staff were a valuable asset during this process.

"The Province deserves a great deal of praise for moving to assist rural municipalities to address their high speed internet infrastructure deficits" says Reeve Emon. "The schools, our businesses and our residents were very supportive of this and are excited by the announcement".

For more info call Peter Emon 613 401 7186