

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

SWIFT Announces \$10.4 Million Dufferin County Broadband Expansion Plan

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) has been awarded contracts to support five fibre-optic broadband projects in order to deliver high-speed internet to over 1,660 households and businesses across Dufferin County.

“Expanding high-speed broadband access to underserved areas within Southwestern Ontario is essential to the economic recovery and long-term prosperity of our region,” says SWIFT Board Chair, David Mayberry. “SWIFT, in partnership with the Government of Ontario and Canada, is proud to announce that funding has been awarded to support five fibre-to-the-home projects to expand broadband services across Dufferin County. The newly announced projects will assist in accelerating the rollout of high-speed internet to further support economic development within the region and continue to improve quality of life for our residents.”

“Mulmur Council is thrilled that a significant portion of the projects are directed to residents of Mulmur. Eh!Tel networks will be supplying 55 km of fibre-optic broadband to the communities of Honeywood, Blackbank, Ruskview, Terra Nova, Kilgore, Whitfield and Springwater Lakes. Bell will be offering service to Mansfield residents. These projects will bring connectivity to some of our Township areas that today have little to no cell or internet service. Our beautiful Township does pose significant challenges for connectivity! The SWIFT partnership allows us to service areas that we could never have accomplished on our own” says Mulmur Township Mayor, Janet Horner.

Funding of \$6 million has been awarded by SWIFT, which includes a \$1.3 million investment from the County of Dufferin, to support infrastructure development in communities throughout the County.

“Expanding our network to Dufferin County is a priority for Cogeco Connexion Inc. (Cogeco) and is part of our four-year commitment to invest more than \$1 billion in the operation and expansion of our robust broadband network. We are proud to have been selected by SWIFT to proceed with our proposed expansion in the County,” says Michel Blais, Vice President, Network, Operations and Technology Delivery, Cogeco.

Bell Canada will be installing an all-fibre network which will service approximately 17 kilometres of roadway in Mansfield. The \$830,000 project has been awarded funding to bring high-speed broadband to more than 300 premises by early 2022.

Additional Information:

[Dufferin County Project Overview](#)

About SWIFT

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) is a non-profit regional broadband project initiated by the [Western Ontario Wardens' Caucus](#) to subsidize the construction of high-speed broadband networks across Southwestern Ontario, Caledon and the Niagara Region.

The project was approved for funding up to \$127.4 million under the New Building Canada Fund – Small Communities Fund (NBCF-SCF), a joint federal and provincial infrastructure funding program, and leverages additional funding from municipal partners and private sector investors to bring the total project investment to \$209 million to improve access to broadband services across the region.

For more information:

Melissa O'Brien

melissa.obrien@swiftruralbroadband.ca

Manager, Communications and Stakeholder Relations

Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology

226.256.1640