

Construction of Broadband Network is now complete on Pelee Island

(Township of Pelee, ON) December 18, 2024 – The Township of Pelee announced today that construction of high-speed broadband infrastructure is now complete on Pelee Island and customer installations have begun. The project brings fibre-to-the-home internet service to nearly 500 homes, businesses, and government offices on the island.

Made possible through nearly \$20M in funding from the Government of Canada’s Universal Broadband Fund (UBF) and the Government of Ontario’s Improving Connectivity for Ontario (ICON) program, the project included the installation of two, redundant, submarine fibre optic cables installed from the mainland to Pelee. On island, a series of fibre optic cables have been installed to bring services of up to 1,000 Mbps to every home and business. The network is seamlessly connected to the mainland internet infrastructure, ensuring fast and reliable service for the island community.

“I cannot say enough good things about our municipal staff and project management team who have gone above and beyond to facilitate this work, and our council that was determined to form an impactful partnership with both levels of government and NFTC” said Cathy Miller, Mayor of the Township of Pelee. “Thank you to the NFTC team for advancing this unique project and all the hard work done to date. This is what working together looks like”.

In partnership with the municipality, The North Frontenac Telephone Company installed fibre-optic throughout the island and in select areas on the mainland. IT Telecom installed submarine fibres between Pelee and the mainland. Servicing more than 47 kilometres of on-island roadway with fibre-optic cabling, the high-speed network will provide 478 homes and businesses on the island with access to fast, reliable broadband service. In addition to this, the network will provide service to 310 mainland premises between Elmdale and Tilbury.

“The Pelee Island fibre optic network was a complicated and challenging build. As a result of the extraordinary support and collaboration between our resources and Pelee Island municipal staff, live service is available months ahead of schedule. This teamwork combined with funding and support from the Federal and Provincial governments has made it possible for NFTC to continue our efforts to bring state of the art fibre optic network technology to more parts of rural Ontario” said Grant Roughly, Vice President, NFTC.

“Connectivity is an essential tool to access education and health care and to grow a business. Your federal government has made a commitment to connect 98% of households to high-speed Internet by 2026, and 100% by 2030. The Government of Canada’s investment in this project will help provide reliable, high-speed Internet access to underserved homes on Pelee Island, as well as in Wheatley Harbour, Elmdale and rural areas near Tilbury.” Said The Honourable Gудie Hutchings, Minister of Rural Economic Development and Minister responsible for the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency.

“The completion of new broadband infrastructure on Pelee Island is an incredible milestone that will provide hundreds of local residents and businesses with long awaited access to high-speed internet,” said Kinga Surma, Ontario’s Minister of Infrastructure. “This project serves as a testament to the progress our government is making to deliver reliable high-speed internet access to every community across the province by the end of 2025.”

Quick Facts:

- The Township of Pelee and the provincial and federal governments have made a combined total investment of nearly \$20M to bring high-speed internet service to 788 underserved homes and businesses throughout Pelee Island and select areas between Elmdale and Tilbury. The provincial government has committed over \$4.8M to the project and the federal government has committed to a contribution of over \$14.4M.
- Customer Installations on Pelee Island are being prioritized to households that will be occupied over the winter season. Connections for seasonal households will commence in the spring of 2025, aligning with the return of residents to the island.