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Durham Region releases the first phase of its Broadband Strategy



Whitby, Ontario – The Regional Municipality of Durham has released the first phase of its Broadband Strategy. The first phase outlines current conditions within the Region, identifies the needs of businesses, residents and government agencies and presents potential roles the Region may undertake to support broadband connectivity.

“The benefits of broadband are undeniable,” said Brian Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development. “Access to high-speed internet supports economic development, fosters growth, and can enhance the overall quality of life.”

Durham Region’s Broadband Strategy was initiated in August 2017. The first phase assessed the current condition of broadband services in the region, compiled background and baseline information and reported on the results of consultation with key stakeholders.

Through consultation sessions with more than 100 individuals representing key stakeholder groups, and service-level surveys of over 600 residential properties, the need to improve connectivity to underserved areas emerged as a theme in this report.

The Phase One Summary Report identifies that broad-

band services that meet or exceed the targets set by the Canadian Radio and Television Commission (CRTC) are generally available in the Region’s urbanized areas. However, the CRTC target level for broadband services is generally not met in rural areas with lower customer densities. In addition, it was revealed that certain business and employment areas lack access to adequate broadband services.

The Phase Two Strategy Report, which is expected this fall, will provide recommendations on the roles and actions the Region may undertake to support improved broadband connectivity.



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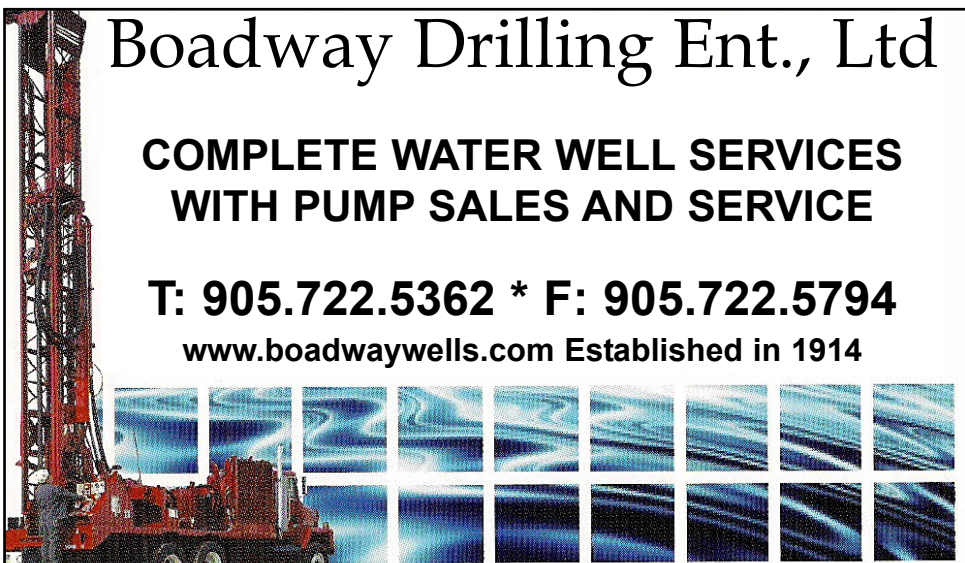
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