

Hantsport – Small Town, Big Technology

How can a small town leverage technology to improve municipal services, provide residential incentives, and improve business development opportunities?

Hantsport has uniquely positioned itself as a small town location with enterprise level telecommunications capability, based on the community owned and operated Valley Community Fiber Network, a fiber-optic network that runs from Dalhousie University in Halifax through to the Nova Scotia Community College Middleton Campus. This is a telecommunications “super highway” providing a wide variety of advanced information technology services to the member communities. We are eager to use this technology to support economic development and business opportunities.

What is Hantsport doing with this world class telecommunications asset?

In July of 2008, Hantsport became the first Town in Nova Scotia to provide a free Wi-Fi high speed Internet service to the community. Hantsport-MESH gives residents and visitors to Hantsport ubiquitous Internet access throughout the town’s commercial, residential, and recreational areas. This has benefited local businesses and residents, and provided a convenient service for visitors to this charming small town in rural Nova Scotia. Provisions are being made to offer improved levels of service on this platform specifically for the use of local businesses.

Based on the Hantsport-MESH Wi-Fi network, Hantsport is now deploying a high quality video surveillance system to improve public confidence and security in the Town. The surveillance system uses a combination of fiber-optic connected and wireless cameras, providing round the clock public safety support for local businesses, visitors and residents.

As far as we are aware, Hantsport is the only small town in Nova Scotia to have built a fiber-optic backbone through their core commercial district. This means that businesses that are interested in the high quality of life offered by small town living, but which are concerned about telecommunications requirements normally only found in larger centers, have the opportunity to set up in Hantsport and receive the very highest level of telecommunications services (ultra-high speed Internet, high capacity networking, VOIP telephony, enterprise/call center or research level network or telephony requirements, and so forth) right here in our picturesque little town. The Town of Hantsport has made a commitment to fully support and assist new businesses looking to locate in the Town, in part by providing as much assistance as possible in connecting to the VCFN if needed. The Town also has premium commercial property available.

Hantsport – VCFN Network/Hantsport-MESH

- Ubiquitous Wi-Fi with special business access provisions; system supports VPN for “work from anywhere” in the Town
- High capacity Fiber-optic network backbone in place in the core areas of the Town of Hantsport
- Network has a large amount of dark fiber available
- VCFN partners include Universities, research centers, enterprise-level IT services and data center services companies
- Town is covered by a high quality video surveillance system, improving business and residential security
- Commitment on the part of the Town to support business. We are here to help and we are eager to invite you to our community!