

High-speed up and running

Valley network has been in the works since 2005

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KENTVILLE — It was anti-climactic in a way, but the sudden appearance of a tiny green blinking light on a console at the Kings County municipal building marked the connection of the Valley Community Fibre Network. Believed to be the largest community-owned fibre optic network in the Atlantic provinces, it runs 186 kilometres from Dalhousie University in Halifax to Middleton.

Plans for the network started in 2005, with the Kings Community Economic Development Agency managing the project.

The Nova Scotia Community College, Acadia University and the municipal governments in Kings County, West Hants, Wolfville, Windsor, Hantsport and Berwick signed on as founding members. Each of them is now connected.

The network's board of directors said the connection creates opportunities for high-tech companies and competitive telecommunications service providers to serve the Valley area.

Board chairman Don Clarke said the network should help the region attract new businesses because the service is faster than the one that was available.

Mr. Clarke said the project is an example of the good things that can happen when local governments work together.

The service will be managed and operated by Internetworking Atlantic Inc. of Halifax.

Company president Bruce MacDougall said the network will give companies the ability to have high-speed connections that are 200 times or more faster than regular cable and DSL high-speed services.