

CORPORATION OF THE COUNTY OF HURON

Administration

TO: Brenda Orchard, CAO
FROM: Scott Currie, Communications/Grants Coordinator
DATE: March 8, 2016
SUBJECT: Huron Co-operatives' Rural Broadband Improvement Project application to the Small Communities Fund

RECOMMENDATION

- That Council endorse the Huron Co-operatives' application to the Small Communities Fund titled "Huron Co-operatives Rural Broadband Improvement Project" with a resolution of support.

BACKGROUND

County Council directed staff to work with local telecommunication service providers to develop made-in-Huron solutions that go the 'last mile' in expanding broadband internet access for rural residents.

This work is related to, but is independent of, the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) initiative of the Western Warden's Caucus – an initiative in which Council continues to participate.

Huron Telecommunications Co-operative Ltd, Tuckersmith Communications Co-operative Ltd and Hay Communications Co-operative Ltd have jointly submitted an application to the Small Communities Fund (SCF) titled "Huron Co-operatives Rural Broadband Improvement Project".

Although no funding commitments are being sought from Huron County for this proposal, the administrators of the SCF are requesting a motion of support from County Council.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROJECT

The total cost of this proposed project is estimated to be \$1,777,000. Of the total, 25% is being requested from each of the provincial and federal governments. The remaining 50% will be funded by the Huron Co-operatives.

With the provincial and federal governments as partners, this proposed project would connect a total of 929 homes, several small businesses and one school with download speeds greater than the Industry Canada minimum target standard of

5Mbps. This project could touch several communities in Huron County and would represent the largest concurrent broadband expansion here in over a decade.

The **ACW FTTN ULTRA BROADBAND INITIATIVE 2016** is designed to connect 450 underserved homes along the Lake Huron Shoreline between Amberley and Port Albert. The area involves seven hexagons. See Figure 1.

The **ACW WIRELESS ULTRA BROADBAND INITIATIVE 2016** is designed to service 150 homes in an area of Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, which are defined as underserved. The area involves 3 hexagons. See Figure 1.

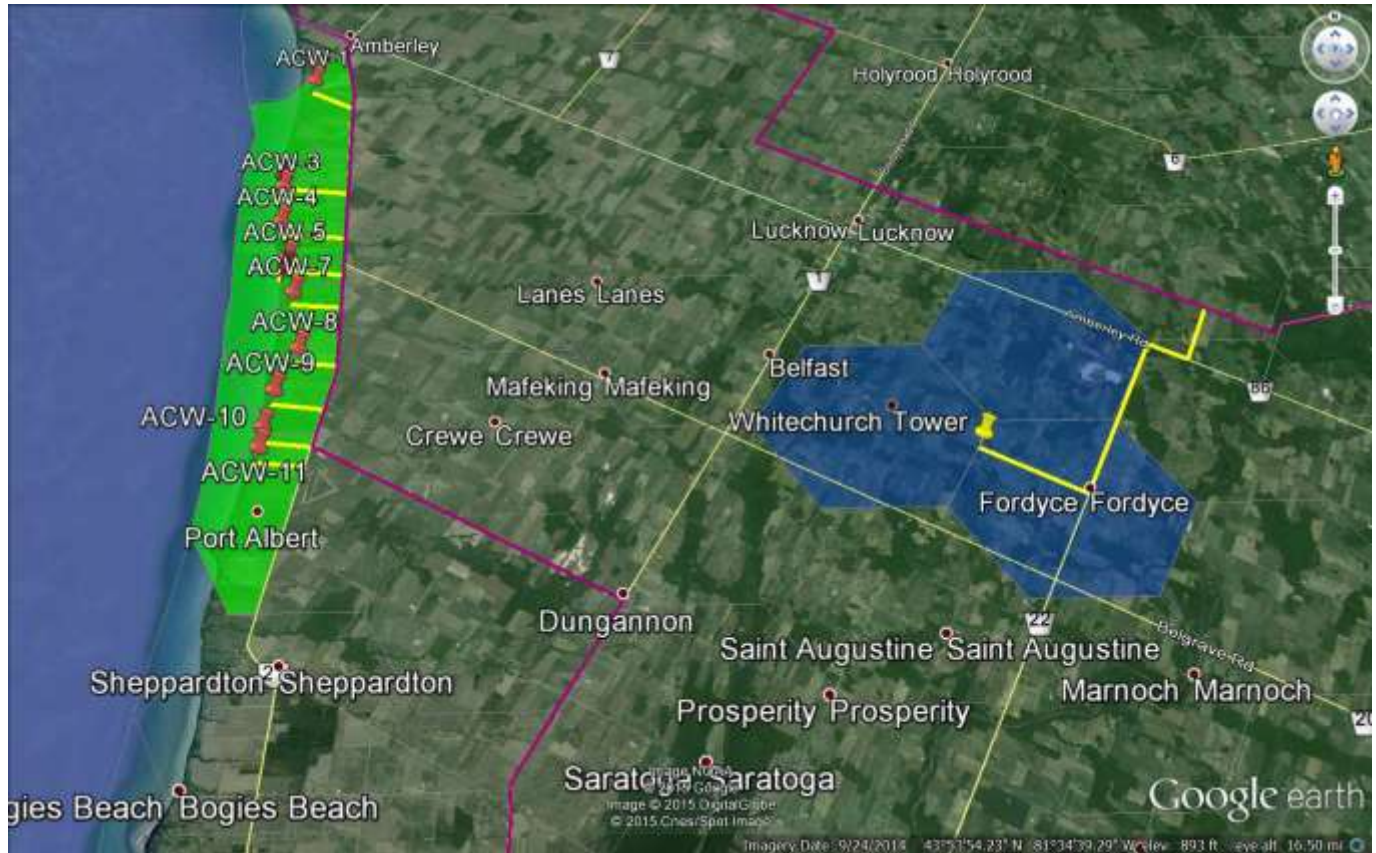


Figure 1.

The **KINBURN WINTHROP INITIATIVE** will use a fibre extension from the existing network to serve a total of 219 homes. See Figure 2.

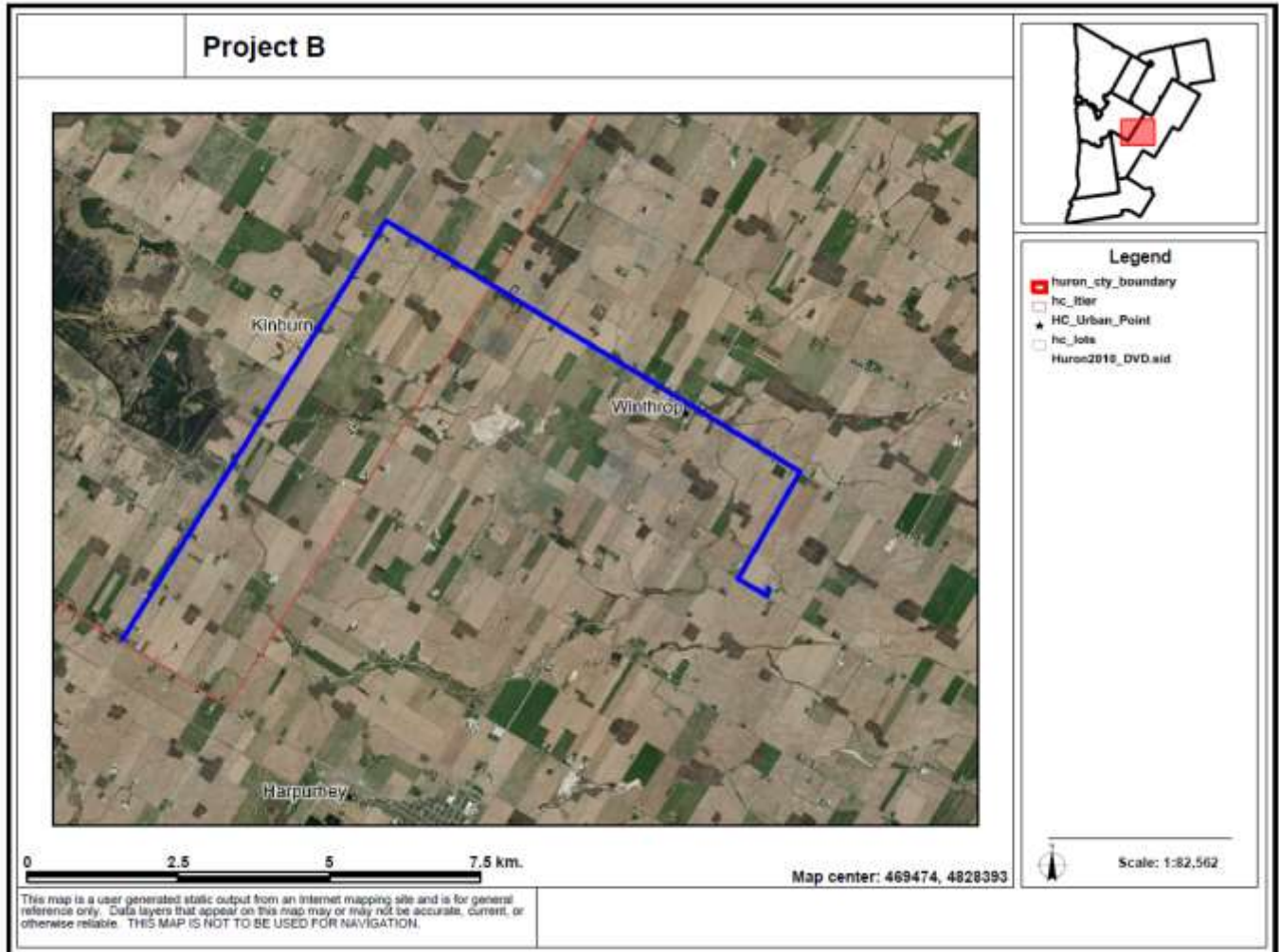


Figure 2.

The **SHIPKA-GREENWAY-MOUNT CARMEL INITIATIVE** will establish a fibre connection to approximately 110 homes, small businesses and one school in the community of Mount Carmel. See Figure 3.

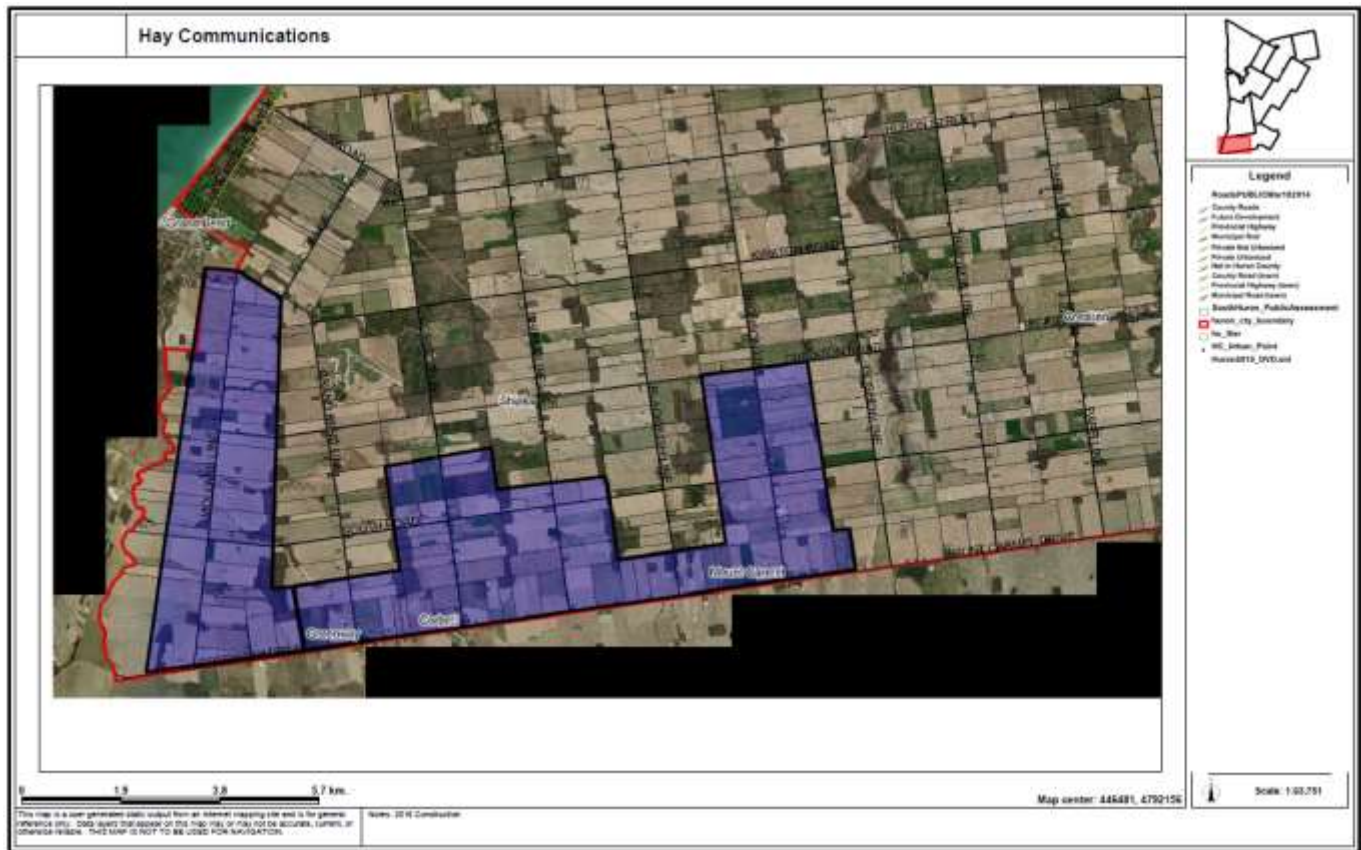


Figure 3.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The proposed project will not have a financial impact on the County of Huron.

Scott Currie
Communications/Grants Coordinator, Huron County

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