

Media Release

City and Fibrewired team up to deliver city-wide wireless access

Hamilton, ON - October 2, 2006 - On Wednesday September 27, City Council approved proceeding with Phase One of a wireless network infrastructure that will cover a four kilometer square area of the City's downtown core as well as one 'hotspot' in each of the five outlying communities. This inaugural deployment will be used as a proving ground to potentially delivering city-wide wireless access to City of Hamilton communities and businesses.

Phase One, a one-year trial in partnership with FibreWired, is scheduled to begin in May of 2007 and will deliver wireless network services without user access fees. It would enable members of the public and local businesses to access the Internet from open areas when a wired connection is not available. The proof of concept wireless network will service the downtown in an area bordered by Barton Street, Main Street, Victoria Avenue and Queen Street, along with the five hotspots within the five outlying areas.

Funding is expected to be provided in the form of a loan and grant from the Hamilton Future Fund. FibreWired will manage the implementation and will operate and maintain the entire network, on behalf of the stakeholders, for a period of one-year.

According to Ward 8 Councillor, Terry Whitehead, "Wireless networks are becoming a reality for businesses and consumers. A municipal wireless network will bring the Internet to large areas of the community, improve public services, and reach previously underserved populations. Not only will it help the city to spur economic growth and innovation, it will position Hamilton as a leader in this exciting area of development in the Canadian economy."

FibreWired, a subsidiary of Hamilton Utilities Corporation, offers a variety of local high-speed telecommunications services within the City of Hamilton. The proposed municipal wireless network will be seamlessly integrated with, and will take advantage of, the existing in-ground network to greatly reduce the initial and ongoing operational costs.

"We are very enthused to be working together with the City of Hamilton on this initiative," says Jay McMaster, President of FibreWired. "A variety of users can securely and simultaneously exist on the network enabling high-speed wireless access to residents, tourists as well as mobile public safety and city personnel. Hamilton is certainly ahead of the curve in developing multiple applications with this initiative."

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