



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Broadband Internet Project officially launched in Hastings County**

**Belleville, ON, May 27, 2010** – The first customers went live in early February with Broadband Internet, and the last site will be in service at the end of May as part of the County of Hastings Rural Connections Broadband Project. The Official In-Service Launch was held today in Belleville at County Council, with representation from Barrett Xplore. Barrett Xplore Inc (BXI) is the single Service Provider Partner with the County on the Project, and offers Internet service through its Xplornet brand.

“This expanded Broadband service within the County of Hastings will provide access to important economic and social benefits including improved health care and educational services across the County. This project is an important step in ensuring that all of our residents have access to affordable and reliable high-speed Internet services, contributing to our strong and vibrant community where our member municipalities can grow and businesses can thrive,” states Jo-Anne Albert, Warden of Hastings County.

With over 170 new customers now with broadband internet service as part of the initial deployment, customer installations are expected to ramp up significantly. Three new broadcast locations around Stirling, Tweed and Lonsdale, as well as upgrades to existing sites are part of the Broadband Project. These will bring the total number of BXI’s broadcast locations to 16 in Hastings County, Quinte West and Belleville areas.

Local launches will be held June 9 in Tweed, June 10 in Tyendinaga Township and June 14 in Stirling. These Open House events will provide information on the project and local Xplornet dealers will be present to provide detailed coverage and service information. Details will be available at [www.hastingscounty.com](http://www.hastingscounty.com).

“Barrett Xplore is proud to be a part of this important project that will help support the long-term sustainability of Hastings County,” said Bob Davie, BXI Vice President. “We are committed to offering fast, reliable and affordable high-speed Internet solutions to help local residents and businesses access enhanced online services and opportunities.”

This is the first of two ongoing broadband programs within the County. The second program is the Eastern Ontario Regional Broadband Network (EORN). This key project of the Eastern Ontario Wardens’ Caucus includes the establishment of a Transport/Backbone Fibre Ring and subsequently additional Broadband Access. This multi-year program is expected to begin implementation in 2011, and will allow more affordable broadband deployment throughout Eastern Ontario. More information on this project can be found at [www.eowc.org](http://www.eowc.org).



Funding in part for the County of Hastings Broadband project was provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs Rural Connections Broadband Program. The Government of Ontario's \$30-million Rural Connections Broadband Program was designed to reduce broadband infrastructure gaps in underserved rural regions in southern Ontario. Funding of up to \$452,000 was obtained through the Rural Connections Broadband Program. The remaining two-thirds of the construction budget is being contributed by the project's private sector partner, Barrett Xplore Inc.

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**About Barrett Xplore Inc.**

Headquartered in Woodstock, New Brunswick, Barrett Xplore Inc. operates Xplornet Internet Services, Canada's largest rural broadband provider, with customers and dealers in every province and territory. Barrett Xplore Inc. aims to bridge the urban/rural digital divide by ensuring that every Canadian, regardless of where they live, has access to broadband, thereby enabling them to compete effectively in the global economy and gain access essential government and educational services. For more information visit [www.xplornet.com](http://www.xplornet.com).