

Update on Phone and Internet Communications in the Pointe au Baril Area

By Ed Garner

Cell Phone Service

As in the past, if you have cell phone communications problems in Pointe au Baril, I suggest you purchase a good quality cell phone repeater. These devices are now very common and can be obtained from electronic stores such as The Source.

The Range Light is no longer just a navigation aid. It is also a cell tower and will help those using Rogers Cell services *near that area*. This is a short tower and intended to fill in the gaps in service near the tower - *not* service to the entire area.

High-Speed Internet

High-speed Internet services are available off of both the Bell and Rogers towers and work very well in the Pointe au Baril area. Keep in mind the “4G” or “3G” is a sales term designation and has no specific technical definition. In fact all it means is 4th generation or 3rd generation. The speeds in Pointe au Baril are not what you will experience in some areas of Toronto but they are, never the less, fast enough for most uses. I regularly see speeds equal or greater than DSL in the city. Again, good reception helps and, if you are in the outer islands, a repeater may greatly improve the service for you.

There is a new alternative available. Many of you used satellite internet from Xplornet in the past and switched to cell tower Internet service from Bell, Telus or Rogers because of the frustration and slow speeds of the earlier satellite systems. In specific areas of both Canada and the US, a new high-speed satellite system is now available. As in the past, Xplornet is carrying this newer model; and you can find a dealer in the Parry Sound area by going to Xplornet.com. This new system, labeled “4G Satellite Internet”, is fast. I have used such a system out here in California in the coastal mountains and it works very well. Like current Cell Internet services, you do not get an unlimited data plan. You pay based on the amount of data you are going to use and the speed of the connection. We’d also suggest you be aware of the off season prices that you’ll pay should you use this service. You can find the pricing on their website. It appears to be competitive with the cell data plans.

As in the past, I would encourage you to contact PaBIA via [David Anderson](#), a member of PaBIA’s Communications team, rather than Bell or Rogers if your cell phone service is poor on your island. We can help and want to avoid stimulating the cell phone companies to build new towers in our beautiful area.