

Every once in a while, we come across an interesting bit of news that we feel should be passed along. This is some information from one of our Directors, Howard Day, and his never-ending quest to find improved internet and tv service at his cottage on Acton Island. If you have any comments or even some alternative suggestions, we would love to hear from you.

For some time now I have been trying, without a whole lot of success, to get improved tv and internet service to my north east facing cottage on Innisfree Road.

As I have previously identified, there are approx. five alternative solutions for internet service available on Acton Is., that I have looked at. In no particular order, these are the ones I have looked at and my findings.

**1) Hub or stick from a telco**

Pro: works quite well

Con: overage charges are significant

**2) Bell DSL**

Pro: works well and is value priced

Con: no availability on Acton Island and none expected in the near future.

**3) Xplornet**

Pro: price is ok

Con: depending on satellite service, could be spotty ie slow

**4) Some companies have towers.**

Pro: good price and reception

Con: you must be able to see the tower- limited for everyone!! (line of sight)

**5) Bell New cell service based on a small antenna mounted on your property**

I have previously investigated options to 1-4. Option 5 looked to be a sure bet!!

I spoke to Bell who were very aggressive to sell this new product. The product is well priced, at about \$79.00 per month for 350 Gigabytes at 25 mb per second which is excellent on all fronts.

I ordered the service but before my install date I went to my neighbour to watch their install. Their cottage is located just west of the Acton Is bridge on the Acton Island Road and faces south. Their install went well. It was promising for me. I scheduled my install for June 6<sup>th</sup>. This new technology must receive a strong cellular signal from the Dudley Rd tower. Well Murphy's Law was in full force. My signal was weak due to the hill in the centre of the island. I also learned from the installer that he had tried to install at one of my neighbours on the north side of Acton Island and had the same problem, limited signal strength.

Back to Xplornet I go!

I have reached out to Bell but it is like talking to the government.

Now the good news, (my assumption). This new Bell service is fast with lots of data for an acceptable price. Folks on the west end of Acton can see the Dudley tower and probably get a good cell signal therefore hook up is probably excellent.

I don't know what Bell needs to do to improve this but I know they are not happy with the new orders being cancelled. I think the government is putting pressure on Bell to expand cost effective solutions? My thought is another tower or repeater or extender or something!!

So, the short story is that depending on your location there is an alternative, excellent service available but it is not for everyone!

Howard