

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY OF ST. MARYS, ONTARIO –
FIBER OPTIC NETWORK CLOSES THE DIGITAL DEFICIENT
(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JANUARY 2019)

- St. Marys Ontario – Monday January 21 2019

At an announcement in council chambers at the Town Hall in St. Marys, Ontario today; Municipal, Community and Business leaders learned that their frustrations of having to deal with older legacy networks, coupled with less than adequate customer support, will soon be a distant memory for residents in the Town of St. Marys (in the Perth County), all thanks to Quadro Communications' 10 million dollar investment to bring fibre optics technology to their community.

Fibre optic networks are fast, really fast, providing more internet bandwidth and stability to the home or business. The announced 'overbuild' of St. Marys is a three year project for full completion. The project will commence in the spring, as soon as weather permits and the first residents and buildings should be connected at some point in summer. There are ten overall project phases, with two of the phases already been or nearly completed before winter befell the community.

Following a complete overbuild of our traditional service area in Sebringville, Kirkton, Uniondale and Granton, we have extended our fibre network into communities like Harrington and Wellburn. We are also actively deploying fibre into the new subdivisions in Lucan and Mitchell, and other areas often overlooked by the larger players in the industry.

The CRTC has established targets for internet speeds for Canadian homes and businesses to have access to broadband internet speeds of at least 50 Mbps for downloads and 10 Mbps for upload. Quadro is already capable of exceeding these requirements on our fibre network and working on providing this connectivity to our neighbouring underserved local communities, while maintaining a focus on traditional quality customer service.

With the availability of fibre optics in the community of St. Marys, residents will be able to connect online without experiencing that annoying lag when opening a browser or during a video conversation. Parents will be able to stream their favorite shows or catch up on work while the kids complete their homework, play their favorite online game and listen to a podcast all at the same time. With advances in technology, our seniors have the ability to video chat with their grandchildren (no matter where they are in the world providing they have access to an adequate broadband service) at any time or with a registered healthcare professional instead of commuting to the city.

Fibre is less susceptible to potential disruptions from inclement weather or other interference. If there is a service disruption it is often easier to diagnose and resolve the issue, often without having to send out a technician, when the facility is connected with fibre. As your neighbour in the community, Quadro is onsite quickly if a problem ever arises.

The assembled guests at the announcement heard from Quadro's General Manager John DeHeer and the Mayor of St. Marys, Al Strathdee. Mr. DeHeer noted that Quadro's original exchanges nicely surrounded the Town of St. Marys and our customers use the town's amenities on a regular basis, it's where they shop, socialize, and use Municipal and emergency services, such as the St. Marys Hospital. Quadro recently relocated their St. Marys showroom to the downtown core at 84 Wellington St. S.

Mr. DeHeer noted that the project has been in the works for quite some time and wouldn't be possible without the support of our community partners Festival Hydro and the Town of St. Marys. Mayor Al Strathdee then took the occasion to speak to the group.

Mr. Strathdee noted, "This investment by Quadro Communications Co-operative is one of the most exciting announcements in the recent history of our town. We will be the envy of many small communities and the new fibre optic service will help our businesses operate more efficiently and our residents work, play and stay in touch even better than ever".

Quadro is celebrating its 95th year in business and in November, its 25th year as a Co-operative.

During the construction phase of the St. Marys Fibre Project, there is no cost to the residents and businesses of the town to have the fibre technology brought to their premises. Interested parties, are encouraged to visit <https://www.quadro.net/stmarys> to indicate their interest in the project and to learn more about Quadro, fibre technology and what it means to be a Co-operative business.

About Quadro:

Since 1924 Quadro has responded to the needs of the rural communities it serves from providing private party dial tone to rural high-speed internet solutions ahead of the competition. Quadro Communications Co-operative was established in November 1994, after converting from the Blanshard Municipal Telephone System. Originally serving the communities of Sebringville, Granton, Kirkton and Uniondale, in recent years, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunication Commission (CRTC) has approved Quadro's expansion into neighbouring communities like Mitchell, Lucan, Dublin, St. Columban and Harrington. As a Co-operative, the company is owned by its members. All customers can become members for a one-time \$1 membership fee. One member – one vote ensures that the co-op acts for the common good and not just for a few individuals. Members control the Co-op through a member elected Board of Directors. Members as such have a voice and share in the profits. The commitment to the well-being of our members extends far beyond the provisioning of products and services as it contributes to the benefit of our local communities as well.

For more information contact:

John DeHeer, General Manager

519-229-8428 | john.deheer@quadro.net | www.quadro.net