

**Region of Waterloo**  
**Corporate Services**  
**Information and Technology Services**

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**To:** Administration and Finance Committee

**Meeting Date:** October 4, 2022

**Report Title:** SWIFT Broadband Project - Final Report

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**1. Recommendation:**

For Information.

**2. Purpose / Issue:**

To provide an update and final report to Council on the Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) Network project.

**3. Strategic Plan:**

This report aligns to several priorities in the Region's strategic plan: "1. Thriving Economy," and "5. Responsive and Engaging Public Service.

Specifically:

1.1 Create a competitive business-supportive community to help attract, retain and grow employers, talent and investment in Waterloo Region.

5.3 Attract, support and retain skilled, engaged and diverse employees

**4. Report Highlights:**

As a member of SWIFT, the Region's contribution of \$2.2M as part of a total investment of \$12M has ensured 1,339 previously under-served rural premises in the Region of Waterloo will have access to reliable high-speed internet.

**5. Background:**

On April 25, 2017 (report COR-17-02) Regional Council approved the Region's participation in SWIFT with a contribution of \$2,231,874 payable over 4 years (2018-2021). The Region has fulfilled its obligation to SWIFT. Additional funding was provided by the federal and provincial governments and directly from internet service providers.

Three of the five SWIFT projects in the Region have been completed, resulting in 470 previously underserved premises (residents and businesses) being passed and which

now have access to reliable high-speed internet. By the end of 2022, the remaining two projects (currently in progress) are planned for completion, passing another 869 premises.

TOWNSHIP	ISP	PREMISES PASSED	PROJECT VALUE	SWIFT CONTRIBUTION	PROJECT STATUS	FINAL NETWORK IN-SERVICE DATE
Woolwich	NFTC	189	\$1,931,685	\$1,288,048	In progress	01-Nov-22
Woolwich	EH!tel	92	\$873,588	\$584,096	Complete	29-Jun-22
North Dumfries	Rogers	124	\$573,874	\$275,039	Complete	20-Jun-22
North Dumfries	Bell	254	\$1,289,174	\$861,964	Complete	21-Jul-22
Wellesley/Wilmot	NFTC	680	\$7,345,141	\$4,911,088	In progress	31-Dec-22
		<b>1,339</b>	<b>\$12,013,462</b>	<b>\$7,920,235</b>		<b>31-Dec-22</b>

Source: [Approved Projects - Swift Rural Broadband](#) September 15, 2022

## 6. Financial Implications:

The Region's contribution of \$2,231,874 was paid over 4 years and was funded from the annual property tax levy and the Tax Stabilization Reserve.

## 7. Conclusion / Next Steps:

Senior levels of government continue to fund additional projects to support internet service providers in their efforts to provide access to those premises in the Region and across the province that remain underserved. As these projects are announced, planned and completed, staff will continue to update Council.

## 8. Attachments / Links:

N/A

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