



DARK FIBRE **TO LIGHT THE WAY**

2025 Annual Report





Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that York Region is located on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Peoples including the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat and Métis peoples and the treaty territories of the Haudenosaunee, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and Williams Treaties First Nations. Today this area is home to many diverse Indigenous Peoples, and we recognize their history, spirituality, culture and stewardship of this land. We also acknowledge the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation as our closest First Nation community.

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A message from the Board Chair



Every day, YorkNet's dark fibre makes a difference in the lives of York Region's more than 1.29 million residents. Our fibre network provides the backbone of the Region's modern infrastructure, powering the systems and services residents rely on every day. Strengthening the Region's ability to deliver essential services efficiently, securely and sustainably is at the core of our mandate and drives our continued commitment to building a resilient, high-capacity dark fibre network.

YorkNet's fibre infrastructure supports critical operations across York Region, including emergency response, health services, water quality monitoring, traffic management and real-time transit information. These connections help ensure first responders receive timely data, our water systems remain safe, and residents benefit from smoother commutes and dependable Regional services. As the Region continues adopting advanced technologies, YorkNet's network provides the bandwidth and reliability needed to keep these systems operating seamlessly.

Our network connects municipal facilities, community hubs and local organizations, creating a resilient digital foundation that supports economic growth, innovation and quality of life across the Region. With support from the Universal Broadband Fund (UBF), YorkNet expanded its mandate to help enable equitable access to high-speed internet for residents in underserved communities. As this expansion continues, we are helping close the digital divide and open up new opportunities for learning, working, accessing services and participating fully in community life.

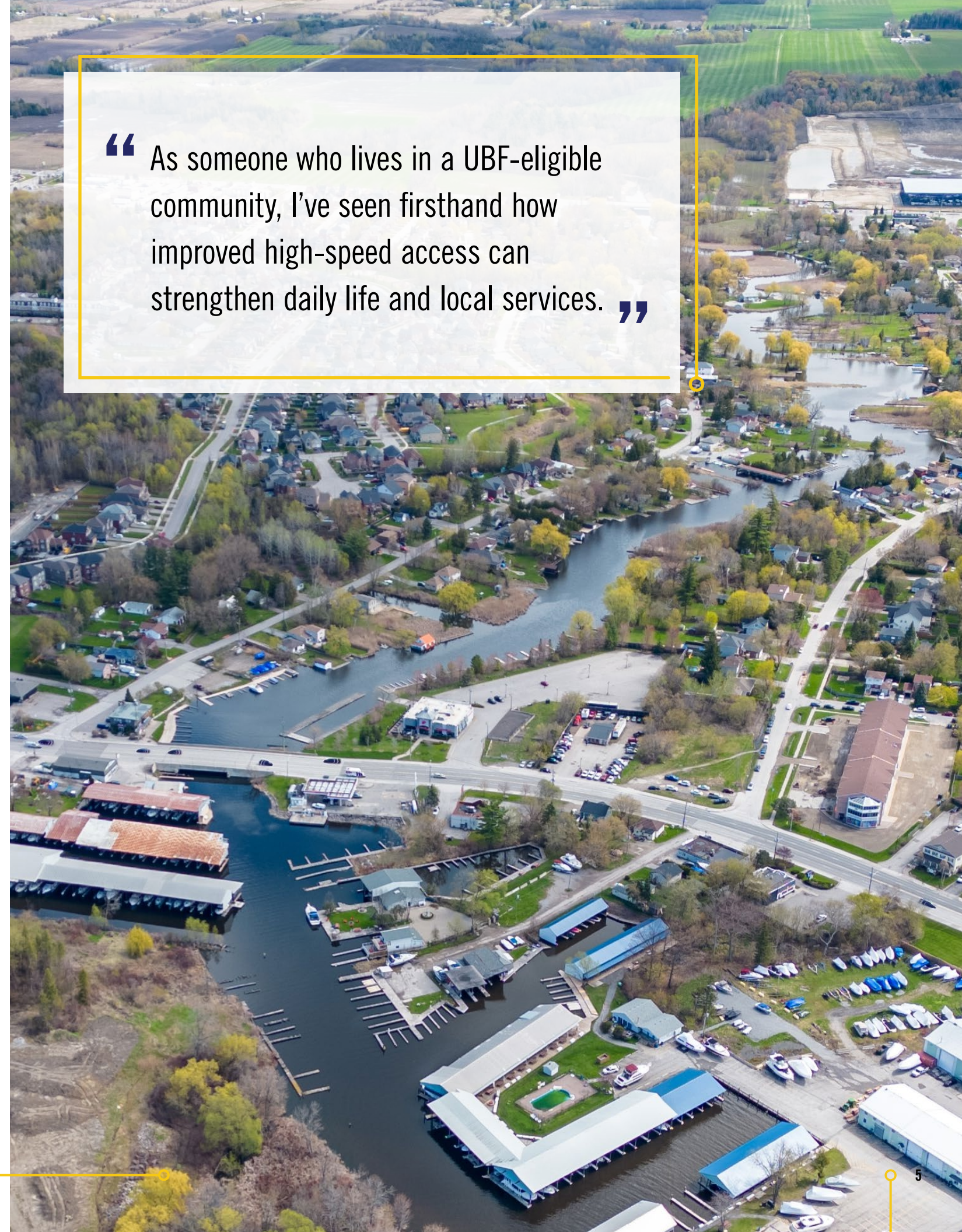
As someone who lives in a UBF-eligible community, I've seen firsthand how improved high-speed access can strengthen daily life and local services. It's a reminder of how important this work is and how much it matters that we continue supporting residents still waiting for the same opportunities.

YorkNet remains committed to building a future-ready network that grows with the needs of our communities. As York Region evolves, our fibre infrastructure will continue to underpin the smart technologies, digital services and connected systems that make our communities safer, more efficient and more inclusive.

Margaret Quirk
2025 Chair of the Board of Directors, YorkNet
Mayor, Town of Georgina



“ As someone who lives in a UBF-eligible community, I've seen firsthand how improved high-speed access can strengthen daily life and local services. ”



“ By expanding and modernizing our fibre footprint, we are laying the essential foundation for smarter, more connected communities. ”

A message from the President and General Manager



YorkNet continues to advance our ambitious network expansion creating a world-class dark fibre network that strengthens Regional services and advances our commitment to equitable access to high-speed internet.

Even with a compressed construction season caused by a wet spring and early snow fall, YorkNet delivered 270 kilometers of new conduit in 2025; the second-highest annual total in our history. Today, our network extends nearly 1,300 kilometres across York Region, forming the backbone of a digital future that will support communities, businesses and public institutions for generations to come.



By expanding and modernizing our fibre footprint, we are laying the essential foundation for smarter, more connected communities. This future-ready network provides high capacity and low latency connectivity as well as building resiliency. YorkNet's expansive fibre infrastructure enables York Region and our municipal partners to invest in advanced network technologies that strengthen business operations and enhance service delivery.

As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: to build a digitally inclusive future. As we move closer to our goal of creating a dark fibre network stretching more than 1,600 kilometers, we are nearing a tipping point which will enable greater network redundancy and resiliency.

We extend our sincere appreciation to York Regional Council and our Board of Directors for their leadership and trust in YorkNet. Their vision and commitment have guided us toward a plan that strengthens Regional connectivity, promotes equitable access to communication infrastructure and creates new opportunities for underserved communities.

Together, we are preparing for the next generation of digital services, smart technologies and data-driven innovation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dino".

Dino Basso
President
YorkNet

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley".

Laura Bradley
General Manager
YorkNet

Governance

YorkNet, one of three York Region-owned corporations, builds and operates a high-speed, dark fibre network across the Region. Funded by York Region, YorkNet is creating equitable access to high-speed internet. It is governed by the *Ontario Business Corporations Act*, the *Municipal Act* and Shareholder direction.

Reporting to the Shareholder (York Regional Council), YorkNet's Board of Directors oversees YorkNet's business and affairs, approves the annual business plan and budget, appoints or hires officers of the Corporation and delegates day-to-day management to officers.

Board of Directors



Chair of the Board
Margaret Quirk
Mayor
Town of Georgina



Vice Chair of the Board
Steve Pellegrini
Mayor
Township of King



Director
Eric Jolliffe
Chairman and CEO
York Region



Director
Frank Scarpitti
Mayor
City of Markham



Director
Iain Lovatt
Mayor
Town of Whitchurch-
Stouffville



Director
Joe DiPaola
Regional Councillor
City of Richmond Hill



Director
Tom Vegh
Regional Councillor
Town of Newmarket



Director
Michael Chan
Regional Councillor
City of Markham



Director
Mario G. Racco
Regional Councillor
City of Vaughan

Executive Leadership Team



Dino Basso
President



Laura Bradley
General Manager



David Di Giovanni
Chief Financial Officer

YorkNet's Mandate

YorkNet is dedicated to shaping the digital future of York Region through:



Growing York Region's dark fibre network

Improve the delivery of Regional services, such as traffic management, transit systems, water/waste water control management, security monitoring, policing and cloud-enabled applications



Collaborating with public-sector organizations to improve high-speed internet service

Work with municipalities, hospitals, libraries, fire halls, schools, community centres and other public-sector organizations to improve broadband services they deliver using our network



Providing private-sector organizations with open access to the network

Drive economic and social benefits and enhance broadband service for the Region's residents and businesses, particularly in rural and underserved areas of the Region



Dark fibre for a bright future: laying the foundation for smart cities

At a time when digital connectivity is driving social and economic progress, dark fibre stands out as a crucial component of our public infrastructure.

Expanding YorkNet's dark fibre infrastructure is like building communication highways ready for tomorrow's digital demands.

YorkNet's network is the foundation for a smarter York Region by allowing data to be collected and analyzed in real time, helping ensure vital business operations are delivered in a timely, cost-effective manner.

“ A smart city improves the overall quality of life for people at home, work and play by integrating technology and data solutions. ”

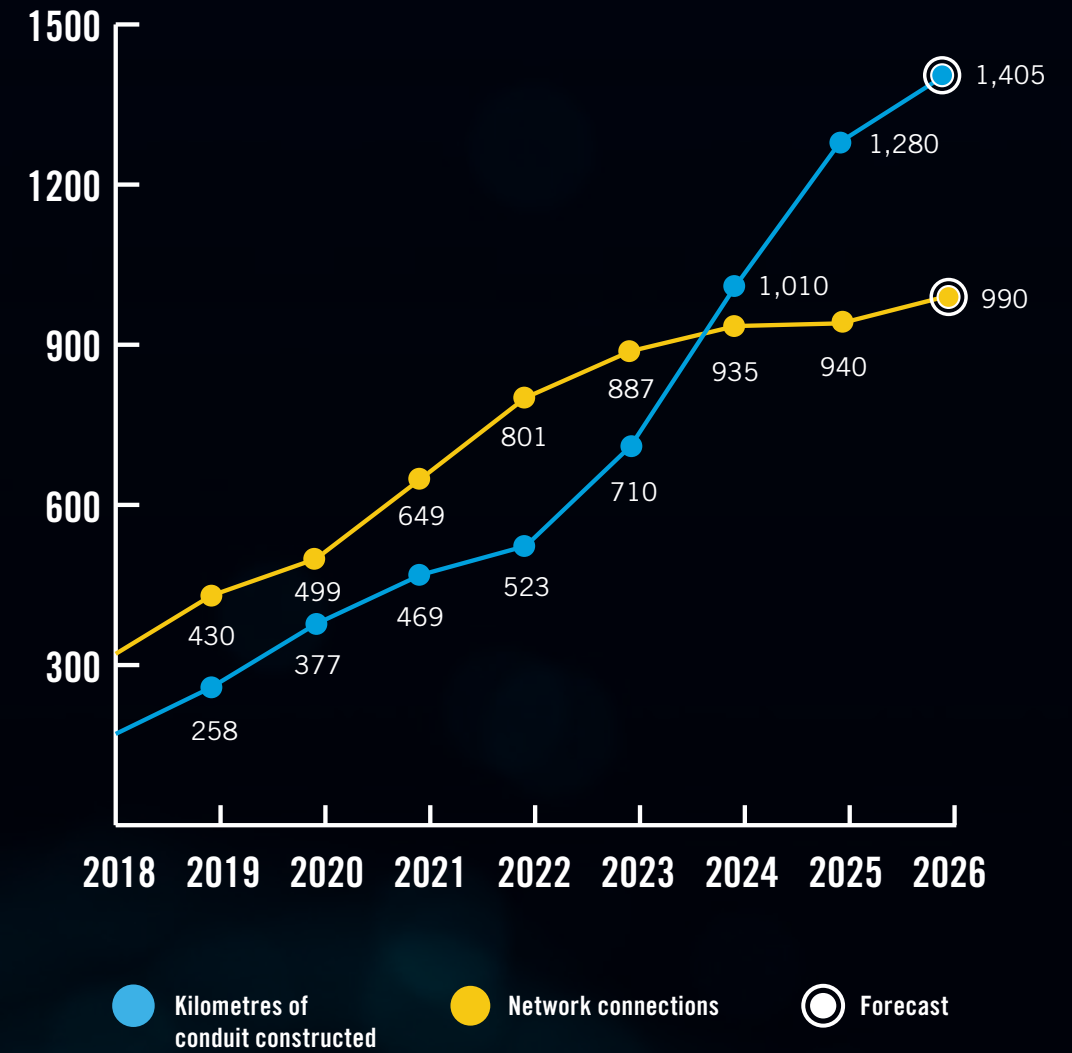
2025 accomplishments

YorkNet continues to grow its network, supporting essential Regional and municipal services and increasing access to reliable high-speed internet in underserved communities.

YorkNet's dark fibre is the key to unlocking the Region's digital future.



Network connections and kilometres built



Numbers are current as of 12/31/2025.

From trenches to tech: navigating infrastructure roadblocks in dark fibre construction

Stretching north from Toronto to Lake Simcoe, York Region is home to more than 1.29 million residents living in nine cities and towns. With many hectares of protected Greenbelt, the Region is crossed by four major multi-lane highways and multiple rail corridors.

YorkNet's expansion requires navigating complex geographical and infrastructure barriers, each introducing unique engineering, regulatory and logistical challenges.

Although many of these highway and rail crossings span only a few hundred metres, they require specialized conduit to withstand structural movement, settlement and ongoing vibration.

Given the complexity, planning and cost involved, each crossing is built to support future capacity needs and minimize potential future disruptions.

Precision, preparation and coordination are essential. Throughout the early stages of expansion, YorkNet invested in building strong relationships with infrastructure owners to support efficient coordination and smooth delivery of these more challenging segments.

“ In 2025, YorkNet crews completed 13 rail crossings and one highway crossing. ”



YorkNet crews constructing highway crossing at Highway 404 and Queensville Sideroad in the Town of East Gwillimbury



Intelligent network scalability: a future-proof network

As demand for reliable broadband grows, YorkNet's robust infrastructure network ensures York Region remains resilient, competitive and future-ready. A critical component of this growth is YorkNet's industry-leading intelligent scalability approach which offers the ability to expand network capacity quickly and efficiently as needs evolve.

This innovative approach involves installing inner microducts within each conduit during initial construction and leaving the extra microducts empty until they are needed. When demand rises, new fibre can be added through these additional microducts without major disruption.

This "grow-as-you-go" design eliminates future design and construction costs by enabling installation of additional fibre strands into existing infrastructure. In dense urban areas where physical space is limited, intelligent scalability offers a more practical and sustainable path to long-term growth.

YorkNet successfully field-tested this approach in 2025, adding more than 34 kilometers of microduct capacity within existing conduit, including locations along the busy Highway 7 corridor in the City of Vaughan.

Connectivity meets opportunity

In today's digital age, reliable, high-speed internet isn't a luxury, it's a lifeline. Yet, rural communities across Canada remain underserved, disconnected from the tools that drive education, health care, commerce and innovation.

Building on its primary mission to improve the delivery of Regional services, YorkNet is pioneering a bold, collaborative solution. Thanks to a public-private partnership with Community Network Partners Inc., YorkNet was able to secure funding support from the UBF program. The funding enabled YorkNet to supercharge its expansion project to build more network to support Regional use while also creating the opportunity to bring fibre optic broadband directly to underserved homes.

Significant funding from all levels of government has been essential in supporting YorkNet's ability to expand broadband access. The Governments of Canada and Ontario committed more than \$48 million through the UBF. Together with investments from York Region and Community Network Partners Inc., the investment of nearly \$120 million is helping YorkNet extend its network by hundreds of kilometres, bringing high-speed service to thousands of underserved homes.

YorkNet and Galaxy Fibre, a subsidiary of Community Network Partners Inc., are committed to delivering UBF projects in alignment with federal and provincial timelines.

The network expansion entails:

- Extending the network by nearly 770 kilometres under tight timelines, serving more than 3,800 underserved homes eligible under the program
- Providing flexible open-access network connectivity to support expanded competition across internet service providers
- Preparing York Region to adapt to future technologies while providing connectivity solutions



YORKNET NETWORK MAP
 — Network after expansion



Estimates are based on 2024 pricing.

Spotlight on resident connectivity

YorkNet continues to light up new service areas, also known as fibrehoods. Fibrehoods are neighbourhoods equipped with fibre infrastructure, allowing residents to access stable, fast connectivity to support digital service delivery, improving the quality of life and supporting stronger communities.

By the end of 2025, all six planned fibrehoods under UBF in the Town of Georgina were

activated, marking an important milestone for YorkNet. With construction complete, YorkNet and its internet service provider partner, Galaxy Fibre, will continue connecting eligible residents as they sign up for service.

Across the broader program, YorkNet activated a total of eight fibrehoods in 2025, representing nearly 1,300 homes eligible for high-speed internet.

The power behind your home connection: Galaxy Fibre and YorkNet

YorkNet has built a strong partnership with Galaxy Fibre, a leading internet service provider dedicated to bridging the digital divide in underserved communities across Canada. This collaboration aims to enhance internet connectivity in York Region, helping to ensure residents have access to the fastest and most reliable high-speed internet technology available.

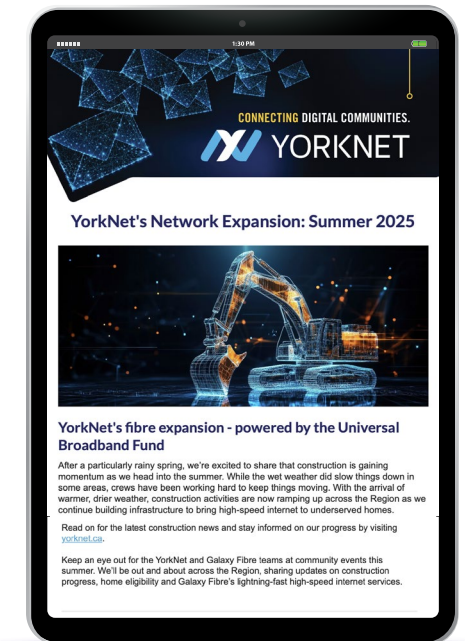
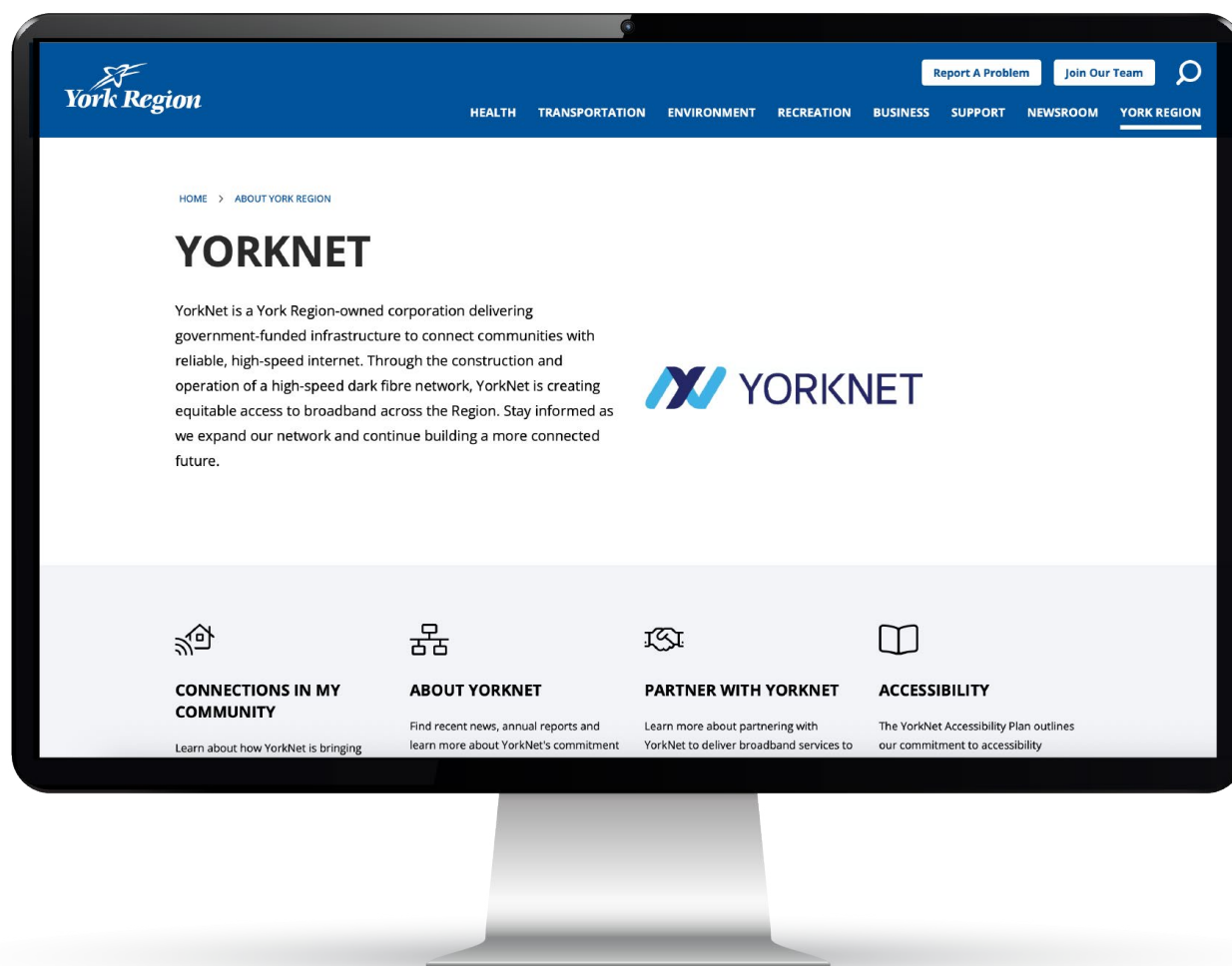
Galaxy Fibre, a subsidiary of Community Network Partners Inc., has a long-standing history of providing high-speed internet services to remote and underserved Canadian communities. With more than 30 years of experience, Galaxy Fibre's mission, much like YorkNet's, is to make the full potential of online connectivity available to everyone, regardless of where they live.

Through this partnership, Galaxy Fibre and YorkNet are dedicated to empowering communities and improving the quality of life for York Region residents by providing the fast, reliable high-speed internet services needed to thrive in today's digital world.

Home connections



“ YorkNet activated a total of eight fibrehoods in 2025, representing nearly 1,300 homes eligible for high-speed internet. ”



Connecting to and empowering communities

YorkNet continues to make significant strides in narrowing York Region's digital divide by extending its dark fibre network and bridging critical connectivity gaps. Through enhanced infrastructure, we empower communities to shift their focus toward growth and development, rather than foundational connectivity challenges.

YorkNet employs various channels to engage with residents, sharing updates on its network expansion initiatives. Engagement strategies and practices are continuously assessed to ensure effective communication and information delivery.

2025 highlights

- Issued four editions of *Connecting Digital Communities*, an electronic newsletter providing expansion project updates
- Launched a new webpage and refreshed presence on york.ca
- Participated in two community events in the Town of Georgina to answer resident questions and share information

2026 priorities

EXPAND

- ✓ Fibre network by more than 125 kilometres

CONNECT

- ✓ More Regional, municipal, public-sector and third-party connections to the network
- ✓ More underserved neighbourhoods in York Region and enable eligible residents to access high-speed internet services through UBF

COLLABORATE

- ✓ With internal partners to implement new digital solutions and build greater network redundancy
- ✓ With third-party partners to achieve efficiencies from joint construction, leverage advanced conduit placement opportunities and facilitate use of the YorkNet fibre network

CONTINUE

- ✓ Construction funded through York Region, federal and provincial governments, and private-sector partners to expand into rural communities to bridge the digital divide in York Region

Where fibre leads, the future follows

Can York Region's dark fibre be a digital nervous system?

With the approaching completion of YorkNet's major network expansion to more than 1,600 kilometers of dark fibre across York Region, we are nearing an opportunity to explore new technologies to enhance municipal operations and strengthen good governance.

Fibre sensing technology can transform standard optical fibre into a continuous, highly sensitive sensor capable of detecting temperature, strain, vibration and acoustic energy along its entire length. This technology turns the entire network into a highly sensitive, real-time data and intelligence system.

How fibre sensing supports good governance

Governance principle	How fibre sensing can help
Transparency	Provides objective, real-time data on infrastructure condition
Accountability	Tracks asset performance
Efficiency	Enables predictive maintenance and can reduce emergency repairs
Equity	Helps prioritize investments based on measurable data
Resilience	Detects risks early and supports rapid response
Sustainability	Reduces waste and supports environmental monitoring

Fibre sensing has the power to turn YorkNet infrastructure into a smart, responsive system. Using existing fibre networks is a cost-effective solution to providing real-time awareness of what's happening across critical Regional infrastructure.

It's not just about better technology, it's about better services.





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