

# United Counties of Leeds and Grenville



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UNITED COUNTIES OF LEEDS AND GRENVILLE AWARDS BROADBAND CONTRACT**

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville is pleased to announce the awarding of the broadband connectivity contract to Barrett Xplore Inc. The project will result in broadband coverage being made available to 83% of the un-serviced households in Leeds and Grenville.

“Addressing the broadband gap is a longstanding priority of the United Counties because access to this vital infrastructure supports economic development in the region,” said Douglas Struthers, Warden of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville. “The Barrett Xplore broadband design commits the company to investing a total of \$11 million into the United Counties over the first five years of the project – we find that very exciting and are looking forward to this partnership” said Warden Struthers.

The broadband project calls for matching contributions of \$259,000 from the Ontario Rural Connections program and the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, together with a capital investment of \$4.3 million from Barrett Xplore. It is expected that the full network will be operational by June 2008.

“As Canada’s largest and fastest growing provider of rural broadband, Barrett is very pleased to have been awarded another opportunity to bridge the urban/rural digital divide in Ontario. Our partnership with Leeds and Grenville will create unprecedented

business, educational and social access for its residents” said John Naduri, CEO of Barrett Xplore.

*Rural Connections: The Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program* is a one time, \$10 million Provincial initiative. Following an application and review process, the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville were approved to receive funding to help with infrastructure and implementation costs. The program is a joint effort between the Ministries of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs, Government Services, and Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

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