



A fast-read update on Lake County's county-owned, high-speed fiber optic network



Silver Bay residents – Win a Big Screen TV!

Lake Connections is ready to bring homes and businesses in Silver Bay High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services! To join the installation schedule and secure your place in line, simply fill out an application for service with us.

To complete your application for service:

- Call 218-834-8500 and speak to our knowledgeable Customer Service Team
- Or, come see us at: 409 17th Ave., Two Harbors, MN 55616

Now through April 30, anyone in Silver Bay who completes an application for service and joins the installation schedule will be registered to win a Big Screen HD TV!

PLEASE NOTE

- If you have already completed an application for service and joined the installation schedule, you are included in the drawing for the Big Screen HD TV.
- If you have requested a fiber drop to your home or business with Lake Connections, you are not automatically on the installation schedule. Please call to complete your application for service. *No purchase necessary.*

Lake Connections first “Friendly” Hookup – Faron at the Silver Bay True Value

Lake Connections recently interviewed their first friendly hookup in Silver Bay, Faron, owner and operator of True Value. Here is a portion of that interview with Faron.

What Lake Connections services are you using today?

We are currently using Lake Connections' High-Speed Internet service. We're hooked-up as a friendly test for them, and are the only ones currently live in Silver Bay.

What devices are currently using the High-Speed Internet?

We have four computers (three point-of-sale systems, one office computer), and two iPads.

What is your favorite thing about using the Lake Connections High-Speed Internet?

It's fun pushing the limits of it, and it's interesting to have Lake Connections come in to test the system. They are checking for any kinks to work out before going live with all of Silver Bay.

Have you experienced any problems with the service?

No problems at all with the service. We've had some issues with our router in our store, and now we know what direction we need to go in terms of that.

How satisfied are you with your service from Lake Connections?

We are very satisfied. The only issue has been our router; it's not allowing the High-Speed Internet to work at its full potential (speed).

How is True Value benefiting from Lake Connections, and how long have you been using it.

- Has sped up our credit card processing, a lot.
- We are able to show our customers online products and reviews with no delay.
- Customers can use wireless when visiting the store.
- Allows us to utilize the Internet more, to its fullest extent.
- Lake Connections is bringing technology into a place that has been limited.



How would you compare Lake Connections' High-Speed Internet service to your previous provider?

Our previous provider wasn't able to offer us the speed we needed - based on our number of devices. They weren't able to offer us anything better. Lake Connections offers speeds higher than anything else available, and helps us show people what they can order online. We are happy and very excited to be able to give this option to our customers.

Would you recommend Lake Connections to others?

Yes, I would. We've received wonderful numbers so far with the Internet. We are young business owners, and we are here to bring the technology world to people who haven't seen this before. Lake Connections' services are truly reasonably priced for what they are offering. There may be certain people who feel they don't need this amount of speed, but when it all gets up and running, they will offer everyone high quality services. You may think you are paying a premium, but you're getting the best service when it comes to speed and high-definition.

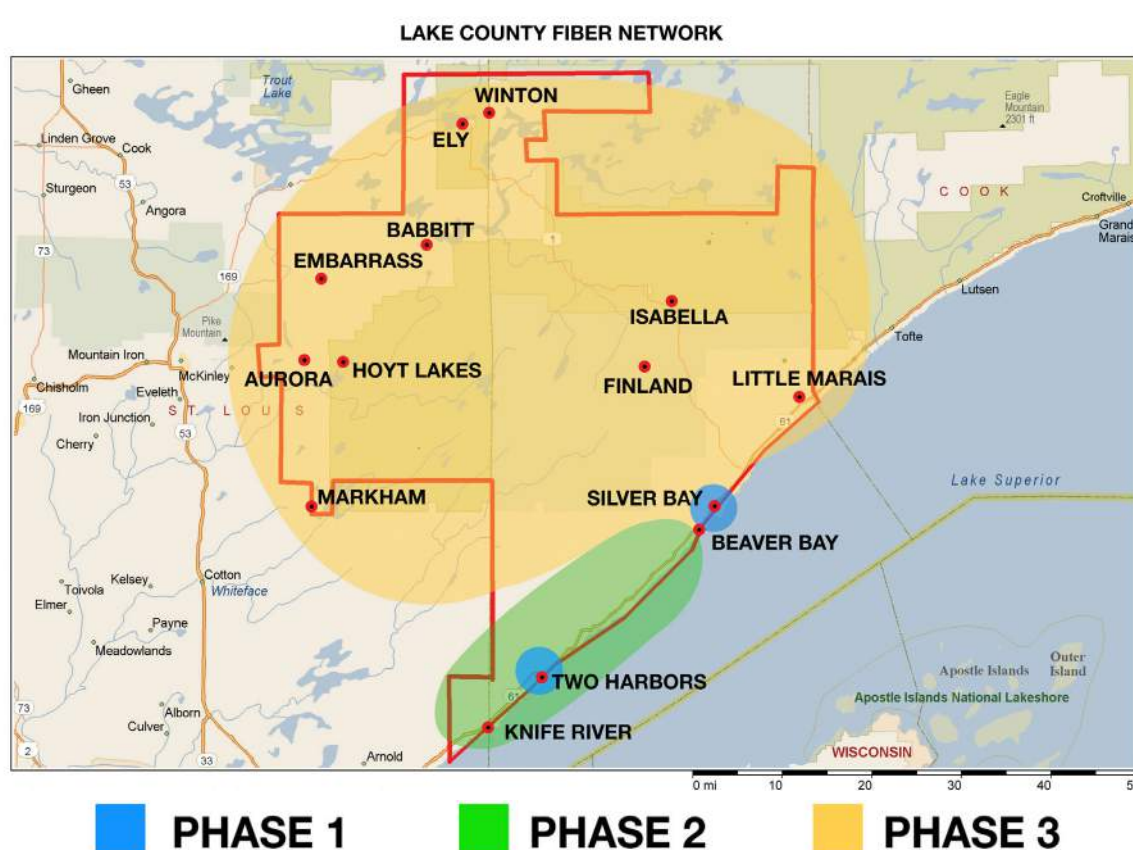


Digital TV is right around the corner!

The Lake Connections Administrative and Service Center is outfitted with the Digital TV infrastructure. Contract negotiations and agreements for major networks are wrapping-up, allowing Lake Connections Digital TV service to be live sooner than expected. With Digital TV from Lake Connections you can expect over 200 network channels, over 40 movie channels, 50 HD channels, 50 music channels, and much more. With different packages to choose from, there is something for everyone.

Construction Update

Weather has continued to pose challenges for the construction crews. Record days of sub zero temperatures, and considerable snowfall have created delays even into Spring. The crews have continued when able, working on splicing, fusing, and lashing fiber.



IMPORTANT NOTE:

If you are interested in having fiber to your home or business and you see crews drive by or working in your area without stopping, do not worry, that is the main line crew. Pre sales are starting soon, and the drop crew will be along eventually to get you connected if you have requested them to do so. If you have any questions please call Lake Connections at 218-834-8500.

ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

Phase One:

Two Harbors • Silver Bay

Silver Bay residents are urged to beat the rush and join the installation schedule. This schedule ensures you a place in line for getting the Lake Connections services installed inside your home or business – don't miss this early bird opportunity – contact Lake Connections today and fill out an application for service.

Pole ownership disputes are continuing to delay advancement in Two Harbors. Lake County is hopeful an agreement can be made over the next 60-90 days.

Phase Two:

Duluth Township • Knife River • Silver Creek Township • Beaver Bay Township

Phase two had considerable construction progress in 2013, and is over 60% complete. There are roughly 50 miles still needing to be constructed on this phase, keeping it on track to be completed during the first half of 2014.

Rural Utility Services (RUS) has approved the construction agreement for phase 2B. Compass Engineering is working on final configurations for this Phase, and construction is planned to begin the first half of 2014.

Phase Three:

Ely • Aurora • Babbitt • Hoyt Lakes • Basset Township • Colvin Township • Crystal Bay Township • Embarrass Township • Fall Lake Township • Morse Township • Stony River Township • Waasa Township • White Township • And several unorganized townships

Rural Utility Services (RUS) approved the construction agreement for this phase in February. Compass Engineering is working on final configurations for this phase, and construction is set to begin in May of this year and last through July of 2015.

Employment Opportunities:

Lake Connections is currently hiring for the position of Customer Support Specialist, Network Technician, and Network Administrator. For more information, please visit the website at www.lakeconnections.com/careers and be sure to continue to check the site for future employment opportunities.



Can't wait until the next Gaining Speed?
Be sure to follow Lake Connections on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news and events!



For project and construction updates see “Gaining Speed” on www.lakeconnections.com



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