



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

Silver Bay Community Meeting

On May 1, Lake Connections held a community open house at the Silver Bay Fire Hall. The event was a great success with over 200 people attending throughout the evening. Residents of Silver Bay were able to speak with the knowledgeable Lake Connections Customer Service staff on service offerings and sign-up for High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services by filling out an application for service. Attendees were very pleased to see the progress Lake Connections is making in their community. Zups was also on-site to cater the event.



At the conclusion of the evening, Lake Connections held the drawing for the big Screen HDTV. Anyone who filled out an application for service by May 1 was made eligible to win. A big congratulations to Monica Mealey, who was the lucky winner. Monica will be able to watch the Lake Connections Digital TV lineup in style on her new HDTV.

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

PLEASE NOTE

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.

Lake Connections is your local broadband provider, visit the site today and see why you should make the switch and get connected!

Lake Connections New Business Spotlight – XSAN TV

XSAN TV, an Internet-based video editing and live broadcasting company located in Silver Bay, recently got connected with Lake Connections High-Speed Internet. Lake Connections had the opportunity to interview owner Barry Braun on his high-speed connection and what it means for his business.

How long have you been using Lake Connections High-Speed Internet?

One month, since April 25th. I have expected some hiccups here and there since the installation, but have had zero. In order for my business to do what it does, we need a network with horsepower; Lake Connections is so fast.

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

I've had numerous providers in the past, which were below average, and recently I had two separate accounts that worked ok, but they were really slow. There have been limited options until Lake Connections became available.

This is technology that only big cities have, and now we have it, that's pretty cool. With that said, XSAN can now work at events that we normally would not have done in the past because we would not have had the capacity. We have even made changes to our website because of our new, higher speeds.

How does High-Speed Internet benefit your business, XSAN?

Lake Connections will be vital in the development of our company. The switch to High-Speed Internet is one that will increase our productivity and help things run more smoothly.

"Lake Connections is lightning fast!"

Having the capabilities of High-Speed Internet will help in the long run because I will be able to hire more people locally. Before it never made sense for me to hire locally, but now I have the ability to hire full-time employees in this area.

With live broadcasting, we can struggle in certain areas of the United States that don't have good Internet speeds/access. The beauty is, now that we have the fiber broadband, employees can send footage to my office and I can easily broadcast it to the rest of the world. Before Lake Connections, there was no way I could do that simply due to my restrictions with Internet.



"As the Internet gets faster, everything else gets faster."

What kind of files are you transferring?

Many of my employees are on the road in different parts of the world, and they need to upload and send video footage to me. XSAN stores, edits and files a lot of footage on hard drives (network storage). One of my guys uploaded 40GB of footage and I downloaded it in 7 minutes, which is just incredible! If I were to use my old connection, even connected directly to the router, it would have taken 2 or 3 days. That's if the connection would've been stable enough. As the Internet gets faster, everything else gets faster.

Would you recommend Lake Connections?

Lake Connections is lightning fast! There hasn't been anything wrong with my High-Speed Internet service. I would definitely recommend Lake Connections to family and friends.

I have a friend who drives 30 minutes to my office so he can work and use my High-Speed Internet connection. He gets more accomplished at my office than he can at his house, because his Internet is too slow there.

What does Lake Connections bring to Lake County?

Everyone knows about the North Shore, its beauty and resources. Lake Connections is bringing a boom to the county, young folks and young professionals will want to be here.

Introducing the New Lake Connections Website

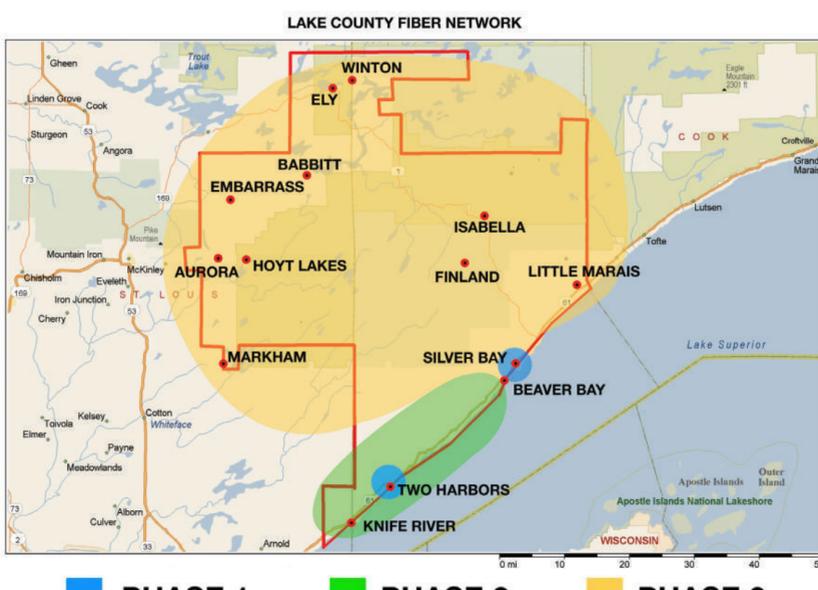
Lake Connections proudly announced the launch of their new website earlier this month, LakeConnections.com. The new website will feature local news, stories and events, along with information on the Lake Connections High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services. If you have local news or events that you would like to share on the new website, be sure to contact Lake Connections! Also visit the site to see current pricing, project status, the Digital TV lineup and more!



ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

Construction Update

The construction crews are gearing up for warmer weather and are working on splicing, fusing and lashing fiber in Phase One. Many homes and businesses in Silver Bay are hooked-up and ready to go live with High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services.



Phase One:

Two Harbors • Silver Bay

Silver Bay homes and businesses are encouraged 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.

If you live in Silver Bay and haven't yet filled out an application for service, complete your application by:

- Calling 218-834-8500 and speaking to our knowledgeable Customer Service Team
- Or, by coming to see us at: 409 17th Ave., Two Harbors, MN 55616

Pole ownership disputes are continuing to delay advancement in Two Harbors. Lake County is hopeful an agreement can be made over the next 30-60 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 by July 31st. Pre-sales notifications have started for certain routes – be on the look out for your notification in the mail.

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. Construction is set to begin in May of this year and last through July of 2015. The construction crews are working on a path leading from the south to the north (Island Lake to Aurora, and Silver Bay to Isabella).

Employment Opportunities:

Lake Connections is currently hiring for the following positions: 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.es.



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



GET CONNECTED • STAY CONNECTED • LIVE CONNECTED