



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

## Lake Connections is LIVE in Two Harbors

Lake Connections is pleased to announce they have reached a pole attachment agreement with Frontier Communications, and is now moving forward with High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice service offerings in the city of Two Harbors. An application must be completed to receive Lake Connections' services - even if a fiber drop was previously requested.

"Lake Connections is excited about the forward progress in the City of Two Harbors," stated Jeff Roiland, Lake Connections General Manager.

"Our team has been extremely busy processing applications for service, answering questions and getting folks the materials they need to get connected."

There is considerable demand for the local service. Approximately 75% of homes and businesses in Two Harbors have indicated interest in Lake Connections' High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice service offerings.

### Two easy steps to get connected:

1. Call 218-834-8500, or stop at 409 17th Ave., Two Harbors, MN 55616
2. Complete an application with our knowledgeable customer service team



### 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 or visit the Lake Connections headquarters 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 – Granite Gear

Dave Johnson, Strategic Accounts Manager for Granite Gear, an internationally respected backpack and outdoor gear company based in Two Harbors, recently spoke with Lake Connections about what having High-Speed Internet service has meant for their business.

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

Granite Gear has been using Lake Connections High-Speed Internet since mid-May.

### How does High-Speed Internet benefit Granite Gear?

High-Speed Internet service has benefited us in a number of ways. **Files that used to take us hours to upload now take a matter of minutes – it's just amazing.** We used to have to leave our computers on when we left for the day if something hadn't gone through - with Lake Connections High-Speed Internet we no longer have that problem.

Having Lake Connections' High-Speed Internet has made it easier for us to meet customer expectations in a digital age. Also, our art director is able to work days again. Without High-Speed Internet there was no way he could get his work done during the day. He would have to wait until late at night, when no one else was in the office, to have enough bandwidth to get his work done.



### What kind of files are you transferring?

We work with a lot of large retailers across the nation, and need to be able to send high-resolution images of our products to them. We also have YouTube videos that we upload and a number of other documents we use internally.

### Would you recommend Lake Connections?

Yes. Since being hooked-up we have had zero service interruptions or crashes like we did before having Lake Connections service.

**"Having Lake Connections' High-Speed Internet has made it easier for us to meet customer expectations in a digital age."**

Dave Johnson, Strategic Account Manager, Granite Gear

## Lake Connections in the News

Jeff Roiland, general manager of Lake Connections, was featured in the June edition of *Northern Wilds*, a popular North Shore publication. The article "Lighting Up the North Shore, Broadband Goes Live," touches on both the Lake County and Cook County fiber broadband projects. Follow this link to read the full article, found on pages 52 and 53 of the publication, [Click Here](#).

Lake Connections was also featured in the July issue of *Twin Cities Business Magazine*. Gene Rebeck, the magazine's northern Minnesota correspondent, interviewed Jeff Roiland and other project affiliates including Dave Johnson from Granite Gear and County Administrator, Matt Huddleston, for his rural broadband article. Rebeck's article "High-Speed Broadband is not a Luxury," speaks to the economic importance and necessity of rural broadband, and how the Lake County fiber project has paved the way for other parts of Minnesota.

To read the complete article, found on page 81, [Click Here](#).



ALL PHASES ARE SCHEDULED IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER.

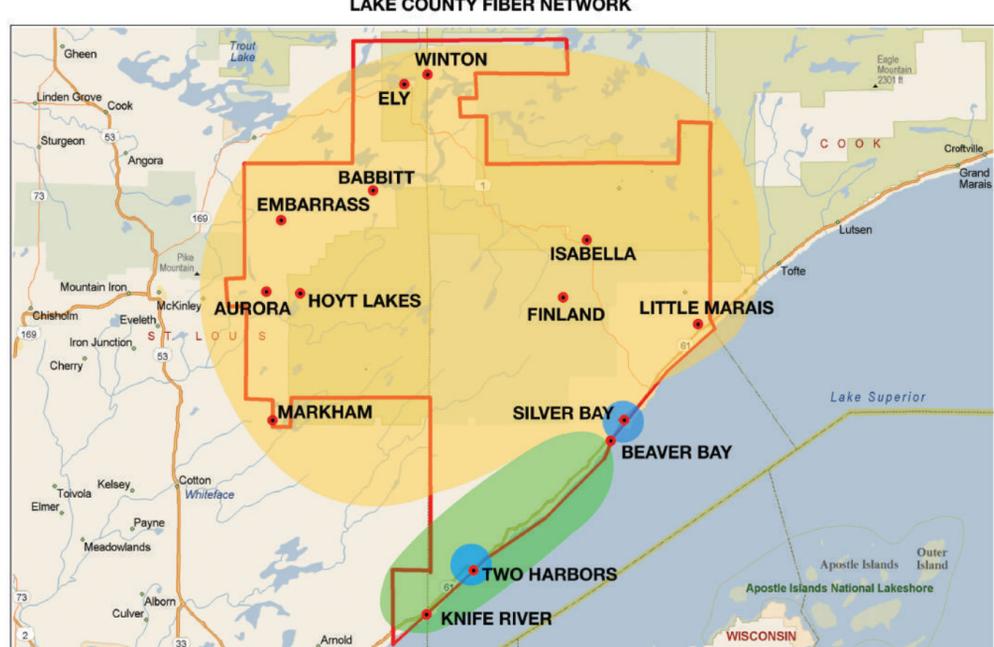
## Construction Update

The construction crews are busy working on splicing, fusing, lashing and testing fiber in Phase One. With the pole ownership agreement met with Frontier Communications, Two Harbors is back on track for service. Crews are also working long summer hours in Phases 2 and 3 to make up for delays caused by inclement weather. Be sure to visit our website at [LakeConnections.com](#) for the latest construction updates.

### 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, don't worry, that is the main line crew. Pre sales have started on certain routes and the drop crew will be along to get you connected, if you have signed up for services. If you have any questions please call Lake Connections at 218-834-8500.

### LAKE COUNTY FIBER NETWORK



**■ PHASE 1    ■ PHASE 2    ■ PHASE 3**

### Phase One:

#### Two Harbors • Silver Bay

Most homes and businesses in Silver Bay are ready for live service. All testing of live service in Silver Bay will be complete by the end of July.

Two Harbors will be ready by the end of July, so be sure to contact Lake Connections' customer service team, complete an application for service and join the installation schedule. The installation schedule ensures you a place in line for getting High-Speed Internet, Digital TV and Voice services installed inside your home or business – don't miss this early bird opportunity – contact Lake Connections today and complete an application for service.

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### Phase Two:

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

Phase Two is over 60% complete, with 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 been sent for certain routes – be on the look out for your notification postcard 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 Phase Three in February. Construction began in May and will be finished in 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). There have been slight delays because of wet ground for the boring and plow crews.

Lake County currently has a public bid for construction open for the general areas surrounding Ely. This bid is open until July 16, 2014 at 2:00pm. [Click Here](#) to read the full notice.

## 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.

## 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