

EORN Newsletter June 2024



EORN

EASTERN ONTARIO REGIONAL NETWORK

Welcome to the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) newsletter. Below you'll find an update on the Cell Gap Project as well as some other things we are commonly asked about. Please encourage others to [sign up](#) for the newsletter as well.

Improved cell service in eastern Ontario

On June 3, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), the Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure, Infrastructure Canada and Rogers Communications [announced that Rogers 5G mobile services are now available](#) in 21 eastern Ontario communities. Forty-two new cell towers and four additional upgrades to existing sites are completed, and now offer Rogers 5G mobile services to residents, businesses and visitors. [A press release about the most recent Cell Gap Project successes is published here.](#)



Meet our new chair and board members

Jennifer Murphy is the new chair of EORN. Murphy was elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) in Kingston on May 30. Murphy is the mayor of the Township of Bonnechere Valley and had been an Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus (EOWC) representative on the EORN board of directors since 2021.

Thank you to Pierre Leroux and Liz Danielsen who have concluded their terms with the EORN board and welcome to Bonnie Clark and Frances Smith, our newest board members. Clark is the current warden of Peterborough County and Smith is the warden of Frontenac County. They now round out EORN's [nine-member board](#). This is Smith's second time on the EORN board and she was also elected as vice-chair.



Cell tower in Clayton

New cell towers keep coming online as part of the [EORN Cell Gap Project](#). These new towers are intended to expand service where there currently is limited or no service. They are often located in areas that are traditionally not covered by telecom service providers because of the limited number of people who live, work or travel on major roadways in these areas. This was the case for an area in and around Clayton in the Municipality of Mississippi Mills on the County of Lanark. The [CBC recently did a story](#) on some of the challenges around cell service in the Clayton area. Good news! The new Clayton cell phone

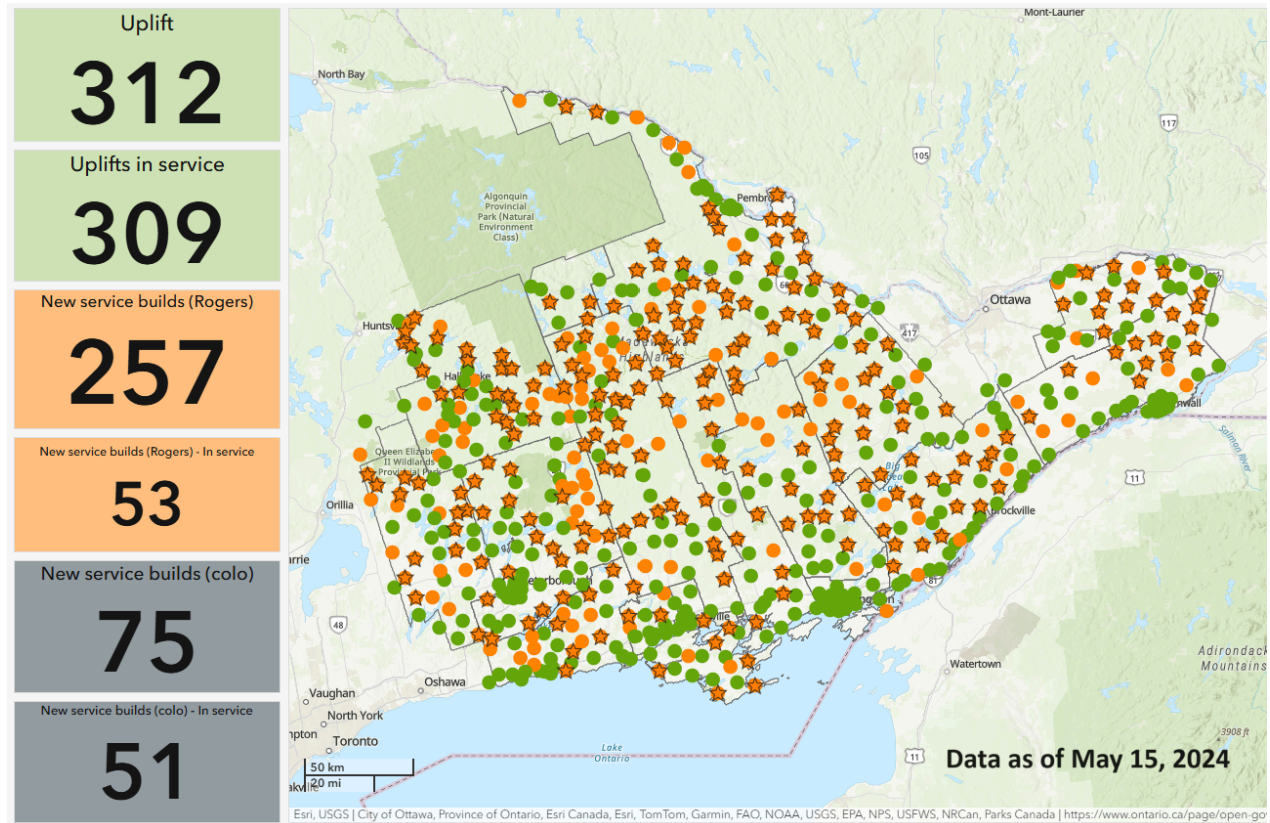
tower is now in service, one of 53 new towers in service today.



Cell Gap Project by the numbers

The EORN Cell Gap Project aims to have 99 per cent of eastern Ontario where people live, work and travel on major roadways covered with voice calling service, 95 per cent with standard definition coverage and 85 per cent with high definition service. To do so we have partnered with Rogers to upgrade 312 existing towers with new 5G equipment, build 257 new cell towers and add new equipment to 75 existing towers from third party telecom service providers (known as co-locations). To date we have upgraded 309 towers, have put 53 new cell towers in service, and have put 51 co-locations in service as well. [A map of](#)

[these improvements to cell service in eastern Ontario is available on our website.](#)



CFO retires

Thank you Lisa Hirvi for your years of dedication to EORN and congratulations on your retirement. Hirvi was the CFO during EORN's original broadband project (2010 to 2015) and returned to the position for the Cell Gap Project. Pictured here with CEO Jason St.Pierre during EORN's AGM in May, Hirvi said goodbye to staff and board members. Hirvi

will be replaced by Zach Drinkwalter who comes to EORN from the Township of Ramara.



New strategic plan

EORN board and staff members have been working on a new strategic plan. This will be a five-year vision for the organization as EORN is looking to create efficiencies by exploring the introduction of new technologies and services, innovative responses to shared municipal needs like procurement strategies, project management solutions, and activities

that support regional economic growth. The plan is to be published by the end of the summer. Stay tuned.

Resources

www.eorn.ca features a number of resources for municipalities and residents such as:

- [EORN backgrounder](#) (1 MB/PDF)
- [General information and FAQ on Cell Gap Project](#) (web page)
- [5G Technology Resource Guide](#) (15 MB/PDF)
- [Municipal Tower Siting Resource Guide](#) (10 MB/PDF).