Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology
Public Meeting

May 5, 2021

R.A.B.I.T.
Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology

Rural Access to Internet Technology (RABIT) Task Force

Deputy Mayor Rob Potter
Chair

Mayor Alar Soever

Councillor Rob Sampson

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Town of The Blue Mountains Staff

- Chief Administrative Officer Shawn Everitt
- Director of Operations Shawn Carey
- Town Clerk Corrina Giles
- Manager of Communications and Economic Development Tim Hendry
- Executive Assistant Sarah Merrifield

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Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology

Task Force Purpose and Mandate – Deputy Mayor Potter

- No one government can solve this challenge alone. It will take a collective effort to find solutions

- No current program serving our community – we have to take the lead ourselves

- Potential partners include neighbouring municipalities, other levels of government and private service providers

- Vital that local residents, farmers, workers, students, businesses, emergency responders and medical providers –everyone -- have access to reliable and affordable broadband internet service across the entirety of our municipality;

- Preference for fiber optic cable service to every location on every sideroad but open to other options

Work Undertaken to Date – Deputy Mayor Potter

- Task Force formed by Council June, 2020 – meets every two weeks
- Meetings with other municipal Broadband leaders
- Meetings with private Internet Service Providers
- Supported three applications by local providers
- Attended webinars on options available
- Mapping to determine areas of no or substandard service availability
- Public Information Centre in February to hear from potential partners and funding agencies
- Today – launch of Speed Test Challenge

The Town of The Blue Mountains in Northeast Grey County

The Blue Mountains Community Profile – Mayor Soever

- Located within the rolling landscape of the Niagara Escarpment on the sparking shores of Georgian Bay

- Built on a history of agriculture, processing, manufacturing and recreational activities.

- Our community is home to many unique towns, hamlets and villages along with over 11,000 hectares of productive agricultural land.

- The Blue Mountains is known for its world-class ski resorts, hiking and cycling trails, boating, fishing and paddling experiences, golf courses, rock climbing and of course, kilometers of pristine waterfront.

- It is these features that make it the Town of the Blue Mountains, a very popular place to visit and to live, work and play, and that have made us one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario.
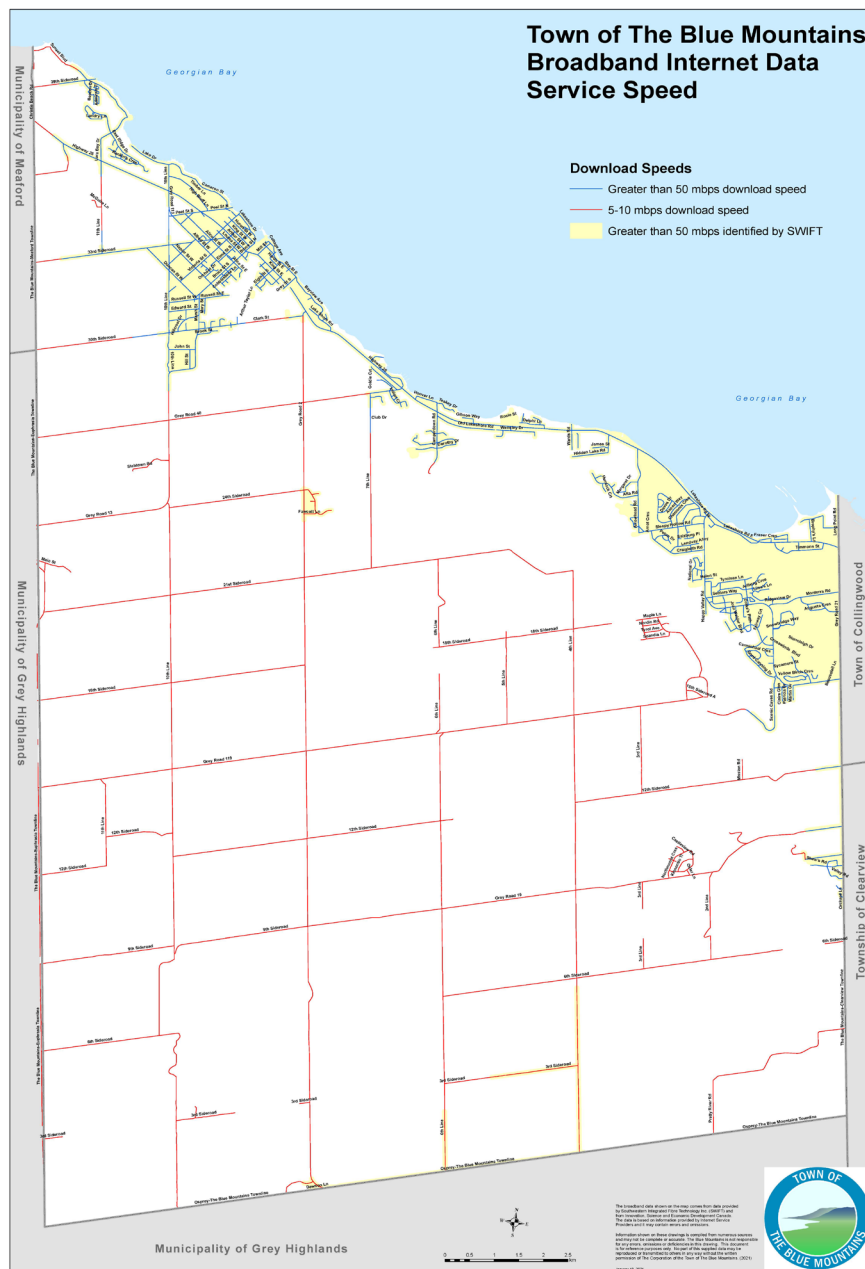
Community Profile - Statistics

Community Profile	The Blue Mountains	Grey County
Population -2016 Census	7,025	93,830
Voters List -2018	12,066	85,882
Households -2020	8,210	51,187
Total private dwellings	6,477	47,560
Private dwellings occupied by usual residents	3,271	39,563
Private dwellings not occupied by usual residents	3,206	7,997
Percentage Seasonal Dwellings	49%	17%
Average Age	51.8	45.4
Median Age	57.6	49.3
Percent population Older than 65	33.4%	24.1%
Median total income of households in 2015	$ 78,490	$ 62,935
Average total income of households in 2015	$ 122,199	$ 68,737
Post Secondary certificat degree or diploma	64%	49%
Secondary (High School) Diploma or equivalent	25%	29%
No certificate, diploma or degree	11%	22%

TOWN OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS

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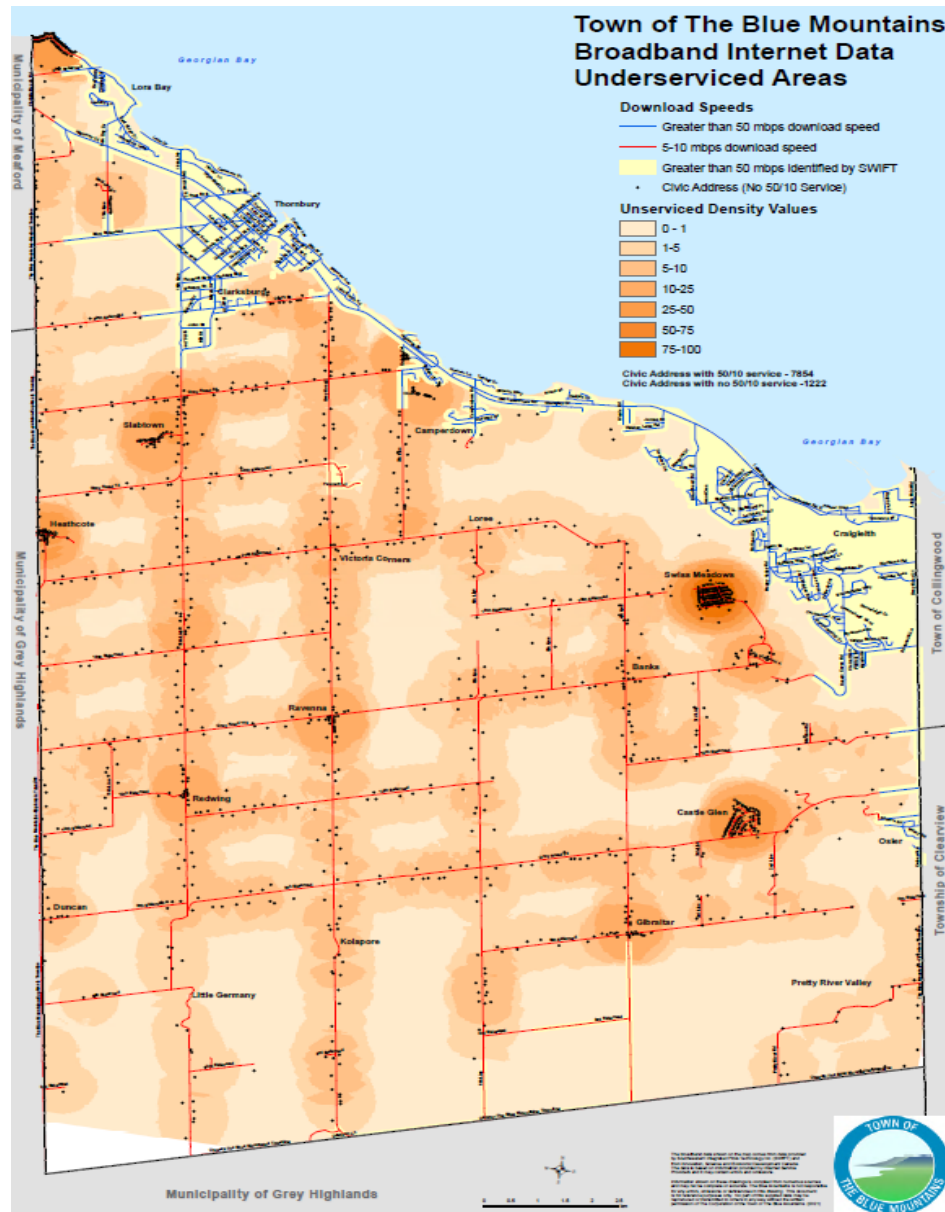# Current Broadband Coverage

Data Sources:
- 50/10 coverage area by SWIFT
- Street line network by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Population Density – Underserviced Areas

1,222 street addresses without 50/10 service
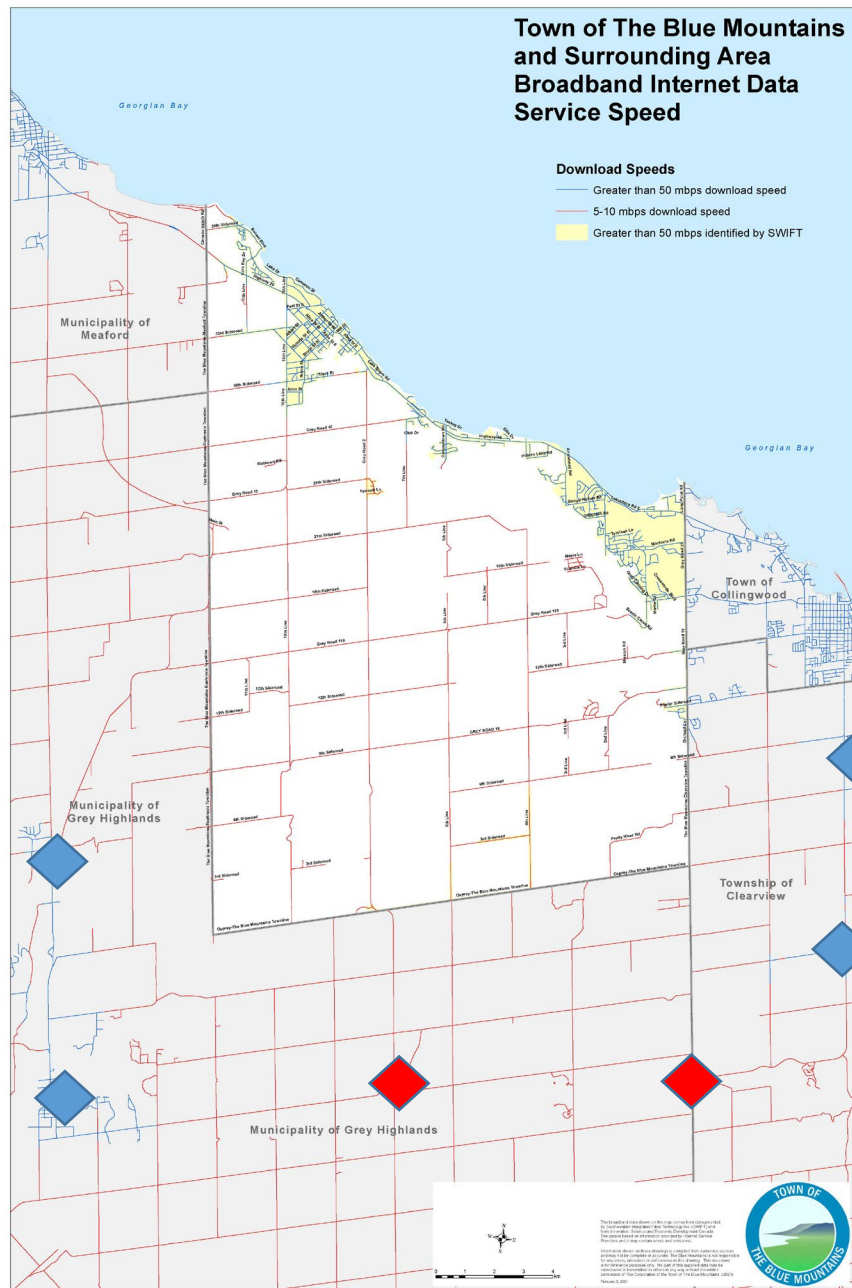
3,000+ new units in development process

Data Sources:
- 50/10 coverage area by SWIFT
- Street line network by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
- Civic address data by The Corporation of the Town of The Blue Mountains

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Regional Broadband Coverage

Town of The Blue Mountains and Surrounding Area Broadband Internet Data Service Speed

Download Speeds
— Greater than 50 mbps download speed
— 5-10 mbps download speed
▢ Greater than 50 mbps identified by SWIFT

◆ Small community with 50/10

◆ Small community without 50/10

Data Sources:
- 50/10 coverage area by SWIFT
- Street line network by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada

Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology

Serving Our Truly Rural Areas – Mayor Soever

- RABIT (Rural Access to Broadband Internet Technology) as its name suggests is focused on serving our truly rural areas
- In this it is meant to augment SWIFT (Southwestern Integrated Fibre Technology)
- To date approved SWIFT projects serve areas with an average 15.7 homes per kilometre or one premises per 63.6 metres (209 feet)
- Average project size is 522 premises, with a median of 471
- These are numbers which are difficult to amass in truly rural areas
- RABIT's goal is to see high speed service for every last part of the Town of The Blue Mountains.
- Our objective is to make sure the last mile gets served and not just the first mile.
- We look forward to working with the internet providers to achieve that goal

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The Need for Rural High Speed Internet

The goal is to become a Smart Community – one that uses effective connectivity to create new sources of value, such as improved quality of life for residents and a more sustainable, innovative, and inclusive economy.
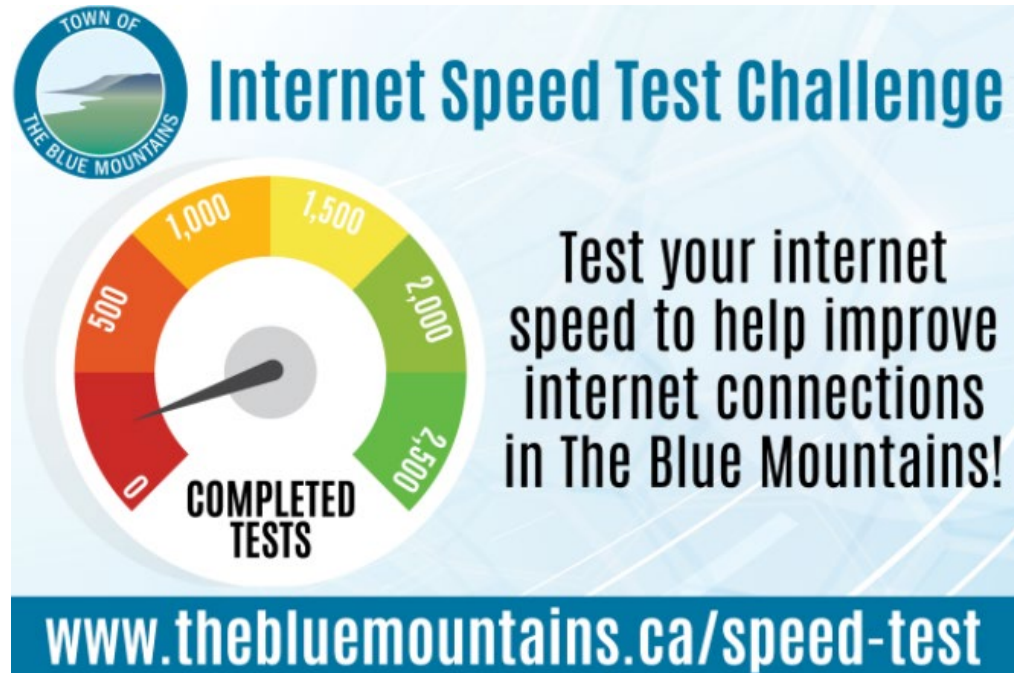
- Our changing demographic

- The trend to work from home

- Modern agricultural practices

- Tele-medicine

- On-line learning

- Intelligent municipality – traffic sensors, smart meters, etc.

The Blue Mountains Internet Speed Test Challenge

- Being conducted in May 2021 with a goal of adding another 2,500 test results to the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) database on internet speeds in The Blue Mountains

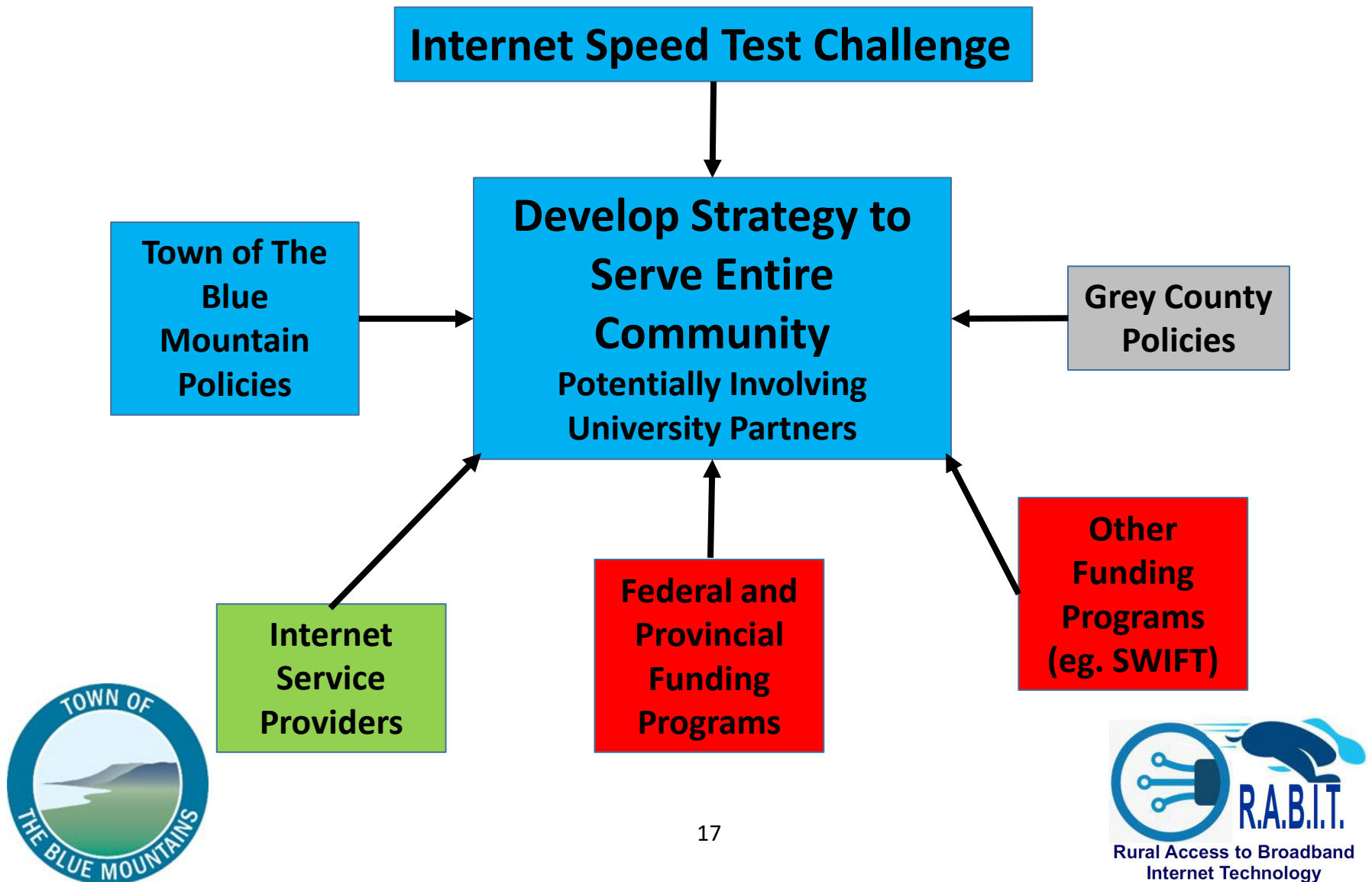## www.thebluemountains.ca/speed-test

Canadian Internet Registration Authority ("CIRA") Presentation

- Grant Street, IPT Product Manager
- Attending with Grant are:
  - Terry Dalton, President and Co-Founder, *i*-VALLEY
  - Barry Gander, Vice President and Co-Founder, *i*-VALLEY

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Next Steps – Chair Deputy Mayor Potter

Internet Speed Test Challenge

Develop Strategy to Serve Entire Community
Potentially Involving University Partners

Town of The Blue Mountain Policies

Grey County Policies

Internet Service Providers

Federal and Provincial Funding Programs

Other Funding Programs (eg. SWIFT)

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Questions or Comments?

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