

# The Edge

## Monthly Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 17, January 1, 2005

### ECIS Strategic Direction in the New Year

The Edge has received Community Access Program funding for 2004-2005. We have many ongoing plans that are going full steam ahead in the New Year!

Of course, the big topic on everyone's mind is our ongoing attempt to make high speed broadband Internet available to our area. This project is coming along faster than we could have hoped for, and we will have more specific good news for the next newsletter. We can tell you that, if we are given the opportunity to put in the system we have planned, it will be a robust enough system to carry streaming video and Internet access at speeds of around one million bits per second (as a comparison, the a 33k dial-up connection is running at a speed of thirty three thousand bits per second). That is fast enough to carry real time streaming video and voice content. The system will be completely wireless, and will be strong enough for the signal to maintain a perfect connection throughout the valley. Our proposal has received a lot of regional and a growing amount of federal attention, and if successful we can look forward to the Edgewood area being a model for rural communities in similar need across the country!

The most exciting thing about this project is that it will enable us, as a community, to be able to have a much greater hand in deciding our own future. We can be virtually present in the "big city" world of business, services and government, thus transcending the geographic limitations of our area.

This New Year season we would like to thank all the volunteers who make any of these projects possible. We could not remain open without your help!

### The Edge Hosts Focus Group

The Edge CAP site hosted a focus group session, which was part of a nation wide study being with the topic of how to best combat the Digital Divide.

The Digital Divide Network states:

There has always been a gap between those people and communities who can make effective use of information technology and those who cannot. Now, more than ever, unequal adoption of technology excludes many from reaping the fruits of the economy.

(Source: [Digital Divide Network](#))

Statistics Canada defines five groups as being among those least likely to make effective use of Internet technology: older Canadians, Canadians with low income or low education, Francophones, rural Canadians, and Aboriginal people. New Canadians and persons with disabilities are often included as Digital Divide communities as well. (Source: <http://pcna.vcn.bc.ca/>, the PCNA website.)

Our thanks to the volunteers who participated in this group: Carlene Enge, Dot Crabbe, Larry Jones, Hannah Turnbull, Doug Butt, and Jean Bassett. Hopefully this information will help all Canadians to access the benefits of the Internet.

**Be sure to Contact The Edge with YOUR Events to be included in our monthly Newsletter and Calendar**

Special Thanks To:

