

Jack's Lake Association
www.jackslakeassociation.ca
North Kawartha & Havelock, Belmont, Methuen, Ontario

2020 June 17

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, MPs, and the House Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology,

HIGH SPEED Internet is required to all properties in rural Apsley, ON

We are a lake association for the Jack Lake area just south of Apsley, ON, which has about 500-600 homes in the immediate vicinity of the lake.

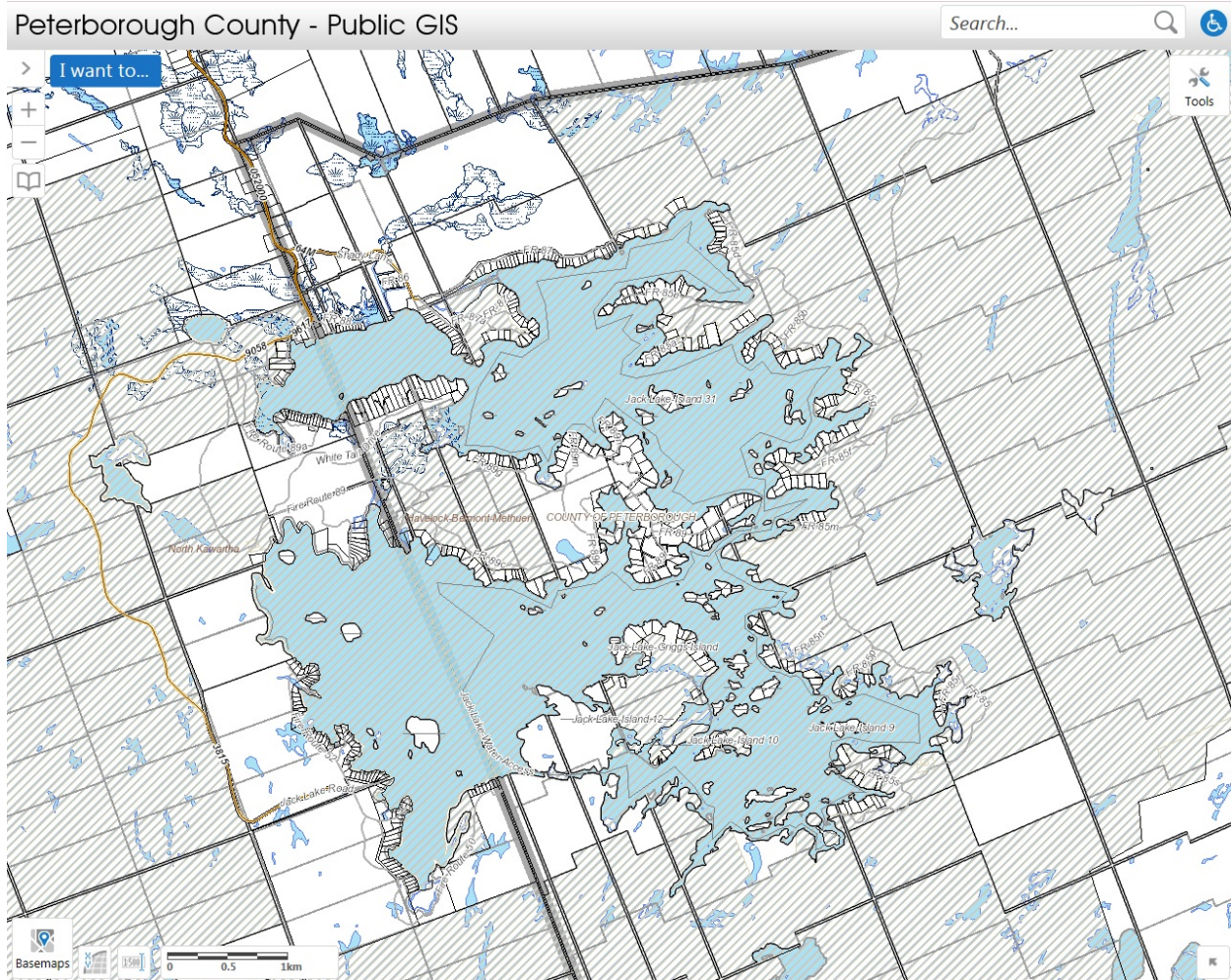
These are a mixture of household residences, with common usage ranging from 7 or 5 days/week all year, down to 5 or 2 days/week half the year ... and in the current COVID work-from-home world we are skewing more towards the higher end of that.

There has been a growing need in this direction anyways, but there now is a great and immediate need for Internet speed and capacity to serve multiple breadwinners working, multiple students studying (elementary, high school, and college/university), and multiple recreational Internet users ... at full video+audio loads, all at the same time, all days of the week, for each and every property in this rural area. Many are specifying 50down/10up Mbps minimum speed per household.

High speed Internet service to the home is vital to living here, working here, studying here, growing here, participating in community here, developing the economy here, spending \$ at local businesses here.

For governments of all levels, high speed Internet service to the home is vital to achieve maximum regional economic productivity, maximum taxable corporate revenue, maximum taxable personal earned income, and maximum taxable property values.

Jack Lake has 500-600 properties – typically 3 bedroom - all the way around the lake. At a capacity of 6 people per household, that's up to 3600 people on the lake – generally more than the reported population all of North Kawartha (including Apsley), and almost the entire reported population of Havelock Belmont Methuen (2/3 of Jack Lake is in HBM).



We have electricity to all properties – on shore and islands alike. We have copper telephone lines to all properties – on shore and islands alike. **Why is there not high speed fibre internet to all the same properties?**

There is already “fibre to the neighbourhood” to a few selected roads at the north end of the lake, providing copper to the house with advertised speeds of 25 Mbps. Farther down the lake low-grade DSL is available with measured speeds down to a dismal 0.5 Mbps, for the same price as 25 Mbps. **We cannot live on Jake Lake and fully function here;** we have had residents try, but had to move their household elsewhere to be able to work.

Distances are so small, fibre data already reaches here, the customers are here - **there is no reason not to have full fibre-to-the-premises Internet to all properties on Jack Lake immediately.**

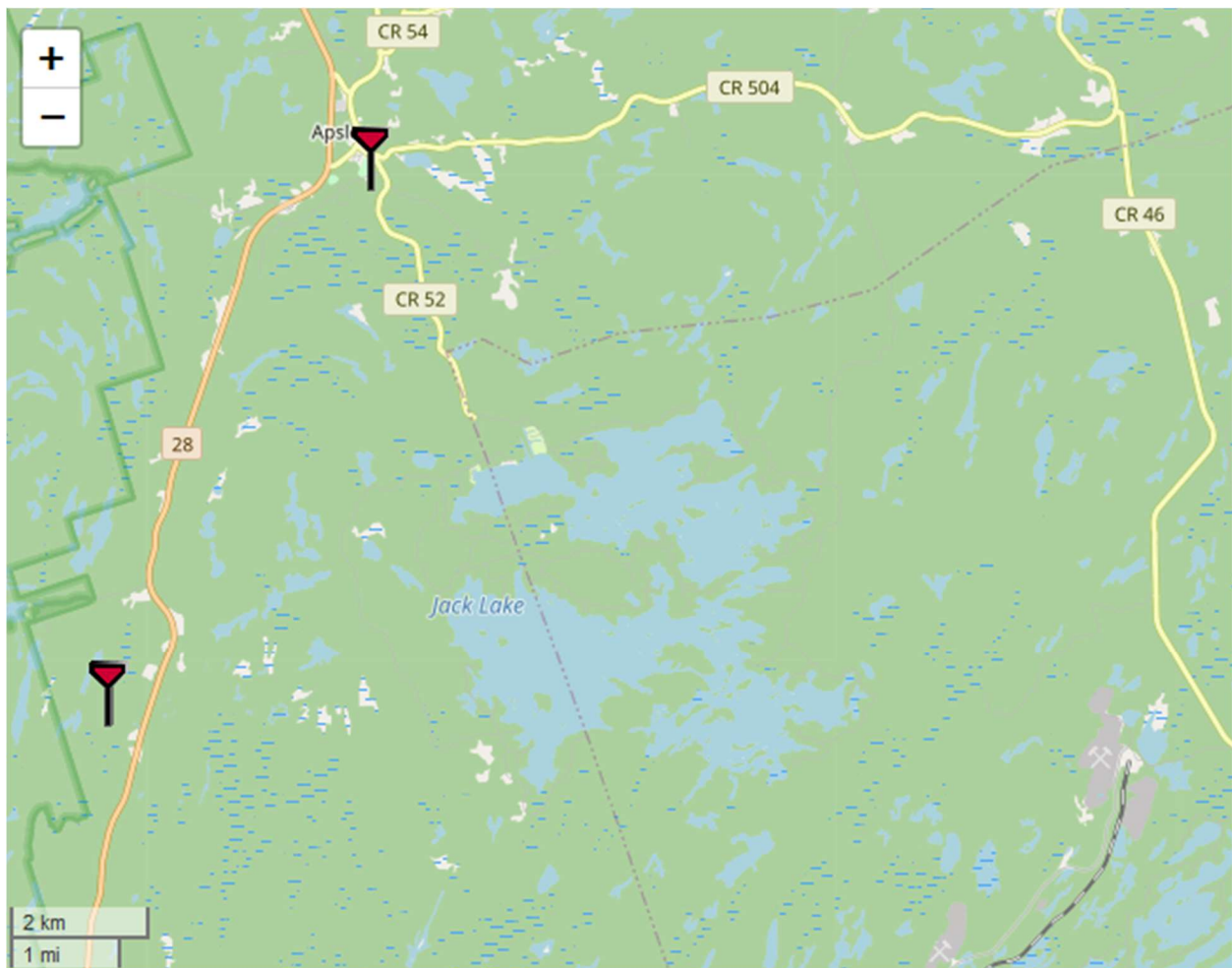
Cellular and satellite data access don't count

Bell has one tower 5km away from the closest shore, and Rogers has two towers 5 km away – both already at the marginal end of device reach, and behind hills, rocks, trees, plus a dip to shore where homes naturally lie. Other properties on the other sides of the lake lie up to another 5km away, usually behind even more obstacles.

Mobile signal availability and strength are negligible and/or intermittent for most properties. We have also experienced slow data rates and low data capacity (towers can't handle full use by the number of users that come to this area, on all sides of the towers). Mobile data is becoming an obsolete technology for high volume high speed Internet use by consumer households.

Mobile data is also a premium product, designed and premium-priced for those that need short-term access while in motion. **Mobile data is not an appropriate service for full capacity at-home Internet use.**

Satellite technology is also not appropriate for affordable high volume high speed Internet access for households on Jack Lake –we are not that remote that satellite is viable option.



Please initiate or encourage the connectivity of all the homes on Jack Lake to full high-speed Internet service as soon as possible.

Many thanks,
Michael Jensen, Director – Communications
Alex Kostiw, Director – Governance and Government Relations
Jack's Lake Association (Peterborough County)