

# Stratford Gazette

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County of Perth Warden Ron McKay, left, looks on while OminGlobe Networks CEO Jason Neale cuts the ribbon at one of the company's communications towers on Embro Road last Thursday. A representative from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs was also on hand for the ceremony.

TORI SUTTON

## Company brings headquarters, jobs to Stratford

**Tori Sutton**  
STAFF REPORTER

OmniGlobe Networks has brought more than just rural high-speed Internet to Perth County.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony at one of its communications towers on Embro Road last Thursday, company officials announced it has established its new Canadian headquarters in Stratford.

OmniGlobe CEO Jason Neale said the company chose Stratford because of its central location and talent base, having plenty of access to high-tech workers and graduates of respected universities.

"We also wanted to be in a rural site to recruit people with a deep understanding of rural issues," Neale told the *Gazette*.

Earlier this year, the County of Perth embarked on a \$2.5-million project, which saw OmniGlobe establish a new wireless network using 10 towers throughout the area.

A transmitter on each tower will provide service to homes and businesses within a 10-kilometre radius. Internet subscribers have a small receiver in their home to communicate with the tower.

Along with high-speed Internet access, the network will allow subscribers to use a host of applications, including voice-over IP (VoIP) services.

Communities from Palmerston to St. Marys are benefitting from the service,

which provides nearly all rural Perth County residents with reliable Internet service.

The project was one of 18 throughout the province to receive funding under the \$10 million Ontario Municipal Rural Broadband Partnership Program. Each community qualified for up to one-third of approved project costs, to a maximum of \$1 million. The County of Perth received \$850,000 through the program.

The new service is expected to have a positive economic impact on the region, helping those who are already in business and making the area more attractive to those interested in locating here.

But OmniGlobe, who was awarded the contract last October, will have an even greater impact. They've already created 10 high-tech positions and expect to hire 25 more people. To date, the company has invested \$3 million in the area and expects to invest \$2 million more over the next three years.

Their headquarters at 187 Ontario St. will handle technical support, logistics, customer support and project management for clients from British Columbia to Nova Scotia. The UK-based company also has an office in Montreal.

"We're becoming a local company," said Neale.

For more information about the new high-speed service, visit the website [www.omniglobebroadband.com](http://www.omniglobebroadband.com).