

# The Township of The Archipelago

## Recommendation Report to Council

**Report No.:** 2026-TECH-02

**Date:** April 9, 2025

**Originator:** Joe Villeneuve, Manager of Innovation & Technology

**Subject:** Connectivity – Request for Concurrence, Proposed Bell Communication Tower

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT Council authorize staff to provide a Letter of Concurrence to Debrorah Williamson, RES Consultant for Bell Mobility, for the installation of a 60-metre telecommunication tower on Healey Lake Road.

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### **OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a summary of public consultation and a recommendation regarding a proposed Telecommunication Tower located on the lands municipally known as 70 Healey Lake Road.

### **BACKGROUND**

Township Staff received a request for Municipal Concurrence on a proposed new telecommunications tower. The tower is proposed to be 60 metres in height and includes a fenced ground-level compound to house the tower base and associated equipment.

The subject lands are municipally known as 70 Healey Lake Road. The property is approximately 76 acres in area and currently operates commercially. Bell proposes to use a 225 square meter site within the property on slightly higher elevated lands. The proposed site of the new structure is near the Highway 400 corridor. A location map and aerial photograph of the subject lands are shown in Figures 1 and 2.



Figure 1

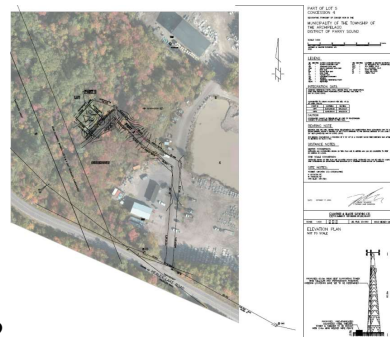


Figure 2

## **ANALYSIS**

Telecommunication facilities are federally regulated by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada ('ISED Canada'). As a federal undertaking, the proponent is required by ISED Canada to consult with local land use authorities during the site selection process for new telecommunication facilities. The consultation process provides an opportunity for municipalities to review the proposal within the context of local land use issues and provide recommendations for conditions of approval to ISED Canada.

### Preliminary Consultation:

- Township staff were engaged in early January regarding the interests by Bell Mobility - through its consulting agent Debrorah Williamson, RES - to erect a new 60m tower on Healey Lake Road.
- A Justification Report for project X6523 was presented to Council at the January 15, 2026 meeting. Council provided preliminary support for the public notification process.

### Notice and Public Consultation:

- Staff received Bell Mobility's public notification (as prescribed by ISED Canada) on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and the notification was immediately distributed to property owners within 1000 meters of the proposed site. The notice was also posted on the Township's website and posted through local media (MyParrySoundNow.com).
- On March 4<sup>th</sup>, after the February 27<sup>th</sup> deadline to provide public comments, the proponent submitted a report to the Township staff detailing the consultation/notification process and tendering a Request for Concurrence to formally erect its Telecommunication Tower.

### Staff Actions:

- The Township's Planning Department has indicated there are no planning concerns with the proposal or proposed property use associated with the current request.

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## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

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## **STRATEGIC PLAN**

This direction is in alignment with the following Strategic Priorities contained within our Strategic Plan:

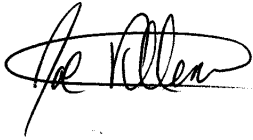
- Effective Relationships & Partnerships
  - Leadership & Communication
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## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, Staff are satisfied that the proponent addressed ISED Canada's Protocol for Establishing Telecommunication Facilities. Furthermore, the proposed telecommunications tower is consistent with the intent and direction of provincial policy direction. Staff supports the request to Council for the provision of this Municipal Concurrence.

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Respectfully Submitted,



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Joe Villeneuve  
Manager of Innovation & Technology

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John MacKinnon  
CAO

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Proponent's Summary of Public Consultation  
Public Notification – mailout to adjacent landowners  
Public Notification – media notice  
Proponent's Justification Report for 60-metre telecommunication tower



March 4, 2026

The Township of The Archipelago  
9 James Street  
Parry Sound, ON  
P2A 1T4

Attn: The Committee of the Whole

Dear Committee,

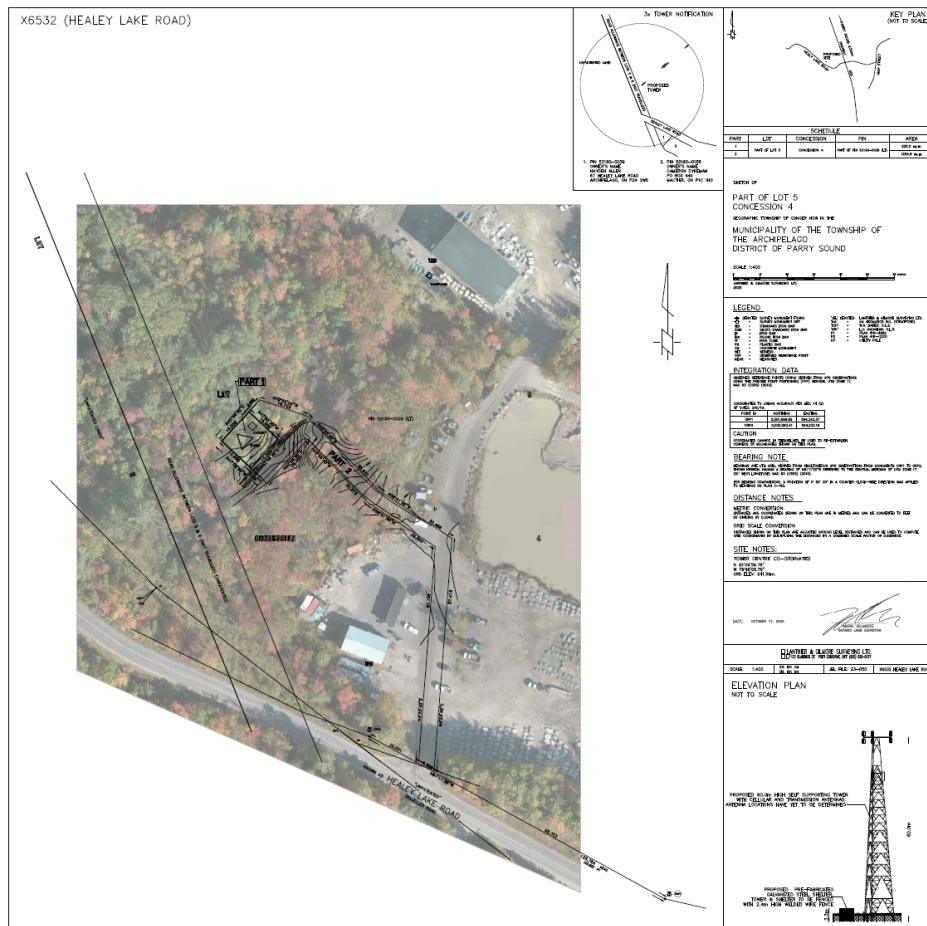
**RE: Bell Mobility X6523 Hwy 400-Healey Lake Road, The Archipelago  
Summary of Public Consultation & Request for Letter of Concurrence**

On January 7, 2026, a justification report was submitted to the Committee of the Whole at the Township of The Archipelago for the installation of a new 60m self-support cellular tower at the following property:

**Municipal Address:** 70 Healey Lake Road, The Archipelago

**Legal Description:** Part of Lot 5, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Conger, now in the Municipality of the Township of The Archipelago; PIN 52190-0029 (LT)

**Tower Center Coordinates:** N 45° 09' 59.76" W 79° 48' 05.76"



## Public Consultation

On January 15, 2026, Deborah Williamson of D.A. Williamson & Associates Inc., agent for Bell Mobility, attended the Committee of the Whole meeting via Zoom to present the Justification Report and answer any questions from the Committee. It was asked if the tower would improve cellular service at Healey Lake and Kapigog Lake, which Deborah could not confirm at the time, however, stated that she would verify with Bell Mobility.

Bell's RF Engineer did review this query and provided the following:

*Following my review of the **Healey Lake** and **Kapigog Lake** areas in relation to the proposed tower location, I can confirm that both areas lie well beyond the effective coverage range of the new site. The distance to these areas exceeds 7 kilometres and the elevation profile changes significantly, which makes it technically unfeasible to provide improved service, even with the addition of an extra sector.*

*The primary objective of this tower is to enhance coverage along Highway 400, as well as the adjacent neighbourhoods situated close to the highway corridor. Given the intended design and propagation constraints, we are unable to extend reliable coverage as far as **Healey Lake** or **Kapigog Lake**.*

The Township of The Archipelago uses Innovation Science & Economic Development Canada's (ISED's) default protocol CPC 2-0-3-2022-07 for the citing of telecommunication towers with the exception that the radius distance from the proposed tower location for notification is 1000m instead of 3x the tower height (180m).

On January 28, 2026, a notification brochure prepared by Bell and perused by Joe Villeneuve, Manager Technology and Innovation, was mailed by the Township of The Archipelago to property owners within the 1000m radius of the proposed tower location.

On February 7, 2026, a public notice was posted on the Township of The Archipelago website and on the ParrySound.com website.

The 30-day comment period ended on Friday, February 27, 2026.

## Public Responses

As of the date of this summary, emails from one property owner were received, outlined below. The email correspondence is attached.

February 16, 2026, an email was received from Tim Mercer, owner of 9 Healey Lake Road, offering his property as the location of the proposed tower and advising that there is no fire rescue at 70 Healey Lake Road.

February 18, 2026, Deborah Williamson responded to the email, advising that the location at 70 Healey Lake was a strategic location chosen by Bell Engineering in relation to existing cellular towers and the network design for future coverage. Tim Mercer responded asking to keep his property in mind for the future; Deborah responded, informing him that his property information would be provided to Bell. He responded to reiterate that there is no fire rescue at 70 Healey Lake Road.

February 19, 2026, an email was received from Tim Mercer asking how the blasting of rock will affect the tower and to ensure Bell is aware of the shock waves. Deborah responded that Bell was aware of the rock blasting and has taken it into consideration in selecting this location. Tim Mercer responded that he did not think that it was not a wise decision to build a tower within the blasting location. Deborah responded that the tower would be constructed within a buffer zone, outside of the blasting area, and that both Bell Construction and Bell Engineering are aware and have taken this into account. Tim responded that it was too bad since his property has no large trucks coming and going, dirt, etc. He asked that Bell check out his lot.

February 19, 2026, an email was received from Tim Mercer advising that over a year ago he contacted Bell about a tower on his property and could not get in touch with anyone. He provided several reasons that his property would be suitable versus 70 Healey Lake Road, and if there was any chance to persuade Bell. Deborah responded that, as noted in a previous email, his property at 9 Healey Lake Road did not come up as a candidate in the location search since it is 800m from the RF target location and that 70 Healey Lake Road was chosen in relation to existing cellular towers and the network design for the coverage area.

February 20, 2026, an email was received from Tim Mercer with a question stating that he had spoken to numerous people who had no idea that a tower was going up, noting that this seems to happen when cottagers are not there at this time of the season and a lot of people who live on Healey Lake Road were not aware. He asked when people on Healey Lake Road would be notified and also reiterated that there is no fire rescue service at 70 Healey Lake Road.

Deborah responded, explaining that Bell and other tower proponents are federally regulated by ISED, who sets protocols for tower sitings under CPC 2-0-3-i6 Jul 2022, copy provided, and that the Township of The Archipelago uses this protocol. Section 4.2 Public Notification was referenced, stating that although the protocol requires that notifications be sent to property owners within 3x the tower height, which for this tower would be 180m, the Township of The Archipelago required that the notifications be sent to those properties within a 1000m radius, which is 17x the tower height radius. Deborah advised that the notices were mailed on January 28, 2026 and that it's possible that not all of the properties on Healey Lake Road would be notified. In this regard, Deborah advised that a public notice was posted on the Township's website as well as on the ParrySound.com website, in order for the general public to be made aware. Links to the public notices were provided. In regards to there being no fire rescue services at the proposed location, Deborah advised that Bell has many towers in areas where there are no such services.

No further correspondence was received.

### Conclusion

Bell Mobility has concluded the public consultation process and at this time, formally and respectfully requests the issuance of a letter of concurrence.

Sincerely,



Deborah Williamson, SRWA/ATC  
RES Consultant for Bell Mobility  
Email. [deborah@dawilliamson.com](mailto:deborah@dawilliamson.com)  
Tel. 705-561-1531

Attachments (4)

cc Matthew Milligan, Senior Advisor Real Estate, Bell Mobility

Share your thoughts on Bell's proposed antenna tower. Our experts will answer your questions and address any feedback.

If you have specific questions about the proposed plans to upgrade the wireless network in your community, you can email your Bell representative, Deborah Williamson at [deborah@dawilliamson.com](mailto:deborah@dawilliamson.com) by February 27, 2026.

For additional information about antenna systems, you can visit the Government of Canada ISED's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications at [www.ic.gc.ca/towers](http://www.ic.gc.ca/towers) or you can contact:

#### Your Township of The Archipelago Contact

Joe Villeneuve  
Manager, Technology & Innovation  
9 James Street  
Parry Sound, ON  
P2A 1T4  
Tel. 705-746-4243 Ext 320  
Email. [jvilleneuve@thearchipelago.ca](mailto:jvilleneuve@thearchipelago.ca)

#### Your Industry Canada Contact

ATTENTION: Antenna/Tower Issue  
Bell Mobility Site X6523 Hwy 400-Healey Road  
Eastern & Northern Ontario District  
2 Queen Street East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON  
P6A 1Y3  
Tel. 1-855-465-6307  
Email. [spectrumnod-spectredeno@ised-isde.gc.ca](mailto:spectrumnod-spectredeno@ised-isde.gc.ca)

#### Your Bell Mobility Representative Contact

D.A. Williamson & Associates Inc.  
Agents for Bell Mobility  
Box 790  
Azilda, ON P0M 1B0  
Email. [deborah@dawilliamson.com](mailto:deborah@dawilliamson.com)

# Bell

## Notice of Public Consultation

You're receiving this notice because you're a property owner within 1000 metres of a proposed antenna tower.

Inside you will find information on the proposed antenna tower as well as an invitation to share any questions and comments on this proposal.

### Have your say.

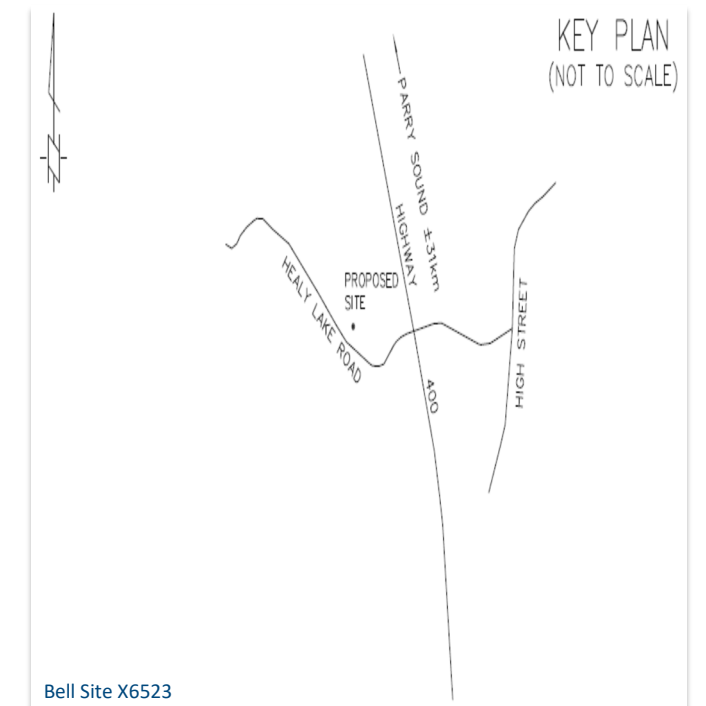
In order to improve service in your neighbourhood, Bell is proposing to install a new 60m self-support antenna tower in 2026 located at

70 Healey Lake Road, The Archipelago

Latitude N 45° 09' 59.76"  
Longitude W 79° 48' 05' 76"

Bell is committed to working closely with our communities. This means providing any desired information in a transparent and straightforward fashion, hearing your views, and addressing any questions or comments you may have.

To this end, we invite you to mail or email comments to your Bell representative, Deborah Williamson, [deborah@dawilliamson.com](mailto:deborah@dawilliamson.com) or write to PO Box 790, Azilda, ON P0M 1B0 by February 27, 2026.



# Bell

# Understanding the Consultation Process

Step 1: Proposal	Step 2: Notification	Step 3: Public Comments	Step 4: Acknowledgement & Response	Step 5: Feedback	Step 6: Approval
Bell proposes a site in accordance with the ISED CPC 2-0-03 in conjunction with The Township of The Archipelago	Packages are mailed to property owners within 1000m of the tower center. A notice is placed on The Township of The Archipelago website inviting residents to the consultation process. ISED's Spectrum Management and Telecommunications is notified	Written public comments can be sent to Bell up to 30 days after the notifications are mailed.	Bell must acknowledge the receipt of all public comments and provide a written response to all reasonable and relevant concerns within 14 days of receipt of public comments	Residents have an additional 21 days to respond back to Bell	A summary of consultation and request for concurrence is provided to the Township of The Archipelago by Bell no later than 60 days after the final feedback date. ISED is copied.

## What is an antenna tower?

An antenna tower supports the low power short-range radio systems that allow us to enjoy our mobile devices, such as our smart phones and tablets.

The purpose of the tower is to provide dependable advanced telecommunication service to the surrounding businesses and residences.



## Why now?

Canadians are using wireless devices more and more in their daily lives. Currently, more than half of all phone connections in Canada are now wireless, including 70 percent of all 911 calls.

Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (2013) <http://www.crtc.gc.ca/eng/publications/reports/rp130705.htm>

In order to provide the high quality of service that Canadians have come to expect, Bell must enhance its networks to meet this increased demand.

By adding new antenna sites, Bell customers will continue to benefit from dependable, high speed and high quality wireless service.

## Is it safe?

The consensus among Canadian health organizations and the scientific community is that wireless antennas are safe and in fact, this antenna tower will operate well below the levels established by Health Canada under Safety Code 6.

Bell is committed to the health and safety of Canadian communities. That is why we take great pride in our compliance with all current health and safety guidelines while continuing to provide Canada's first-rate wireless coverage.

"Health Canada, along with independent experts from across the country, continually monitor the scientific literature to ensure that Safety Code 6 is based on the best available evidence and has significant margins of safety for the Canadian population."

*Dr. Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC, Chief Medical Health Officer & Vice President Public Health.*

## What is Safety Code 6?

The purpose of this code is to establish safety limits for human exposure to radiofrequency (RF) energy in the frequency range from 3 kHz to 300 GHz. The safety limits in this code apply to all individuals working at, visiting, or living at or near federally regulated sites.

Bell attests that the proposed antenna tower will be installed and operated so as to always comply with Safety Code 6.

## Why here?

Bell is establishing a new telecommunications site in this area to ensure the continued operation of Bell's network in the local area.

The site will improve network coverage along the Hwy 400 corridor and the immediate area surrounding Healey Lake Road.

The site will provide voice and data services on the Bell Mobility network along with Bell's network sharing partners and provide roaming service to domestic and international wireless carriers.

Bell is proposing an antenna tower and equipment cabinet on property municipally known as 70 Healey Lake Road, The Archipelago.

The proposed location is along the west boundary of the property which is operated as a quarry.

There are no existing towers in the area that Bell can co-locate on.

## Is it environmentally friendly?

As Canada's largest communications company, we care about the protection and preservation of our environment. Bell is proud to be included in the Corporate Knights 2014 Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations in the World. This index is an annual ranking of corporate sustainability performance and recognizes the top performers in each industry.

The proposed antenna will be built in accordance with the highest professional engineering standards and practices. We ensure the utmost care and respect for the environment as we comply with the Canadian Environment Assessment Act.

## What will it look like?

- Bell is proposing a 60m self-support support antenna tower
- An Aeronautical Assessment Form has been submitted to Transport Canada to determine if the tower requires lighting
- An equipment shelter, 1.6m x 2.4m will be installed next to the tower
- A 2.4m high welded wire security fence will surround the tower and equipment shelter.



Before/Avant



After/Après



## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PROPOSED BELL MOBILITY RADIOCOMMUNICATIONS FACILITY TELECOMMUNICATION TOWER X6523 Hwy 400-Healey Lake Road

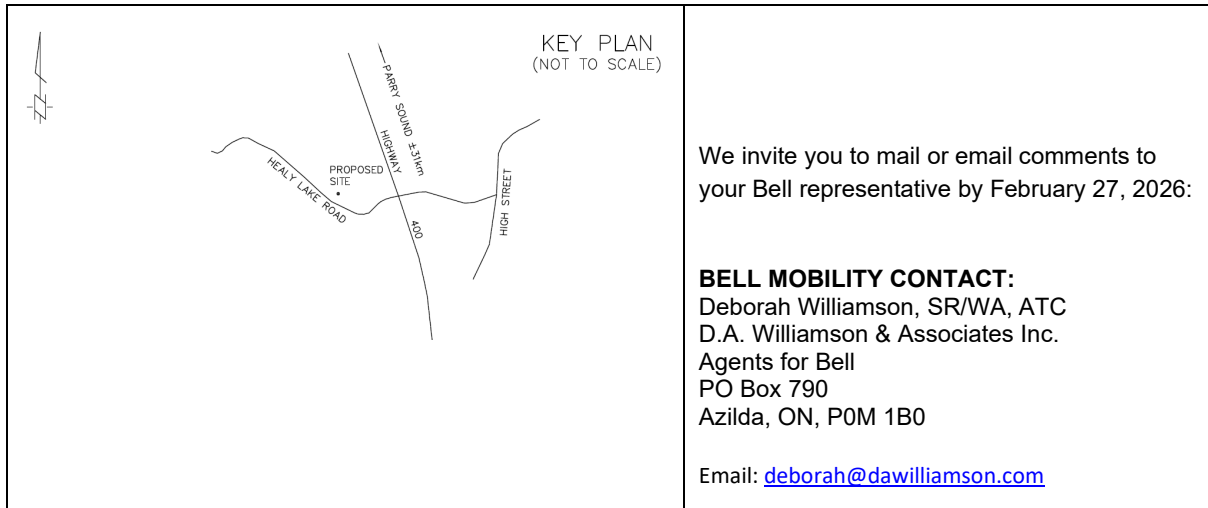
Bell is proposing to construct a 60m self-support antenna tower with a 1.65m x 2.4m equipment shelter. A 2.4m high welded wire security fence will surround the tower and shelter.

As part of the public consultation process as required by Innovation Science & Economic Development Canada (ISED), Bell's regulator under the Radiocommunications Act, Bell is inviting the public to comment on the proposed tower location before February 27, 2026 in compliance with ISED's guidelines and The Township of The Archipelago.. This tower is fully compliant with ISED's guidelines, as found under the CPC 2-0-03.

**TOWER LOCATION:** 70 Healey Lake Road, The Archipelago

**COORDINATES:** N Lat: N 45°09'59.76" W Long: 79°48'05'05.76"

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** PCL 21050 SEC SS; Part of Lot 5, Conc 1, Conger; The Archipelago; PIN 52190-0029 (LT)



We invite you to mail or email comments to your Bell representative by February 27, 2026:

**BELL MOBILITY CONTACT:**  
Deborah Williamson, SR/WA, ATC  
D.A. Williamson & Associates Inc.  
Agents for Bell  
PO Box 790  
Azilda, ON, P0M 1B0

Email: [deborah@dawilliamson.com](mailto:deborah@dawilliamson.com)