



Olds Albertan

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Initial installation ongoing for fibre network

Paul Frey, Olds Albertan

The Olds Institute For Community and Regional Development is currently installing a small portion of the fibre to the premise project in co-operation with Shaw Cable.

While Shaw is laying a proprietary portion of their own network, the OICRD is partnering with the company to install the community portion of the fibre to the premise project. This particular leg involves a portion stretching from the Olds Agricultural Society office to the town office.

Joe Gustafson, chair of the OICRD's technology committee, said the project to lay a portion of the conduit began last week. He explained that at this stage, no fibre optic is actually going into the ground; rather, the pipe that would contain the fibre optic is currently being laid.

"We're putting multiple conduits in the ground in building the backbone for the network," he said.

Gustafson said because Shaw was building a portion of their network, the OICRD saw an opportunity to do the same, which will benefit the community in the long run. This is a good start on the project.

The entire town is divided into 11 districts for the purposes of planning the entire fibre to the premise project. Other phases of the project would follow, perhaps as soon as next spring or summer.

"We need to put in the backbone. There's no point in building the nerves to the hand until you have a spine to hook it to and so these major trunk lines have to be put in first," he said.

Gustafson said this particular phase of the project is costing a "few hundred thousand dollars." The entire project is costing approximately \$4 million.

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