



## e-VT Calais Re-Cap

The e-Vermont Community Broadband Project is a partnership between seven statewide organizations and leaders in two dozen Vermont towns to help close the digital divide through innovative use of Internet tools and training. Initiatives in Calais were spearheaded by the Calais Elementary School, Calais town government, and other organizations. In just over a year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Calais:

- Fifty netbook packages for Calais Elementary School, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 (12 additional packages were purchased by Calais) to ensure that every student in grades 4, 5 and 6 receives a 21<sup>st</sup> century education;
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4, 5 and 6;
- For teachers, a complete program of lesson and unit plans, worksheets, Internet links, advice, instruction, video tutorials, and grant writing resources so that cutting edge classroom education can continue in 2012-2013 and beyond;
- A free online neighborhood forum at [frontporchforum.com](http://frontporchforum.com) that 629 subscribers in Calais (out of 680 households in town – 92% take-rate!) have used more than 2851 times to buy and trade household items, promote local events and volunteer needs, discuss local issues, share wildlife sightings, and recommend local businesses;
- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that includes a comprehensive web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and freely allowing them to be displayed on local websites;
- Four Toshiba 15.6" Core i3 laptops with carrying cases, three-year warranties, Deep Freeze software and MS Office standard, a rolling cart, fifty hours of technical librarian time to rebuild the library website and one year website hosting for Kellogg-Hubbard Library (Kellogg-Hubbard serves Calais and will pay particular attention to using this hardware and software for Calais patrons) to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Two workshops on the topics of *Internet Safety for Parents* and *Evaluating Websites* (for students and parents) conducted by the Vermont State Colleges at Calais Elementary School;

- A workshop on the topic of *Getting Your Business Online* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at Calais Elementary School for business owners and entrepreneurs;
- One-on-one assistance from the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Calais businesses building their first websites, undertaking website redesigns, and developing e-marketing skills and tactics;
- Upgrades to the Calais municipal website including an updated govoffice.com template and redesign services;
- Hardware to install Wi-Fi at the Calais Municipal Offices;
- Ongoing webinars for businesses and individuals, available at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices, available at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Calais team for its collaboration and accomplishments over the past year and wishes them well in continuing to close the digital divide, use Internet tools to advance local goals, and serve as a model for rural towns all over Vermont and across the United States.

Please stay posted on future developments by visiting e-Vermont at [www.e4vt.org](http://www.e4vt.org) and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont).

-Philip Petty, e-Vermont Community Director  
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