



e-VT Pownal 2010-2011 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. Initiatives in Pownal were spearheaded by a small, but very productive team representing Pownal's school, library, businesses, government and interested citizens. In one short year, the team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Pownal:

- Fifty- three netbook packages for Pownal Elementary School (an additional 25 netbooks were purchased by the school for program expansion) including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, 3-in-1 printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridges, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to help ensure that every one of the students in grades 4, 5 and 6 receives a 21st century education
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4 and 5;
- A free community e-newsletter called Front Porch Forum that 141 subscribers (10% take-rate, 432 posts from June 1, 2010 – January 13, 2012) in Pownal are using to buy and trade household items, learn about events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, discuss local issues and support area businesses;
- One Dell Optiplex desktop, 2 Dell netbooks, 2 HP Photosmart printers, 1 Epson V300 scanner, 1 Netgear WiFi router, 2 optical mice, 2 memory sticks, and 2 surge protectors to improve Solomon Wright Library's services and to help more community members and visitors access the Internet, find social services and jobs, and connect to research and educational opportunities;
- Three workshops on the topics of *Basic Computer Skills*, *Internet Safety Basics* and *Free Stuff Online* conducted by Vermont State Colleges' instructors at Pownal Elementary School for Pownal residents;
- One workshop on the topic of *Getting Your Business Online* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center at the Pownal Elementary School for Pownal businesses and entrepreneurs;
- VtSBDC community outreach with several local businesses and to establish websites and/or online marketing strategies;
- A simple website that provides Pownal citizens with pertinent information regarding the permitting process for the proposed Pownal Energy Park;
- The Snelling Center for Government municipal website template, Clearbearing web hosting for 3 years, domain name registration for 3 years and payment for services to load content and set-up for the first Pownal Municipal Website;

While Pownal's e-Vermont year is over, e-Vermont's impact in Pownal is not. In the coming months, Pownal can expect to see:

- Full, hard launch of the new Pownal Municipal Website;
- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that will include a web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and displaying them on multiple sites;
- For teachers, a complete program of lesson and unit plans, worksheets, Internet links, advice, instruction, and video tutorials, so that cutting edge classroom education can continue in 2011-2012 and beyond;
- Webinars for businesses and individuals throughout the coming year, most recently three sessions on *Your Library Presents; Information 24/7* ;
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices to be shared at e4vt.org;
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

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

December, 2011

Phil Petty, e-Vermont Community Director

phil@vtrural.org / 802-223-6098