



## e-VT Canaan and Norton 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 through innovative use of Internet tools and training. Initiatives in Canaan and Norton were spearheaded by representatives from the Towns of Norton and Canaan, the Essex North Supervisory Union, Alice M. Ward Memorial Library, and local business and non-profit organizations. In one short year, this team succeeded in bringing the following accomplishments to Canaan and Norton:

- Forty-six netbook packages for Canaan Elementary, including Dell netbooks, netbook cases, printers, USB cables, extra ink cartridge, and Microsoft Office Pro 2010 to ensure that every student in grades 4, 5, and 6 receives a 21<sup>st</sup> century education (Canaan Schools then purchased an additional 20 netbooks in order to expand the program in the coming year);
- Weekly training with community-based, NETS-S coordinated technology lessons for students and teachers in grades 4, 5, and 6;
- A free community e-newsletter at [frontporchforum.com](http://frontporchforum.com) that 99 subscribers in Canaan, Norton, and surrounding towns are using to buy and trade household items, learn about local events and volunteer needs, share wildlife sightings, and support area businesses;
- One new desktop, three new laptops, a subscription to the Vermont Online Library, and other equipment at Ward Memorial Library 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*, *Social Media for Beginners*, and *Healthcare Information Online* conducted by Vermont State Colleges instructors for Canaan and Norton residents;
- One workshop on the topics of *Getting Your Business Online* conducted by the Vermont Small Business Development Center for Canaan and Norton business owners and entrepreneurs;
- Support in updating and maintaining the Canaan municipal website – [canaanvt.org](http://canaanvt.org) – along with a digital camera, scanner, and software for providing fresh content.

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

- A new platform for the Front Porch Forum e-newsletter that will include a comprehensive web-based community calendar, synthesizing all community events into one central place and freely allowing them to be displayed them on multiple websites (including any of Canaan and Norton's municipal sites, school sites, social service agency sites, and church or civic organization 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, along with archived recordings at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- A tool kit of case studies, lessons learned, and best practices to be shared at [e4vt.org](http://e4vt.org);
- Regional workshops, a statewide conference, and continuing programs of e-Vermont partner organizations.

e-Vermont congratulates the Canaan and Norton 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 the above developments and more by visiting e-Vermont at [www.e4vt.org](http://www.e4vt.org) and by following e-Vermont on Facebook (e-Vermont) and Twitter (eVermont).

-Seán Sheehan, e-Vermont Community Director  
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