



NEO net 10 Years

This November NEONet is celebrating 10 years of community partnerships and achievements. Since 1999 NEONet has worked with the public and private sectors to improve the available telecommunications infrastructure and ICT related services. NEONet has also focused on the promotion of technology adoption and continued educational outreach initiatives throughout Northeastern Ontario. We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to the next 10 years.

CRTC issues net neutrality rules

By Peter Nowak- www.cbc.ca

Big telecommunications companies such as Bell and Rogers can interfere with internet traffic only as a last resort, the CRTC says. Instead, they should use "economic measures" such as new investment and usage limits to combat congestion on their networks.

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission on Wednesday issued a new framework by which it will judge whether internet service providers are discriminating against certain kinds of traffic and content.

"Canada is the first country to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to internet traffic management practices," CRTC chairman Konrad von Finckenstein said in a statement.

[Full Story.](#)

Les TI rapportent, mais gare aux usages contreproductifs

Par Anne-Marie Croteau, François Bergeron et Louis Raymond - www.directioninformatique.ca

Au début des années 2000, un éditeur de la Harvard Business Review, Nicholas Carr, provoquait un débat animé dans l'univers de la gestion en lançant une question provocante : Does IT Matter? (Est-ce que les TI ont de l'importance?). Six ans plus tard, nos travaux montrent que la réponse à cette interrogation

est positive, mais surtout, que les TI ne comptent pas de la même manière, selon qu'une PME recourt à une stratégie d'innovation ou une autre.

On dit souvent que les entreprises gagnent à innover. Une étude que nous avons menée auprès de 309 PME manufacturières canadiennes de 20 à 400 employés montre que c'est vrai. Ainsi, les sociétés qui innovent croissent plus fortement que celles qui ne le font pas. Quant à celles qui conçoivent et commercialisent de nouveaux produits, elles enregistrent non seulement une augmentation de leurs ventes supérieure à celle affichée par les entreprises moins innovatrices à cet égard, mais elles sont aussi significativement plus productives.

[Découvrez-plus.](#)



BlackBerry changing life-work balance and altering the notion of time

By Luann Lasalle - www.thecanadianpress.com

It's all about knowing what's going on. Events planner Katherine Parris rarely shuts off her BlackBerry, mentioning just Christmas Day and Thanksgiving as examples of when she would turn it off. Couples get married on Christmas Eve, so the device is on.

"It can kind of come within your work and life balance," Parris said diplomatically. Staff can email her to tell her how a corporate event unfolded, or if there's a problem, Parris says she can take care of it.

"You know right away," said Parris, who runs Events by Parris in Toronto. Prof. Rhonda McEwen of the University of Toronto said the BlackBerry and mobile communications in general are altering people's notions about time and making it flexible.

[More info.](#)

Your guide to hands-free driving

By Peter Cheney - www.globeandmail.com

The dinosaurs once roamed the ancient plains in ignorance. Maybe a few noticed the all-eclipsing asteroid hurtling toward them, but for most it was business as usual, right up until impact.



And it's the same with me. Just a few weeks ago, I finally spotted the giant sign hanging over the freeway announcing that Ontario drivers had to go hands-free. I was on my BlackBerry at the time.

I vaguely remembered something about a cellphone ban, but it went into a mental back file, next to cleaning the furnace room and checking the belt tension on the clothes dryer. Now the law was breathing down my neck. As of Oct. 26, it would be illegal to use a hand-held phone. By February, the police would be handing out \$500 tickets.

[Continue.](#)



5 great ways to keep your Web site running smoothly

By John Brandon - www.itbusiness.ca

When the site GDGT.com went live this past summer, Ryan Block was expecting a lot of interest.

Prior to launch, the former Engadget.com editor in chief had built up momentum for the site -- which allows everyday users to write gadget reviews -- by informing bloggers and online publications. "We were excited but wary, because there's always an x factor," says Block. "We did weeks of performance and load testing, but lab testing will always differ from real-world usage, and we knew there would still be issues here and there that we wouldn't find until thousands of people were actually using the site."

Indeed, on Aug. 4, GDGT went live -- and a few hours later Block was forced to post a message explaining that the site was not available because of unanticipated levels of interest, which included thousands of users signing up for accounts and visiting the home page. Block says the problem was related to database performance.

[Click to continue reading.](#)

Charities finally cashing in on Web 2.0 revolution

By Joanna Pachner - www.globeandmail.com



Late last month, some 25,000 people in 75 cities across the globe gathered in groups to walk a dozen kilometres - some of them meeting at dusk and

sleeping outside in parks or on public lawns, then rising at 5 a.m. to make the trek back. They were replicating the journeys made by northern Uganda's "night commuters" - children who each evening travel to safe towns to avoid abduction by guerrillas during the night.

The event, called GuluWalk (after one of the Ugandan towns that serve as the children's destination) generated media coverage, blogs and Twitter streams from participants, and raised \$125,000. Since it started in the summer of 2005, the annual event has raised almost \$4-million for Ugandan charities through online pledges. And until last year, it was all managed by two men working on laptops at their kitchen tables.

Adrian Bradbury, co-founder of parent charity Athletes for Africa, says nothing like this could have been organized on such a scale and with so few resources before the dawn of social media. His organization provides volunteers around the world with online toolkits that help them set up Web pages to promote and fundraise for the event.

[More details.](#)

Additional Links:

[Keeping broadband competitive in Canada.](#)

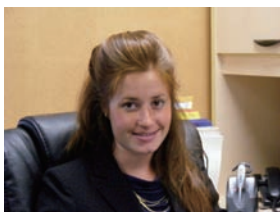
[All you need to know and more about Windows 7.](#)

[How to be a grown-up on facebook.](#)

[Q & A on new Ontario cellphone law.](#)

[Votre texte sur le Web et les conditions d'utilisation du site.](#)

[Twitter and LinkedIn to share status updates.](#)



Alexandra Spence
Regional Outreach Coordinator
North Eastern Ontario Communications Network
aspence@neonet.on.ca