

Tuckersmith Communications Co-operative

Location: 40023 Kippen Road, Kippen, Ontario
Year begun: 1909

THE TUCKERSMITH MUNICIPAL Telephone System was established in 1909, and operated in Tuckersmith, Stanley, Usborne, Hullett, Hibbert, McKillop and Hay Townships. It was named so because the Tuckersmith Council assumed responsibility for its financing. Today, Tucker-smith Communications Co-operative is a leading provider of high speed and dial-up internet, and local and long-distance services.



There were a few early telephone systems in the area. Clinton had a telephone as early as 1879, when Glasgow, McPherson & Co. connected their office with the express office, and in 1885, had a long-distance connection with London. Seaforth had its first telephone installed in 1884,

with the Bell Telephone office located in the C.W. Papst Bookstore. A long-distance line from Stratford to Goderich, via Mitchell, Seaforth and Clinton, was constructed by Bell Telephone in 1884 and had 15 subscribers. The people of Brucefield petitioned for telephone service in 1899. In 1913 there were 649 telephones.

Until 1894 subscribers were not assigned numbers; a user simply asked the operator for connection to a specific party. In September 1939, a battery system replaced magnetos and eliminated the crank-style receiver. The dial system was introduced in 1964.



Telephone operators at the switchboard of the Bell Telephone Exchange in Seaforth's Cardno Block, 1913.
