

Moncton official nominated for IT Hero award

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A Moncton city official has been nominated for a Canadian Community IT Hero Award for his initiative and innovation in creating a free downtown Moncton outdoor network for wireless Internet technology.

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Dan Babineau uses his laptop outside of Moncton City Hall.

Dan Babineau is director of Information Systems for the city who led the team that set up the free public service, the first of its kind in Canada.

The winners will be named at the 8th annual Information Technology Association of Canada IT Hero Awards banquet, to be held June 26 in Toronto.

The awards recognize the creative applications of information technology that help improve the lives of Canadians and results in social and economic benefit.

Babineau's efforts represent a significant contribution to the city and an inspiration for other communities.

The system works from a central Internet hub for wireless transmission through access points. Since no hook-ups are necessary for users, it was both cost effective to set up and easily scalable.

The network was installed and working in three days.