

## Watching British TV Gardening Programs on Your Computer and the Impact of New Internet Service Charges on Canadian Residents.

This information follows the announcement by Canadian Internet Service Providers that they would in future charge for traffic loads. They already charge for Internet speed (bandwidth). People on cellular networks are all too familiar with the concept already. It would be wise to check just what it says on your contract for computer Internet service. The figure to look for is \*\*GB. This will likely be 60GB per month if you are with Shaw and 100GB per month if you are with Telus. Internet data traffic is measured in gigabytes - abbreviated to GB. Most computer users have no idea of where they stand in terms of the amount of data they use and quite rightly, there is concern over what surprises are in store when the bills roll in. Relax. Here is a guide to figure out what to expect. First, forget about email traffic showing up on your bill. You will never ever exceed your traffic limit as a result of email activity. The keyboard would wear out first. The issues at stake are streaming (data flows in and is gone after you see it) and downloading (data flows in and you keep it). Work with the following guides to see how you will fare.

Music - 0.1 GB per hour of play time

Audio book - 0.1 GB per book

Internet browsing - 0.2 GB per hour. Higher if images or video files are viewed.

YouTube - 1 hour streaming video as on PGC "TV programs" page - 0.5 GB

Skype video calling - 0.5 GB per hour

Movie - 1.5GB (standard definition) or 4.0GB (HDTV)

There are many free Internet monitoring tools if you want to have one on your own computer to continuously check your monthly usage. SurplusMeter for Macs and tbbMeter for PCs work just fine.

Very few Canadian Internet users will go over their limit. Even viewing "TV programs" links on the Club Web site is unlikely to cause billing changes. For example, watching one BBC gardening video every day would only use 25% of the total monthly allowance on Shaw Internet. Hopefully Canadians (and particularly Peninsula Garden Club members) can now enjoy this unique gardening material knowing where they stand in terms of the new Internet usage rules.