

Grey County Economic Development

OPPORTUNITY LIVES HERE

The Four County Labour Market Planning Board has hit the airwaves!

Gemma Mendez-Smith plays host to a lively conversation on workforce issues. Workforce Focus can be heard the first and third Thursday of every month. Tune in to bluewateradio.ca or 91.3 FM to listen live or visit planningboard.ca/workforce-focus to listen at your leisure. You can also send your workforce issue or question to focus@planningboard.ca

LiveGreyBruce.ca

This is a web site that will connect . . . **Skilled professionals** who already dream of living the Grey-Bruce lifestyle with **Employers** interested in learning about when someone with certain skills is interested in moving to the area. livegreybruce.ca

Grey County Summer Fam Tours

SAVE THE DATE - **June 3 and June 5, 2013**

Grey County Tourism will be hosting our summer fam tours that promise LOTS of hands-on experience with a bit of a twist! For information contact Amanda Pausner at amanda.pausner@visitgrey.ca

Local Food Update and Welcome!



Casey Thompson from The Cheese Gallery in Thornbury at the Feast in the Forest, Kolapore Springs Fish Hatchery, May 5th

Grey County Tourism and Economic Development has filled its new position of Economic Development Officer – Local Food. Philly Markowitz has lived in the county for over 20 years and has worked with Grey County Tourism for the past 18 months, first filling a maternity leave placement and then working on special projects for the County including website development. The County will continue to support joint projects developed by the Local Food Project and shared with Bruce County including the **Foodlink website**, farmers' market support, and on-going

support to the **Grey Bruce Agriculture & Culinary Association**. All three partners, along with **The Apple Pie Trail** recently attended the **Green Living Show in Toronto**, April 12-14. **The Ontario Culinary Tourism Alliance (OCTA)** sponsored a food court pavilion where show visitors could sample local food creations as well as local beer, wine and cider. Judging by the line-ups and audience reaction, Grey Bruce was right up there with Ontario's foodie superstars.

Word is Getting Out!



OWEN SOUND IS...WHERE YOU WANT TO LIVE...

The Economic Development and Tourism Department has seen tremendous success in branding Owen Sound as a great place to live. The City adopted the tag line for its Vision in its 2012 Strategic Plan. The tag line 'Where you want to live' has been actively promoted through the City's Tourism publications, through the Owen Sound Small Business Enterprise and through numerous promotional campaigns. Those campaigns included attending the Zoomer Show in Toronto, a radio campaign promoting small business success stories, and the 'I Love Owen Sound' Tourism contest. It is encouraging and exciting to see local residents and tourists proclaim and

repeat the City's message of 'Where you want to live'. We see the tag line quoted in e-mails, in newspaper articles and in social media. We have also encouraged local businesses and organizations to use the tag line as well. For example the Sydenham Sportsman Association attends over a dozen consumer shows marketing the Salmon Derby. Front and center as part of their display booth is the City's logo and tag line. It works for them and it promotes the City of Owen Sound. This is part of the overall strategy of getting our message out in a cost effective and authentic way.

Money Sense Magazine recently confirmed what area residents already

know – that Owen Sound is one of the best places to live in Canada. Based on a variety of criteria Owen Sound was ranked the top 50th City to live in Canada, the top 25th small City to live in Canada, and the top 15th place to retire in Canada.

Offering a balanced lifestyle and economic opportunities in a rural and natural setting that is close to the GTA is our primary competitive advantage. We invite you to join in spreading the word...Owen Sound is where you want to live.

BUSINESS IS BOOMING ON THE SUNSET STRIP!

Business has been booming on the Sunset Strip in Georgian Bluffs in the last year. A number of businesses have been established or expanded and/or done other improvements on their existing site. They are the Auto Parts Centre, Home Hardware, McDonald's, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Peninsula Ford and Subaru.

Exciting Opportunities in Southgate!

Southgate is celebrating its first building in the fully serviced municipal industrial park, known as "Eco-Park". Lystek International broke ground on its Dundalk fertilizer plant in 2012. Now operating, the 20,000 ft² plant known as Organic Materials Recovery Centre (OMRC), processes biosolids into a CFIA registered, pathogen-free, nutrient-rich, bio-fertilizer product. Using patented technology, the Lystek process uses a unique combination of heat, high-shear mixing and alkali to create a safe, sustainable, low-odour fertilizer, safe for use on farms. Lystek recently received an award for advancing biosolids management from the Water Environment

Association of Ontario (WEAO). The new plant received Ministry of Environment approval in 2012 and expects to employ up to 15 full-time employees with room for expansion.

Southgate recently celebrated the Grand Opening of Esso On the Run. Located at the corner of Hwy 10 and Grey Road 9, the location features the only Tim Horton's on Hwy 10 between Orangeville and Owen Sound! This busy corner has put Dundalk on the map and employs more than 30 part- and full-time workers.

Metal Systems of Canada received the Supplier Quality Excellence Award from General Motors. The prestigious

award recognizes about 7 percent of product suppliers who have demonstrated the highest level of quality performance over the past 12 months. Metal Systems, which employees about 42 people, is located in the Village of Dundalk and manufactures several products, including car parts for the popular Chevy Equinox.

The approach of summer has Horse & Buggy Trail members gearing up for their third exciting season! The Horse & Buggy Trail is a unique tourism experience which invites travelers to explore working farms, sample local food and even take a buggy ride. The trail highlights the artisan

craftsmanship of many local Mennonite producers, including Fairbank Creek Furniture, well known for their exquisite custom kitchens and vanities.

Varney Speedway Motorplex has applied to expand their business by adding a, 1/8 mile drag strip. The popular spot has been entertaining racing enthusiasts for more than 40 years and is well known for the fastest ¼ mile oval track in Ontario. The new drag strip, if approved, would accommodate street vehicles and is expected to provide a much needed outlet for safe and legal racing venue for young and old alike.

Town of the Blue Mountains is Open for Business!

Town of the Blue Mountains Council recently approved a Business Retention and Expansion Project, an Open for Business Project and developing an Economic Advisory Committee in 2013.

Open for Business Program

An Open for Business Program would be designed to create faster, smarter and more streamlined government-to

business services. This is a means to attract and retain business by ensuring that businesses are able to effectively navigate processes for permits and applications at the local government level. This program aims to create an open and responsive working relationship between business and government.

A Business Retention and Expansion Program

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs developed the Business Retention and Expansion Program (BR&E).

The program consists of 5 basic steps:

- Formation of a leadership team to conduct a survey of existing business owners
- Conduct a survey
- Review the results
- Respond to needs
- Present an action plan

A BR&E will enable the Town to garner a comprehensive understanding of small business barriers to expansion and barriers to development of new business. The Town can then make the

necessary changes to encourage retention and expansion. The plan would include a 3-5 year implementation plan with milestones and targets for each year.

Economic Development Advisory Committee

The Committee would be a formal Committee of Council, making recommendations to Council on economic development initiatives, investment and building a long-term economic development implementation plan for the community.

Economic Development projects for the Town of the Blue Mountains have been put on hold until the hiring of an Economic Development Officer

Neustadt is having their first Fibre Arts Festival

on July 13 from 9 am - 4 pm

The Churches of Neustadt will be opening their doors showing displays of antique and new quilts, hooked rugs, embroidery and knitting etc. The items in the show will be displayed with their stories.

Some shops will also have displays showing antique and new items to do with fibre arts. Riversong Gallery will be showing 15 quilts from the Canada Packer Quilt Collection, housed in Milton at the Agriculture Museum. These quilts were the best of the best in Ontario from the 70's to the 90's.

One of the stops along the way will be the Neustadt History Exhibit. Neustadt has a fascinating history and this will be one area you will want to

see. We will be showing collections of the "old Neustadt".

Passports will be available mid May for \$5.00 each. This passport will get you into all of the venues the day of the Festival. We are looking forward to seeing you on July 13. We are holding a raffle with four prizes – queen size quilt, baby quilt, felted bag and hooked mat. Tickets are available at Village Creations, Granny's and It's My Pleasure.

When in Neustadt check out the windows on Mills Street advertising the Festival. Keep in touch with what is happening in the planning for the day, by checking us out on facebook – Neustadt Fibre Arts Festival and at neustadtfibreartsfestival.tumblr.com

Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium still going strong after 30 years in Grey County

Excellence in Manufacturing Consortium (EMC) is a unique not-for-profit organization founded in the mid-1980's by a group of Grey and Bruce County manufacturers. Formally incorporated in 1997, EMC is dedicated to helping manufacturers GROW and become MORE COMPETITIVE, at home and around the world. EMC has since grown to become Canada's largest manufacturing consortium, with over 5,000 member manufacturers participating through 55 regional consortiums and via online networks, representing over 180,000 individuals employed in manufacturing.

EMC's total manufacturing audience encompasses 40,000+ employers and 600,000 manufacturing employees from coast to coast.

EMC's programs and services yield opportunities for awareness, excellence and innovation, which have resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in economic growth and opportunity for industry and the surrounding communities.

For more information:

Stephanie Yakimishyn,
Field Service Advisor
Grey, Bruce and Simcoe Counties.
519-376-0470
syakimishyn@emccanada.org



Award-Winning Dragons' Den Meaford Back for a 5th Year!

The Meaford Chamber of Commerce has already started planning for the 5th annual Dragons' Den Meaford competition that will be held on Wednesday, October 30th, 2013 at Meaford Hall.

The 2012 event was the best ever with over \$32,000 in cash and prizes

awarded to local businesses. Once again, anyone is eligible to enter based on the commitment that, should they win, they will operate their business within the Municipality of Meaford. The competition is open to business expansions as well as start-up business ideas.

Dragons' Den has been a great success for Meaford's local entrepreneurs and the organizing committee continues to improve the event every year. Since its inception over \$120,000 in cash and prizes has been injected into our local economy.

The focus last year was to develop the contestants to give them the best possible chance of success. The results were clearly evident on the night of the show by the quality of

presentations made to the Dragons by our five finalists.

People who wish to be considered as a contestant for Dragons Den will be required to submit a business plan with their application.

Contact:
Meaford Chamber of Commerce
1-16 Trowbridge St. W.
Meaford, ON N4L 1N2
519-538-1640
business@mcofc.ca



Bluewater Wood Alliance Cluster heading to Dubai

Did you know that Grey County is the home to a true “cluster” of wood manufacturing companies that work together to remain competitive and grow both domestically and in export markets? Do you know what a true “cluster” really is? In simple terms, it involves one sector, and one region, and its activities impact deep down into the life of the companies. True clustering includes the supply chain as well, so efficiencies in how manufacturers are supported can be realized. Grey County is pleased to support the Bluewater Wood Alliance (BWA). bluewaterwoodalliance.com

What do real clusters do? It's not just about networking and sharing best practices, but it's also about facilitating collaborative projects between the companies. An exciting export development project for the Bluewater Wood Alliance is seeing seven member companies exhibiting products at a major trade show Index 2013 in Dubai UAE, where research has indicated it to be an emerging market for Ontario wood products. Wow! They could not do this if it were not for the total synergy of working together. Congratulations to the Bluewater Wood Alliance and all its member companies!

If you are a wood products manufacturer in Grey County, you need to become a member of the Bluewater Wood Alliance. Contact the BWA Manager Mike Baker manager@bluewaterwoodalliance.com

Grey Highlands Working with Business Owners

The Municipality of Grey Highlands has hosted two meetings for business owners in our downtown core: one in Flesherton and one in Markdale. The Municipality sought input from business owners to identify challenges, as well as opportunities for collaboration and improvement. The Municipality anticipates that these meetings are a beginning and seeks to continue open communication moving forward.

The basis of these meetings was to establish a need for collaboration and partnership amidst the current tough economic climate. It was presented at the meetings that economic and community development has been identified as priorities in the Municipality's strategic plan. In addition, the input of local business owners is timely as the Municipality is beginning the process of reviewing its Official Plan.

TOWN OF HANOVER



2012 was another progressive year in Hanover. With several noteworthy projects on the go, here are a few of the highlights. We learned that the new school site for Bluewater District School Board would be constructed in Hanover. Our 8th Annual Sights & Sounds Festival was another great success, drawing tourists from far and wide, and demonstrating once again why we call this annual week-long benchmark 'Hanover's Biggest Block Party'. In 2012 the Habitat Build broke ground and completed phase one of the project in time for a holiday move in. We saw continued investment in our assets and infrastructure with the purchase of 39 acres of land to be added to our Business/Industrial Park and the re-construction of 10th Avenue and the construction of 12th Street from 21st "A" Ave to 24th Ave to facilitate the new Canadian office and warehousing for Energizer Canada. The completion of Fibre Optics throughout our Town ranked Hanover 5th in Ontario for broadband speed; a real advantage and recruitment tool in the new technologically and knowledge driven economy.

2012 also saw two major agreements signed.

- 1 Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG), which recognizes Hanover as a host community under the new modernization plan.
- 2 Landfill/Saugeen Ojibway Nation (SON) Agreement signed between Hanover, Brockton & the Saugeen Ojibway Nations, after seven years of planning.

Our runner up for 2012 was our Downtown Revitalization work. After much talk, we moved to action, approving a community improvement plan which looks forward to developing a downtown that is functional, beautiful and representative of our community. Our greatest accomplishment of 2012 was undoubtedly Official Plan Amendment 80 and our shared commitment to create a Joint Services Agreement and Secondary Plan with West Grey to see the future expansion of the east end.

We are also demonstrating our commitment to modernizing our public messaging and attractiveness with the launch of a redesigned website hanover.ca in June 2012 (which in six months, had over double the traffic of the previous year).

Already in 2013, our re-branding efforts have taken a major leap forward, with the introduction of a bold new logo! There are exciting things ahead, and we couldn't be more thrilled to move forward.

Chatsworth

There is Always Something for Everyone!



The Township of Chatsworth is situated just south of Owen Sound, in the center of the scenic Grey County, just a short 2 hour drive from the Greater Toronto Area and other major cities.

Chatsworth boasts of the beauty of many rivers and streams, rolling hills, forests, scenic falls, rocks, inland lakes and the Niagara Escarpment. Rural and rustic in nature, it is the home of some of the most photographic and perfect views of nature. When visiting Chatsworth you will experience an atmosphere that is beautiful, quiet and peaceful.

With a strong emphasis on farming, Chatsworth is also home to a significant Amish community that brings with it an opportunity to step back in time.

Visit the small hamlets and communities of Berkeley, Chatsworth, Desboro, Holland Centre, Keady, Massie, Scone, Walter's Falls or Williamsford and experience our great community spirit. There is always something for everyone.



County of Grey Economic Development Office

102599 Grey Road 18
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6

877 • 733 • 4739

ecdev@grey.ca • investingrey.ca