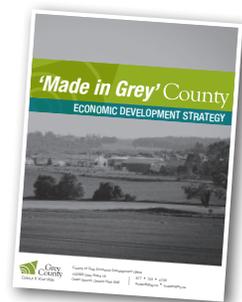


Grey County Economic Development

OPPORTUNITY LIVES HERE

“Made in Grey”

County Economic Development Strategy gets County Council Stamp of Approval



Grey County is “Open for Business.” That’s the long-term vision of the “Made in Grey” County Economic Development Strategy approved by County Council on April 7.

The strategy was presented to Grey County Council on Tuesday and is centered on working closely with local municipalities and business partners to create a positive environment for businesses and investors. It will help guide policies and decisions at the County in the coming years.

“It’s been a steep learning curve becoming educated on what economic development is,” said Grey County Warden Kevin Eccles. “I believe this is the right place for the County to be and this strategy provides the framework needed to work towards the community we aspire to develop.”

Development of the strategy was led by a steering committee of business leaders, elected officials and supported by County staff and consultants McSweeney & Associates. It identifies seven key

actions and themes where the County can add the most value to development:

- Becoming Investment Ready
- Creating a Business Friendly Environment
- Ensuring Key Infrastructure is in Place
- Developing Grey’s Workforce
- Communicating and Marketing Grey’s Greatness
- Tourism
- Agriculture, Farms and Local Food

“Economic development is a team sport and the County is thankful for the support of a steering committee comprised of prominent business leaders and County Councillors,” says Grey County CAO Sharon Vokes. “Their guidance, along with the input from the community, has led to the development of an economic development strategy to guide the County’s efforts in the coming years. The County is anxious to get moving in collaboration with its many partners to achieve meaningful results.”

The “Made in Grey” County Economic Development Strategy can be found on investingrey.ca. The draft strategy was presented to Grey County Council in February and was followed by a public consultation period. Updates were made to the strategy before the final version was approved.

BACKGROUND

Grey County began work on the economic development strategy in 2014 as part of the County’s Strategic Plan. The public was engaged several times throughout the development process which included one-on-one interviews with stakeholders, online surveys, focus groups, an Economic Summit, and direct feedback.

For more information please contact Meredith Bowers, Economic Development Officer at meredith.bowers@grey.ca or 519-376-3365 ext. 6120 or Bryan Plumstead, Economic Development and Tourism Manger, at bryan.plumstead@grey.ca or 519-376-3365 ext. 6110.



HANOVER'S YOUTHFUL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Construction is underway... the much-anticipated Youth Activity & Technology Centre (YATC) will open its doors to youth in the region this May. YATC is located at 612 10th St. Hanover and will focus on regional youth between ages 12 and 18.

Why are we doing this? We have a serious skills gap – 21% youth unemployment and businesses desperately seeking employees. Part of the problem is that you don't know what opportunities exist until you make the connection locally. This is a space where youth can develop their interpersonal and technological skills, while creating community partnerships and mentorship opportunities in the region.

We're thinking ahead... is a need for succession planning over the next five to 10 years as boomers get

set for retirement. The YATC will help youth develop the skills they'll need to fill those gaps. Plus, the more we demonstrate our commitment to youth and grant them the opportunity to invest their time in the community, the more they'll want to invest later.

Even though YATC is in Hanover, the benefits are not limited to our youth or municipality. YATC is positioned as a project that will serve the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our entire region. As we progress, we'll be looking to our regional partners for expertise and support.

We can barely contain our excitement – the outcomes will be significant. Retaining youth in our region is a priority!

What is Starter Company?

Starter Company gives youth the opportunity and support to either start up their own business, or to grow their existing business.

Who is eligible: You are eligible if you are between the ages of 18-29, not in school full time and not employed full time. You also must not be currently on any other government employment program.

What you get: Six months of one-on-one mentoring, free personalised business training and the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000.

Congratulations to the first Starter Company participants. They have received training and have written full business plans, received grants, and are now benefiting from ongoing mentorship.

If you know someone who may be interested in self-employment as their next job – maybe Starter Company is for them? Please contact

The Business Enterprise Centre at 519-371-3232 or email businesshelp@owensound.ca.



SAVE the date

Grey County
Agricultural
Outreach Day
May 7th, 2015
at Grey Agricultural
Services offices in
Markdale

Grey County's Planning and Economic Development (Local Food) departments have numerous programs which impact and serve farmers and agri-food producers across the County. Grey County in partnership with Grey Agricultural Services will host an information session and luncheon for agricultural organizations to talk about these programs and services. This outreach day will provide an opportunity for County staff and producers to ask questions of one another with the end goal being great communication and excellent service.

For more information, contact **Philly Markowitz at philly.markowitz@grey.ca or 519-376-3365 x6125.**

EmployerOne Survey

echoed what employers had to say in last year's Skills Gap Study

The Four County Labour Market Planning Board's (FCLMPB) EmployerOne Survey echoed what employers had to say in last year's Skills Gap Study.

"Employers continue to say the same thing – both the Skills Gap Study and EmployerOne Survey indicate employee work ethic and soft skills are critical to business, yet job applicants are not meeting employer expectations," said Gemma Mendez-Smith, executive director of the FCLMPB, adding that there appears to be a definite trend here.

Both the study and survey gave Bruce, Grey, Huron and Perth County employers the opportunity to provide valuable insight regarding their labour outlook. The majority of survey respondents from each county reported that the availability of qualified workers was fair or poor. Survey respondents from Grey and Huron counties reported the greatest discontent with the quality of workers available.

Not meeting skills and not meeting motivation, attitude or interpersonal abilities were among the top reasons employers have a hard time filling

positions in Bruce, Grey, Huron and Perth counties.

The goal of the EmployerOne Survey is to understand employers' labour market challenges in order to provide direction on activities and initiatives that will minimize labour issues in the FCLMPB region. The survey, giving employers the opportunity to voice their occupational, training and skills needs, will be conducted annually.

The survey findings, which will be presented to local stakeholders, including educators, local governments and Employment Ontario Service Providers, can be viewed at

www.planningboard.ca/reports.

For further information on the survey please call the FCLMPB at **519-881-2725** or email info@planningboard.ca.



Your Workforce. Our Future.



Serving Bruce Grey Huron Perth

Broadband for Everyone: Connecting Southwestern Ontario with SWIFT



Now, more than ever, connectivity matters. From manufacturing to agri-food, government services to education, every aspect of our economy requires connectivity to access supply chains, commodity markets, marketing boards and other sales, purchasing, communications, banking and employment opportunities. That's why the Western Ontario Warden's Caucus initiated the SouthWest Integrated Fibre Technology (SWIFT) project. SWIFT will provide next generation fibre-optic connectivity to all of Southwestern Ontario, reaching 310 communities with a total population of 3 million, covering 41,286 km² and serving communities with population densities as low as 4 persons per square kilometer. The goal is to connect every resident, farm, business and public organization to fibre optics by 2040 or sooner. To learn more about SWIFT and how your organization can support the project, please visit www.swiftnetwork.ca or contact SWIFT Initiative Staff Lead Geoff Hogan at geoff.hogan@grey.ca or **519-376-2277**.

Grey County Summer Bucket List

- Cycle the Thornbury Loop and finish with a Smoked Kolapore Pizza at The Bruce Wine Bar
- Explore Bruce's Caves then lick a home-made ice cream cone from the Big Bay General Store
- Climb Old Baldy with Upside Unlimited then hang out at the Flying Spatula in Eugene
- Tour the hop yards and sample Ontario's best craft beers at the Bighead Shindig on August 15
- Paddle the Beaver River in Heathcote then devour a gooey butter tart at the Black Bird Pie Company
- Take a helicopter flight over orchards and vineyards; then heighten your palate at Georgian Hills Vineyards
- Have a siesta atop Jones Falls after indulging on locally infused Mexican from Casero Kitchen Table in Owen Sound

Grey County
Colour It Your Way
www.visitgrey.ca



County of Grey Economic Development Office

102599 Grey Road 18
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6

877 • 733 • 4739

ecdev@grey.ca • investingrey.ca

“SAVOUR OWEN SOUND” Hits Sweet Spot

The City of Owen Sound

extended its Winterlicious-style promotion this year to a four-week run, reflecting its increased popularity among both restaurants and diners.

Eight local restaurants took part in Savour Owen Sound, offering delicious, three-course meals for a fixed price:

Nathaniel's, Villa Nina Bistro, the Sweetwater restaurant at Cobble Beach Resort, Jazzmyn's, Norma Jean's Bistro, Elsie's Diner, the Harrison Park Inn and Legacy Ridge golf club.

Several were newcomers to the event.

“For this time of year it offered a

welcome influx of people,” said Nina Deckers, owner of Villa Nina Bistro on 10th Street West, a first-time participant.

This tourism-led campaign encourages residents and visitors to enjoy a sumptuous meal at a local restaurant, while also “savouring” other seasonal offerings such as concerts, plays, film series, outdoor recreation and OHL Attack hockey. Where possible, local food is highlighted and compliments the broader regional efforts to support the local food movement.



Savour Owen Sound ran from February 20 to March 22, with weekly draw prizes of savory gift baskets. Prize sponsors included Coffin Ridge Winery, Kilannan Brewery, the Owen Sound DIA, the Owen Sound Farmers' Market, the Tom Thomson Art Gallery, Sophii's Choice, the Owen Sound library, and Grey County.

GROWING INNOVATION offers new ideas for aspiring food entrepreneurs at Owen Sound Campus April 20

Aspiring food entrepreneurs will want to mark their calendar for *Food Entrepreneurs: Growing Innovation*, a one-day community seminar at the Georgian College Owen Sound campus on Monday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event is being planned by Georgian College in partnership with local municipalities and economic development partners, including Grey County, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Grey County Chefs' Forum and the Grey Bruce Agriculture and Culinary Association.

Highlights of the day include panel discussions and interactive workshops by successful food entrepreneurs. Also featured will be an exhibition of approximately 25 local food producers and processors who will showcase their locally made products, provide samples and be able to share their unique entrepreneurial stories with attendees.

The seminar addresses the growing need for education and training in the area of food entrepreneurship development. Local, sustainable food has increasingly become a priority for consumers. In response, municipalities recognize the benefit of value-added agriculture and product development as a strategic imperative for economic growth.



Growing Innovation capitalizes on these agricultural and economic development trends and offers tools and resources to help agri-food businesses position themselves to meet new consumer demand. The event will focus on what is needed to further develop the local food economy and particularly what producers need to bring their food and beverage businesses to higher levels of productivity and profitability.

Growing Innovation builds on the success of two similar day-long community seminars held earlier in Orangeville and in Collingwood. Together, they attracted about 340 food entrepreneurs.

For more information or to register, visit foodentrepreneursowensound.eventbrite.ca.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT 101 WORKSHOP FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS & VOLUNTEERS

JOIN US FOR A FREE INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

Learn the basics of economic development and take away practical tools to help your municipality develop & implement an economic development strategy.

During the workshop we will:

- Provide you with a model of how to understand basic economic activity in your community
- Increase your understanding of the potential scope of economic development activity
- Provide you with some practical tools to assist in your economic development efforts

Thursday April 23, 2015
Meaford Hall
9:00AM - 12:00pm

REGISTER HERE
For further details
call 1-877-424-1300

Get practical tools you can use to help with making economic development decisions



THE TOWN OF HANOVER AND CITY OF OWEN SOUND WERE BOTH WINNERS

AT THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF ONTARIO CONFERENCE IN HAMILTON THIS FEBRUARY.

Owen Sound won an honourable mention in the Technology and New Media category (population 10,000-50,000) for its online promotion of the Salmon Tasting and Tours held last October. The marketing campaign, which included a Facebook contest and online videos, succeeded in attracting people from outside the Grey-Bruce region. More than 60 per cent of those who attended the event were from Toronto and Southwestern Ontario. Partners for the salmon tasting and tours included the Grey Sauble Conservation Foundation, the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association, Georgian College's Culinary Program, Rocky Racoon

Cafe and the Sweetwater Restaurant at Cobble Beach Golf & Resort.

The Town of Hanover received an Ontario Economic Development Award for its inaugural Façade Incentive Program. The Façade Incentive Program, introduced in 2014, was the second major project of the Downtown Revitalization Implementation Committee (DTRIC). The Program is now recognized as a provincial leader in collaboration, taking home top nods in the Public-Private Investment category for a region under 50,000.



Back Row Left to Right
Mayor of Owen Sound Ian Boddy, Paulette Peirol, Bryan Plumstead, and Meredith Bowers

Front Row Left to Right
Savanna Schaus, Mayor Sue Paterson from the Town of Hanover and Steve Furness

Warden's
Breakfast
**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

Warden Kevin Eccles invites you to attend a Warden's Breakfast on Tuesday June 16, 2015. Learn more about the exciting projects Grey County Economic Development is working on and what's to come.

This event is a great opportunity to network with elected officials, staff and fellow business owners.

Tuesday June 16, 2015

Best Western Inn on the Bay
Owen Sound
7:30AM – 9:30AM

RSVP to Meredith Bowers

no later than **Friday June 5, 2015**

(Seating is limited)

519-376-3365 Ext 6120 or by emailing
Meredith.bowers@grey.ca

Housing Development In MEAFORD

will boost property values!



A significant housing development proposal in the Municipality of Meaford has the potential to boost its property values and revitalize the downtown core by bringing new traffic and new residents into the urban core.

The two-phase project would significantly alter the downtown landscape. The proposal involves the property that was once a Canadian Tire store on Nelson Street and the downtown buildings on Sykes Street from Simply Unique to the Fabric Shoppe.

If the two-phase development is implemented the Sykes Street building would be torn down and replaced with a new five-story commercial/residential building. The two developments are linked by significant underground parking. Phase

one on Nelson Street has all its approvals in place and the developer, Lino Tonic plans to begin marketing units in the summer of 2015 with the new building expecting to begin construction in the summer of 2016.

Along with ground floor commercial components, the development proposes a number of residential units. If completed, the two buildings would have units for more than 100 new residents living and shopping in the urban core of Meaford.

Should this development receive the necessary planning approvals, it could become a real catalyst for economic development in the urban core and Meaford's strong real estate market would only continue to get stronger.

Customer Service Excellence Training

The Municipalities of Grey Highlands & Meaford are pleased to advise you that we have partnered with the Ontario Municipal Leadership Institute (OMLI) to bring to you, a one-day "Customer Service Excellence" training workshop for all front-line employees and/or those staff who are dealing directly with the public, either face-to-face or otherwise.

This joint training initiative between our municipalities is not only practical, cost-effective and convenient but is also in direct response to a growing need to ensure that we continue to deliver and provide exemplary customer service to all citizens in our communities, as well as to each other.

The workshop will be held on the following dates:

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

at Grey Highlands

www.eply.com/CustomerServiceExcellenceGH

OR

Thursday, May 14, 2015

at Meaford Hall

www.eply.com/CustomerServiceExcellenceMeaford

Please feel free to register or share with any of your employees that you feel will benefit from attending this workshop.

Connect It Your Way: Grey Gets Smart with Connected County Initiative



Intelligent Communities leverage technology to connect and compete globally while promoting exceptional quality of life. Grey County is working toward becoming an intelligent, connected county – and we need your help to achieve this vision. Following the success of 2014's exploratory work with Intelligent Community Forum co-founder Robert Bell with leaders from across our communities, and in alignment with the soon-to-be-released Economic Development Strategy, Grey County is developing a

Connected County initiative that will include extensive community engagement to facilitate greater communications, advocacy, broadband extension and adoption, economic development and digital inclusion. Are you interested in facilitating discussions and developing action plans for positioning Grey County as a leader in the broadband economy? We want to hear from you! For more information, please visit www.grey.ca/services/economic-development/connected-county/



or contact Ashleigh Weeden, Community Engagement & Communications – Connected County Initiative at

**Ashleigh.Weeden@grey.ca or
519-372-0219 ext. 1255**

Talisman Mountain Springs Inn

The former Talisman Property has officially been renamed, after much consultation and analysis, to Talisman Mountain Springs Inn. The Inn denotes the fact that it is a place to stay and relax in an upscale setting. The Springs reflects the bountiful supply of springs and rivers on the Property. The Mountain states the geography on the Talisman Mountain and Talisman Mountain Road Address.

Extensive renovations are being conducted on both the interior and exterior of all buildings. The owners are looking to make the buildings more energy efficient, add to the aesthetics and decrease the carbon footprint.

The Talisman Hot Springs Spa will serve as a restaurant dedicated to spa patrons, a number of treatment rooms, quiet lounge area, yoga studio, class room, business offices, change rooms and local artist studio. The outdoor hot springs will face Old Baldy which will be natural spring water heated primarily with

geo-thermal system. The large pools will include an extensive waterfall, with a grotto behind the falls, a plunge pool, large steam room and sauna, lounging areas and private alcoves with small hot tubs for quiet private conversation. The Spa is planned to begin construction Spring/Summer of 2015.

The Inn will no longer be a ski destination but with plenty of skiing in the area, the Inn will serve as a first class accommodation for those who are participating in the sport locally.

The golf course is planned to be open late this spring. The owners look forward to announcing the opening date and inviting you to spend some time soaking up the ambiance of the new Inn, Spa and Golf Course.

Brian Ellis, Partner in Talisman Mountain Springs Inn, would like to thank everyone for their continued support and interest in the former Talisman Property.

TOWNSHIP OF CHATSWORTH

Business Showcase and Sale

May 1st 5-8 pm
& May 2nd 10am-4pm

Chatsworth Community Centre

FREE ADMISSION

80+ Indoor and Outdoor Exhibitors



Chatsworth

Investment in Affordable Housing (IAH) HOMEOWNERSHIP PROGRAM

What is the Investment in Affordable Housing Homeownership Program?!



This program is designed to assist low to moderate income renter households the opportunity to purchase affordable homes by providing down payment assistance in the form of a forgivable loan.

Are you eligible? Have a staff that might benefit from this program?

To be eligible for down payment assistance, prospective purchasers must:

- Be a renter household in Grey County buying a sole and principal residence in Grey County.
- Have a household income at or below \$74,100 income level as determined by the County of Grey.
- Must qualify for a mortgage Co-signatures not eligible.

ELIGIBLE UNIT TYPES

Resale or new homes are eligible unit types. Homes may be detached, semi-detached, town (condo and freehold), stacked homes, row houses, apartments or similar built forms and duplexes. Mobile homes/trailers are not eligible.

FUNDING

Funding is provided as a down payment assistance loan for eligible purchasers. Assistance is forgivable after 20 years.

For more information contact Grey County Housing at 519 376-5744

Regional Food Entrepreneurship Committee Nominated for a Georgian College Board of Governor's AWARD

The regional Food Entrepreneurship Committee (a.k.a. "Food-E") has been nominated for a Georgian College Board of Governor's Community Partner Award. The award recognizes valuable partnerships between Georgian College and the community it serves, and the contributions of community partners "in a way that reflects the college's mission, vision and values".

The Food-E committee was born out of the successful partnership between Georgian College and the counties of Grey, Bruce and Simcoe to develop the Food Safety Regulatory training curriculum in 2013-2014, and has also produced two successful food entrepreneurship events to date.

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

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



As part of Grey County's Business visitation program staff from the County, Town of Hanover along with elected officials and Hanover's Economic Development Committee toured MacLean's Ales in Hanover on February 24, 2015.

NEW TOURISM WEBSITE COMING SOON! MAY 5, 2015





SIGN UP TODAY!

Regional Career and Training Fair

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

In response to the continuing needs expressed by local employers, Grey County, the Town of Hanover, Four County Labour Market Planning Board, École John Diefenbaker Senior School and the Bluewater District School Board will be hosting a Regional Career and Training Fair. The career fair will be held on **Wednesday October 28, 2015** at the John Diefenbaker Senior School Gymnasiums. This event is free to local employers. The event is scheduled from 11:00AM to 7:00PM. For your convenience please use the west entrance.

If you are interested in participating, please complete the form below and return to Meredith Bowers, Economic Development Officer with the County of Grey by **Friday September 18, 2015**. This event is of no cost to you. Please note that if you register and fail to participate you will be assessed a \$100.00 penalty.

If you aren't interested in participating, please feel free to pass this information along to another company that may have an interest in attending.

We're also encouraging employers to send staff that graduated from one of our local high schools in Grey/Bruce. We'd like to demonstrate that we have unique and interesting opportunities in Grey/ Bruce and that it's a great place to live, work and play.

If you have any questions, or if additional information is required, please feel free to contact me directly.

MEREDITH BOWERS

Phone: 519-376-3365 ext. 6120

Fax: 519-376-4654

Meredith.Bowers@grey.ca

www.grey.ca



County of Grey Economic Development Office

102599 Grey Road 18
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6

877 • 733 • 4739
ecdev@grey.ca • investingrey.ca



REGISTRATION FORM

Regional Career and Training Fair

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

École John Diefenbaker Senior School, Hanover Ontario

COMPANY NAME: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

NAMES OF COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

ELECTRICITY REQUESTED?

INTERNET REQUIRED?

Positions you are hiring for:

full-time part-time student

Tell us a unique/interesting fact about your business: _____

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 18, 2015

HOURS: Career Fair hours will be between 11:00am and 7:00pm. Displays may be set up between 9:00am and 10:30am.

All exhibitors attending must be able to commit to the 11:00am - 7:00pm hours.

DISPLAY AREA: each booth will be supplied with two chairs, a 8' x 2.5' Table with table cloth

REFRESHMENTS: Complimentary Snacks, Refreshments And A Light Dinner Will Be Available In Our Hospitality Area.

PARKING: Is Available On Site.

Please fax or email this form to 519-376-4654 • meredith.bowers@grey.ca



County of Grey Economic Development Office

102599 Grey Road 18
Owen Sound, Ontario N4K 5N6

877 • 733 • 4739

ecdev@grey.ca • investingrey.ca