

Township of

# North Dundas

## COUNCIL REPORT

<b>To:</b>	CAO, Mayor and Members of Council
<b>From:</b>	Rob Hunter, CMM
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	December 13, 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	Economic Development Report

### 1.0 Economic Development Budget - 2012

Time was spent in November putting together the 2012 Economic Development budget. A number of the items contained in the budget are items that were included in the Economic Development Plan that was adopted by Council in August 2011. A key item in the budget is funding to produce an Economic Development Strategy for the Township of North Dundas. The intent is to have the Township strategy done in tandem by the consultant hired to produce the Economic Development Strategy for the United Counties of SD & G.

### 2.0 Investment Attraction

#### 2.1 Commercial Investment Attraction

A) I had some discussions in the month of November with a business person that is looking at developing a commercial venture in the Township. This person is quite active and is hoping to be able to move forward over the next few months. I will continue to hold further discussions with them in the near future as we progress with this file. (FILE ID # C-1111-AA)

**COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT ATTRACTION CONTINUED:**

B) I have had discussions with a developer who is considering a commercial investment in North Dundas. I am hopeful that we will be able to see this investment take place and will continue to hold discussions and provide assistance to them as this project moves forward.

**(FILE ID # C-1111-BB)**

**2.2 Retail Investment Attraction**

A) I had follow up discussions with the various parties in regards to this proposed retail opportunity that came up in August. The parties did not feel that this opportunity was the right fit for them and they have decided not to pursue this venture. I have closed the file and have filed it for information purposes. **(FILE ID # R-0811-AA)**

B) I had discussions with a very successful retailer from outside the Township who will consider expanding their operations to include an outlet in North Dundas. I will continue to hold further discussions with them in the near future as we progress with this file. **(FILE ID # R-1111-AA)**

**3.0 Marketing and Communications**

**3.1 Gateway Signage**

All signs are currently in production and are on schedule to be installed by the third week of December.

**3.2 Website**

We conducted an online survey in regards to the Township website in November. Visitors to the website were encouraged to take some time to review the website and then complete the survey. I have taken the information collected from both our internal review and the online survey and have analyzed it. I am currently developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) with the proposals due in January 2012.

### **3.3 Networking**

A) I attended the 'Linking Hands' Dundas County Community Forum in November. I have received a copy of the report detailing the discussions and suggestions that took place during the forum. I will provide a copy of this report to the consultant who is hired to produce the Township Economic Development Strategy.

B) I attended the Eastern Ontario Training Board / Conference Board of Canada Workforce Development Session in November. This session was valuable as it provided information on current workforce development trends and highlighted a number of action items in the future.

C) I had a meeting with the new South Dundas Economic Development Officer to discuss economic development items that are of mutual interest.

D) I attended the November North Dundas Chamber of Commerce meeting.

## **4.0 Planning and Infrastructure Development**

### **4.1 High Speed Internet**

I have continued to field a number of questions in regards to broadband services in Harmony. I have also spoken with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) and confirmed that Marionville was included in the Embrun catchment area for Broadband coverage as part of the first round of the EORN project. This included the installation of a new 4G Broadband Tower by Xplornet Communications just outside of Marionville.

## **5.0 Other Economic Development Activities**

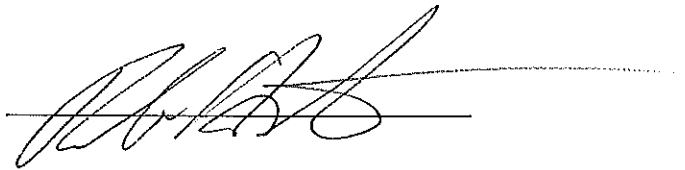
### **5.1 Festivals and Events**

I had a number of meetings and conversations with Members of the South Mountain Fair Committee to provide assistance to them as they worked on putting together a Grant Application. I reviewed the final application for them before it was submitted.

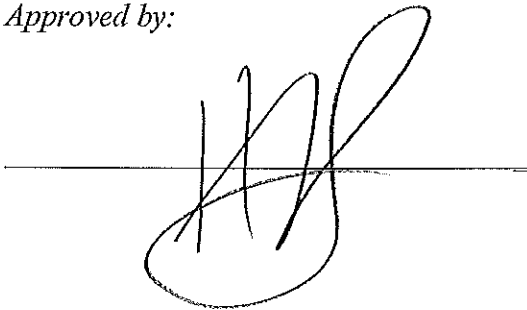
## 5.2 Accessibility Customer Service Standard

I continued to receive a number of enquiries from businesses in regards to the Accessibility (AODA) Customer Service Standard that will come into force on January 1, 2012. I have provided copies of the Accessibility Guide and Accessibility Plan Template to these businesses to help ensure they are compliant with the January 2012 standard.

*Submitted by:*

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*Approved by:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large loop at the bottom and several vertical strokes, positioned above a horizontal line.