



Township of

North Dundas

COUNCIL REPORT

To:	CAO, Mayor and Members of Council
From	Rob Hunter, CMM
Date of Meeting:	October 11, 2011
Subject:	Economic Development Report

1.0 Investment Attraction

1.1 Commercial Investment Attraction

a) I had a meeting with a senior executive representing a national company that is currently looking to establish a base of operations in Eastern Ontario. The Township of North Dundas is one location that they will consider as they move forward with their plans. I have provided them with the requested information and also provided them a copy of the TOPS report produced by the Eastern Ontario Training Board as they had requested some work force information as well. It is my hope that I will be able to hold a follow up meeting with them sometime in the near future. **(FILE ID # C-0911-AA)**

1.2 Retail Investment Attraction

a) I have heard back from the company in question in regards to the retail opportunity that we had discussed in August. Based on the feedback that was received, we will have to explore some additional avenues and further refinement to help this opportunity come to fruition. **(FILE ID # R-0811-AA)**

2.0 Marketing and Communications

2.1 Gateway Signage

I attended the signage tender opening held at 1:00pm on Monday September 19, 2011 and reviewed all the tenders that were submitted. Based on the review of the tender documents, I produced a report for Council for awarding the tender for Gateway, Village/Hamlet and Park signage. The report detailing the recommendation was passed at the September 27, 2011 Council meeting. Council awarded the Tender to Colonel's Signs.

2.2 Website

I have started conducting the needs assessment of the Township of North Dundas website by interviewing township staff. The information gathered during this needs assessment will help guide what, if any strategies for the website could be developed. The township website is a valuable tool for providing information to residents, visitors and potential businesses and investors.

2.3 Networking

a) I attended the September meeting of the Dundas Federation of Agriculture (DFA) to discuss the adopted Economic Development plan. The members of DFA were very happy to have me attend and I reiterated my willingness to work with them in the future as required.

b) I attended a birthday celebration event that was held for Dr. Gray on the occasion of his 80th Birthday. I presented a certificate to him on behalf of the Mayor and Council.

c) I attended the United Counties of SD & G Economic Working Group meeting to view the preliminary branding options for the establishment of a new Economic Development brand for SD & G. The group provided feedback on these initial concepts and will meet again on Friday October 14, 2011.

2.4 Business Visitation

I visited seventeen businesses (retail, commercial and agricultural) in September. These business visits were conducted to ensure that there is a good exchange of information between the Township and the business community at large. It also helps identify if there are any issues concerning the business community that need to be addressed or if there was an opportunity to assist any of the individual businesses.

3.0 Research and Information Management

3.1 Community Profile

I completed the refinement of the draft content of the Township of North Dundas Community Profile. I am waiting until after the October 6th Provincial Election to finalize the document content so that the contact information of the newly elected M.P.P. for Stormont, Dundas and South Glengarry can be included. I also took a number of photos from various locations around the Township that will be used in the Community Profile.

4.0 Planning and Infrastructure Development

4.1 High Speed Internet

I held meetings with Jim Pine and Lisa Severson from the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to get an update on the current and proposed high speed internet coverage in North Dundas. I also held meetings with Denise Grant from RipNet and also Bob Davie from Xplornet to get an update on their current offers and coverage areas. For most businesses IT Infrastructure is now as fundamental to their business operation as electricity or water/sewage services. High speed internet is also fundamental service for residents who are currently living in the township or people who are looking to make the Township of North Dundas their home.

5.0 Community Revitalization

5.1 Main Street Revitalization

A key component of Main Street Revitalization is having the appropriate retail/service mix. In September, I worked with staff at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs to produce a *Market Threshold Business Mix Analysis* for both the Village of Winchester and the Village of Chesterville. These two documents will help in the process of identifying the gaps in the retail and service offerings in both these villages. This information will be helpful and act as a reference when working with both existing businesses and new investors to help fill those gaps as part of our recruitment efforts.

6.0 Other Economic Development Activities

6.1 Retail Holiday Act Public Meeting

I finalized the draft Retail Holiday Act Bylaw and my presentation for the public meeting that was held on September 13, 2011 at 6:00pm. The public meeting went well with no one speaking in opposition to the bylaw going forward. The bylaw will be up for adoption by Council at the October 11, 2011 Council meeting. A copy of the bylaw can be found in the bylaw section of the Council meeting agenda.

6.2 Festivals and Events Funding Programs

I have researched and compiled a list of funding programs that are available for festivals and events. I have provided a copy of this funding list to the organizers of Dairyfest and the South Mountain Fair. I also provided each of them with a copy of a successful funding application that I wrote in 2008 that can be used as a reference when they are completing their funding applications.

6.3 Organization Membership and Event Attendance

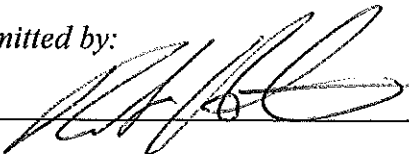
a) I attended the Ontario East Municipal Conference that was held in Kingston from Wednesday September 14th to Friday September 16th. The conference sessions were well presented and informative.

Some of the session highlights at the conference were:

- i) Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario
- ii) Community Economic Development
- iii) Small Business and Youth Entrepreneurship
- iv) Small Town Revitalization

b) I will be attending the Economic Development Association of Canada Conference on October 2, 3 and 4th.

Submitted by:



Approved by:
