



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Connie Goodall
DATE: 14/07/2016
SUBJECT: Economic Development Report July 2016
ATTACHMENTS: [Click here to enter text.](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Department Activity Report of the Economic Development Office dated July 14, 2016 is hereby received for information purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Economic Development Officer provides periodic updates to Council on activities within the Economic Development Department.

DISCUSSION

1. Creative Countryside Job Creation Partnership (JCP) Project (Phase II)

Approval has been received to move forward with Phase 2 of Huron's Creative Countryside Job Creation Partnerships Project by the Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities.

The project will involve 10 participants in the following positions:

Municipal Archives Assistant (Huron County Museum)

Museum Archives Assistant (Huron County Museum)

Community Events Coordinator (Huron Arts & Heritage Network)

The Bach Music Festival of Canada Associate

Blyth Festival Arts Associate

Private Collections Archives Associate (Huron County Historical Society)

International Plowing Match 2017 Assistant

Alice Munro Coordinator (AMFSS/North Huron)

Archives Associate (Bayfield Historical Society, Heritage Centre & Archives) Cultural Collective Coordinator

Participants receive \$423 per week, plus approved travel expenses. Placements are up to 42 weeks. The participants will work 30 hours weekly for their placement organization and will participate in training/job search 5 hours weekly. All applicants must meet the EI eligibility criteria.

North Huron Economic Development and the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story will partner to provide a position to further the goals identified in the Alice Munro Labour Market Partnership and provide planning assistance and support to the Alice Munro 2017 Festival.

2. Musical Muskrat Festival

After ten successful years, the committee of the Musical Muskrat Festival has taken the 2016 season to plan for the future of the festival by rebuilding the committee, gathering new ideas and planning for the sustainability of the event. Several people have expressed interest in joining the committee and public input is being sought through an on-line survey. The committee for the 2017 event will be established at a meeting on September 13 and data from the survey will be considered for the planning for 2017 and beyond. To complete the survey go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/M2KKRYZ> or it can be accessed on the festival's facebook page.

3. Rural Employment Initiative

Rural Employment Initiative is a program through the CFDC's (Community Future Development Corporations) made possible with funding from Trillium. Locally, a committee has been formed including representatives from economic development and sector representatives in Huron County as well as education providers to administer the program in Huron County. The goal of the project is to work directly with the Newcomer Centre of Peel (NCP), in Mississauga to connect foreign trained professionals to employment and business opportunities in Huron County. The Centre is currently working with clients that are;

- ✓ Willing to relocate to a rural community in Ontario to work or start a business
- ✓ Immigrants who have a great desire to re-enter their professions, but have been forced to do unskilled jobs for a number of years
- ✓ Permanent Residents or Convention Refugees with intermediate language ability
- ✓ Job ready and actively seeking a job or to establish a business

Step one involves identifying business locally that are having barriers recruiting locally for various positions and matching qualified candidates.

4. Blyth 140th Anniversary

A community group has come together to plan for the 140th Anniversary of the village of Blyth. The group plans to celebrate 140 events for 140 years. They are currently mapping out all events that are booked for the year (including regular events like church suppers, streetfest, etc) Community Groups are being asked to consider hosting an event that helps celebrate the anniversary. A history group has been established, that is researching interesting historical stories to be used in the calendar of events and possibly influence programming. A logo has been created and social media content will be available soon. The next meeting of the committee is July 26 at 7pm at the Blyth Legion.

5. Rural Talks to Rural (R2R) Conference

Volunteer opportunities currently exist for the R2R conference to be held in Blyth on September 27, 28, 29 and 30. Rural innovators and leaders will be attending from across North America. Conference streams include – Arts & Culture, Food & Farm, Community

Revival/Development and Sustaining our Population Growth. If you or anyone you know would be interested in volunteering, please let Connie Goodall know.

6. Events 2016

Blyth Street Festival – July 23, 2016

Rural Talks to Rural (R2R) Conference – September 27 – 30, 2016

7. Social Media Report

Facebook – Current number of followers

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial considerations for the above have been included in the 2016 Economic Development Budget.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Discuss future impacts of project or activity, if any

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL: Our community is attractive to new business and residents

Outcome: We foster a positive business environment that retains, promotes, and attracts businesses and investment.

Outcome: Tourism is a driver in economic development.

GOAL: Our residents are engaged and well informed

Outcome: We cultivate a culture of volunteerism and belonging.

Outcome: Investigate ways to provide more accessible, timely communications that appeal to a variety of audiences

Connie Goodall – Economic Development Officer

Enter your name, enter your role

Sharon Chambers, CAO