



# TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

# REPORT

Item No.

**REPORT TO:** Reeve Vincent and Members of Council  
**PREPARED BY:** Connie Goodall  
**DATE:** 22/08/2016  
**SUBJECT:** Economic Development Activity Report – August 2016  
**ATTACHMENTS:** Rural Talks to Rural Conference Information, Rural Employment Initiative Brochure

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## **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Department Activity Report for the Economic Development Office dated August 22, 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**

Rural Employment Initiative (REI)

The Huron Business Development Corporation has entered into an agreement to engage in the REI program with the Newcomer Centre of Peel Region. The Rural Employment Initiative (REI) intends to place 35 people in businesses or jobs in Huron County in the next year. This program is funded by Trillium.

Representatives from various County agencies; including, Huron Business Development Corporation, Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Conestoga Careers, Town of Goderich, Huron County Economic Development, Township of North Huron, Municipality of Huron East, Avon Maitland District School Board – Employment Services and Four County Labour Market Training Board are currently represented at the committee level.

As part of the project – diversity training is being made available to businesses and community representatives, agencies and municipalities. Mentoring will be supported by the committee and the need for better settlement services is being reviewed.

I am currently working with three North Huron businesses to see if they would find it beneficial to participate. I have received confirmation from 2 to date and they have shared information on positions that they are currently recruiting for. HBDC is compiling the list of available jobs in the County and will share it with the Newcomer Centre of Peel.

Rural Talks to Rural (R2R) Conference

Registration is now being taken for the R2R conference. The conference, being hosted by 14/19, is a unique opportunity to engage innovative thinkers and rural entrepreneurs in idea sharing and networking right here in Blyth and various other venues in Huron County.

The conference partners are:

County of Huron

Township of North Huron

Huron Business Development Corporation

Huron Food Action Network

University of Guelph  
The Rural Voice  
Rural Ontario Institute  
The Dutch Embassy (hosting three delegates)  
The conference will be held on September 28, 29 & 30.

#### Wingham/Walkerton First Impressions Program (FICE)

The Wingham BIA has engaged OMAFRA to participate in a First Impressions Program. The program matches two communities who send representative to visit the other community. The visits are done anonymously and a survey is completed by visitors. The survey rates such things as; first impressions, local government services, downtown appearance, businesses and services, tourism, entertainment and recreation. The Wingham committee has received training from OMAFRA and will visit Walkerton before September 15. The final report on Wingham (as compiled by Walkerton) will be shared with Council, municipal staff and business representatives in the fall.

#### Phase II Job Creation Partnership

This County wide project that would have seen staff working in various arts and culture organizations for the next year has been cancelled by the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities Waterloo Office. North Huron was on board as a partner with the intent of having a person further the goals identified in the Alice Munro Labour Market Partnership Project.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

The following projects will require staff time and support; Rural Employment Initiative, Rural Talks to Rural and First Impressions.

\$1,000 was placed in the Economic Development budget for the contribution towards Phase II of the Job Creation Partnership. This will no longer be required.

#### **FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Discuss future impacts of project or activity, if any

#### **RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN**

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

Our downtowns are attractive retail and commercial destinations.



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Connie Goodall, EDO

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Sharon Chambers, CAO