



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Connie Goodall
DATE: 21/03/2016
SUBJECT: Economic Development Activity Report March 2016
ATTACHMENTS: Musical Muskrat Minutes (March 8, 2016)

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the March 2016 Activity Report of the Economic Development Officer for information purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

DISCUSSION

1. Musical Muskrat Festival 2016

At the March 8, 2016 Meeting of the Planning Committee it was decided that the committee would not proceed with a 2016 event. The minutes from the meeting are attached.

2. Ontario Arts Council Grant Application – AMFSS

Rick Sickinger (on behalf of the Alice Munro Festival of the Short Story) has applied to the Ontario Arts Council for a \$6500 grant for the 2017 event. The Festival received a \$5500 grant towards the 2016 event. The application required a letter of support from North Huron outlining the municipality's in-kind support for the festival. The letter was provided and signed by Reeve Vincent.

3. Job Fair

Based on discussions across the County throughout the Economic Development Strategic Planning (EDSP) process, a decision was made to separate the functions of the Industry Connects event and hold three events. Historically, the event has been a single County wide Job and Career Fair with the target audience being comprised of both youth in the career planning stage and current Job Seekers. During the EDSP it was identified that some companies are having a difficult time recruiting and filling positions. A Job Fair was recently held in South Huron to recruit primarily for the Huron Park area. The event was very successful. A committee is being formed in the North Huron area to hold a similar event. We will be using the template developed by the South Huron committee. Some discussions with area employers have started (enough to confirm a need) and more will follow. To date North Huron, the County of Huron, Conestoga Careers and the Centre for Employment and Learning are on the planning committee.

4. Ontario Business Improvement Association Conference 2016

The Economic Development Office will be presenting at the OBIAA Conference in London on April 12, 2016. North Huron will be participating on a panel discussion "Surviving a Major Downtown Reconstruction".

FINANCIAL IMPACT

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

1. Goal: Our residents are engaged and well informed
 - We cultivate a culture of volunteerism and belonging
2. Goal: Our community is attractive to new businesses and residents
 - Tourism is a driver in Economic Development
3. Goal: Our community is attractive to new businesses and resident
 - We foster a positive business environment that retains, promotes and attracts businesses and investment
 - We are well prepared for development and growth
4. Goal: Our community is attractive to new businesses and resident
 - We are well prepared for development and growth

Enter your name, enter your role

Sharon Chambers, CAO