



Town of Ingersoll – Town Hall

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Name: Economic Development Department

Subject: Staff report – D-107/09

Highlights

Community Strategic Plan 2004 – update to 2009 Re-Vision and Re-Alignment presentation. Working on follow up with sub-committees to continue to actions forward.

Southwest Ontario Marketing Alliance (SOMA)

- Monthly meeting held Monday June 29, 2009 in St Mary's
- SOMA attended trade shows in New York (East Pack) and Chicago (NPE 2009) in June.
- BM attended the Chicago event and met with several clients and site selectors. Information available upon request. (This was the International National Plastics Event show)
- Received monthly reports from Mr. Yamaguchi and Dr. Kempt. Both consultants are working with a diversification strategy. Companies have been contacted in terms of alternative energy, bio medical and food processing. More information is forthcoming.
- Continued communication with Canadian German Industry Chamber of Commerce. A networking event is being planned to be held at the Elm Hurst Inn in August. A FAM tour is also being planned with staff.
- SOMA received funding from Federal Government through the ICCP fund to host another event workshop / seminar in October 09 on the future of the auto industry and the manufacturing sector. This will be held in London along with 5 other partners.

Oxford County EDO's (Oxford Connections)

- EDO's Will attend 4 trade Shows in 2009.
- EDO's hosted Oxford County Business FAM Tour Event - Monday June 15 (evening reception) and Tuesday June 17 (all day and evening) 2009. This was a successful event with many positive follow up emails from the 32 attendees (site selectors, developers, consultants and real estate brokers). Attendees toured Woodstock, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg to see commercial and industrial areas. EDO's will make a formal presentation to County Council in September. (A copy of the PP Presentation shown to attendees is available upon request).

Continued to work Ingersoll Learning Employment Resource Centre and the Elgin Middlesex Oxford Local Training Board and local industry contacts in terms of skills training and education for Ingersoll residents. Oxford County EDO's and other community partners continue to meet to develop an Oxford County local work force strategy in light of the economic crisis and the increasing unemployment statistics.

Fielding requests and ongoing meetings with developers and real estate agents on industrial and commercial land available in Ingersoll. (A list is available on request). Working with engineering, building and planning departments.

Meetings continue with Conestoga College Senior Management developing programs and exploring options bringing identified needed courses to Ingersoll. This along with other short term wins. (i.e. Actions Centres, Corporate Training and Partnership Development with the TVDSB for evening use of IDCI). Town of Ingersoll and Conestoga have begun a process to work on a coordinated business plan over the next few months.

Meetings with EARTH staff, Conestoga College, IDCI, Canadian German Industry Chamber of Commerce, Dale and Lessmann LLP and Business Consultants Glen Loo / Stephen Lauer and others on education and industrial strategies for Ingersoll. More meetings are set for July and August.

Contacting and visiting a few businesses and industries each week to meet and make contact with.

Meet every second Thursday with Manager of Ingersoll District Chamber of Commerce to continue to develop a working and communications strategy for 2009 and beyond.

Ongoing communication with MEDT staff from London and Toronto and other Ministries on opportunities and updates. (A list is available on request).

Continuing research on Community Improvement Plan process for Ingersoll through Section 28 Planning Act. Targeting to bring a Report to Council in August.

Working with Ingersoll Fasteners, ILREC and Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities (MCTU) staff in transitioning workers. Communication with Action Centre.

Other key priorities remain the BIA (see BIA agenda and minutes emailed out earlier), Here In Ingersoll Summer Issue 2009 is now available and an Ingersoll Festival 2009 Poster has been completed which is being sent throughout the region. Successful Rib Fest Thursday June 18, 2009. Thanks to everyone involved. Please note as last month - Special signage has been made up for the bridge closure to direct people to the downtown.

Two new businesses opened in downtown – VanManen Meats and Deli and BBG's Steakhouse. Mayor attended Official Openings on Saturday July 04 and Monday July 06 respectively.

Researching other funding opportunities and writing grants for the Economic Development, CFF, Fusion, IRTC and Arts Ingersoll. This includes Ontario Market Investment Fund and others.

Submitted grants to OMAFRA Main Street Ontario for June 23, 2009, assisted with the Community Adjustment Fund grants and resubmitted the Canterbury Folk Festival OTF grant for July 02, 2009.

Hosted Peter Kenyon from Australia (Peter is an internationally known economic and community developer) in partnership with the London Economic Development Corporation to tour Ingersoll and the Fusion Youth Centre.

Committee work and meeting dates

SOMA Group – Wednesday July 29, 2009 at 10 am in Ingersoll.

Oxford Connections – (Oxford County EDO's) – ongoing meetings.

Ingersoll BIA – Tuesday July 14, 2009 at 7 pm in the JC Herbert Room.

- Harvest Fest – July 15 at 7.00 pm at Museum
- Ingersoll Wedding Retailers promotion – next meeting?

Ingersoll Economic Development Advisory Committee – next meeting early September 2009.

SWOX Economic Development Advisory Committee – next meeting?