

Economic Development Activities:

RRFDC ACTIVITY REPORT

January 2019

The RRFDC continued to move forward with the enhanced economic development project and “The Path Forward” action plan.

- Supported the Fort Frances Economic Development Office (FFEDO) with Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) meetings and numerous projects.

January 2019

General

The RRFDC is currently leveraging funds to support economic development working with NOHFC. Funding was approved by NOHFC for \$150,000 at a 70% Provincial, 30% Municipal to Support:

These funds are now supporting activities in:

- Mining
- Agriculture
- Digital Economy
- Forestry

Most activities related to Tourism Development are no longer supported by NOHFC grants, so we have looked to other Ministries to support those efforts.

We are currently administering funds to support tourism through grants from:

Northern Ontario Tourism	(Ontario Ministry of Tourism)
Rural Economic Development	(Ontario Ministry of Agriculture)
Interaction Fund	(Canada Ministry of Culture)
Northern Arts	(Ontario Arts Council)

We have separately applied to FedNor for assistance on items that are of strategic interest to Fort Frances. (Partnership creation and support for the Farmers Market at the Square)

January 2019

Mining – Industrial and Residential Preparedness

We continue to work closely with New Gold's material procurement manager in order to identify potential companies for locating in the District. In the first quarter of 2019 we will be arranging an informal meeting between council, community members and New Gold.

We are working with New Gold to start to develop a partnership that will grow and support entrepreneurship. This is the partnership funding mentioned in the previous page.

We continued marketing efforts to establish Fort Frances as a location for mining/industrial service center. AD Example:



Call us today to talk about locating in Canada's next mining district with the lowest energy industrial property prices in the Province.
1 807 274 9621

VISIT
WWW.FORT-FRANCES.COM

 **FORTFRANCES**
BOUNDLESS

January 2019

Forestry and Wood Products

ESFL and Crossroute/Sapawe Forest Amalgamations

The Province is moving forward with the creation of the ESFL Corporation. A facilitator has been named to carry on the negotiations with forest fiber users for the creation of the new company that will become the manager of the forests. In a separate but aligned process the Crossroute and Sapawe forests will be amalgamated into one body for the purposes of management.

The Rainy River Future Development Corporation is providing services to support the ESFL process in the form of accounting and organizational support. This will result in a \$18,000 grant credit to the Town.

Mike Willick has been contracted to act as our representative on the ESFL group. The organization is divided into two groups a smaller Working Group that meets regularly and hashes out the details. (Mike Willick is a member of this group.) A second larger group made up of all stakeholders will meet quarterly to review and comment on the work of the working group. The Mayor, Doug Brown and RRFDC staff are part of this group.

The last quarterly meeting was held in December 2018. The facilitator reviewed the progress of the working group as they prepare to move now towards developing the terms for the new company. Current users will be guaranteed their current allocations in the new company as long as they continue to utilize that fiber. If utilization reduces the New Company will move to reallocate fiber,

A Shareholder Agreement, establishing the forest management corporation and transferring the licence to the new company is scheduled for April 1, 2020.

At this point the committee is making excellent progress.

In the coming weeks Council will be presented with a report requesting a final decision on how the Town wishes to participate in the New Company.

Fort Frances Woodlot

Two applications were completed requesting funding to hire a consulting firm to undertake a consultation and study of the best possible utilization of the former Resolute woodlot and Nursing Station that were gifted to the Town in the summer of 2018. These grants if successful will cover 90% of the study costs. Decisions on funding are expected soon.

An RFP was issued last month and a firm will be named in the coming weeks subject to confirmation of funding.

January 2019

Mill Asset

Two separate actions are occurring regarding the transition of the mill assets.

First, the RRFDC and Town are providing Resolute with any leads that have identified as having an interest in any mill assets.

Secondly, as a result of the interest of the Repap Group in purchasing the mill and returning it operations our office has focused significant resources in aid of their bid. Repap has been provided with information and documentation on fiber supply, assessment values, labour force, grants and programs for industry as well as being introduced to various agencies and Ministries.

Repap Resource Group is a consortium led by Sean Twomey is a group of six professionals with over 180 years of experience in the pulp and paper and printing industry. Sean is a graduate of Western University who has successfully completed 54 mergers, acquisitions or divestitures totalling \$5.6 billion. Investors are located in Canada and the US.

Their intention is to reopen the Fort Frances mill to produce package grade papers. The reopening would result in more than 300 direct jobs in Fort Frances and a similar amount in support and forestry supply.

Repap is not issuing statements at this time. They continue to work their way through information gathering towards to goal of providing Resolute Forest Products with an offer. They are appreciative of the efforts of all three orders of Government and the many private citizens who are working towards this common goal.

January 2019

Tourism

Tourism Center

We attended the Northern Ontario Tourism Conference in Sault Ste Marie this fall. We were able to obtain a commitment of \$15,000 towards operating.

Applications with Federal Government have been submitted to cover staffing costs for the 2019 season.

Cannabis

We reviewed the business opportunities related to tourism and Fort Frances and provided a report to the Town on the advice of the EDAC.

MAT

We are working with the accommodation industry to implement the MAT. In the coming months we will be asking Council to approve a committee structure for the marketing committee that will direct 50% of the funds.



January 2019

Rainy Lake Market Square

Rainy Lake Series

We will again in 2019 provide a series of Thursday night events from May to the end of September 2019.

We are pleased that all our 2019 sponsors will be returning for the next season. We are writing a series of applications to support these offers.

We have applied for two grants to subsidize the costs of the programming.

In 2019 we will again be offering an opportunity local talent to take to the stage. We are accepting applications starting Jan 12 for bands with voting to occur the last 2 weeks of February.

We will again offer 4 or 5 movie nights during the season.

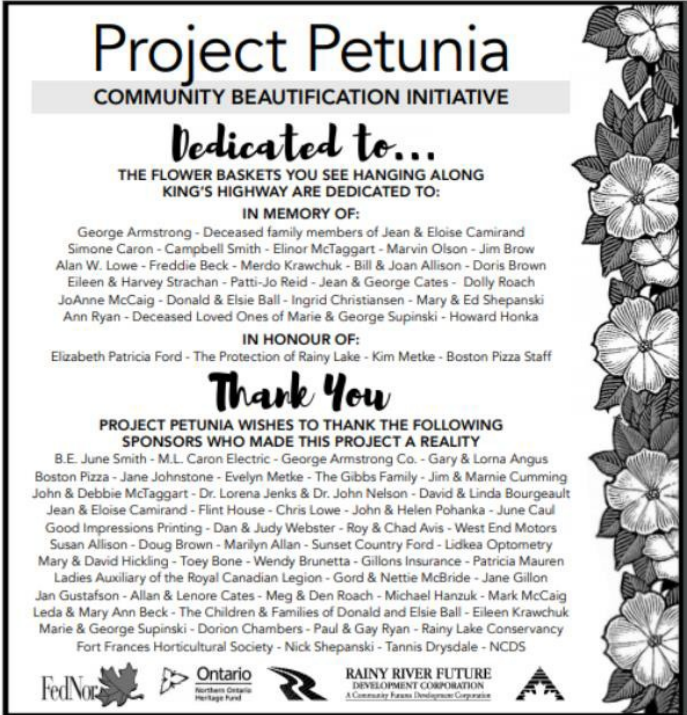
Rainy Lake Market

In 2019 to increase the success of the farmers market we intend to move to a single day market. We will hold the occasional Saturday morning events, such as the community garage sale which proved fairly popular last year.

Project Petunia

We are we again looking for sponsors again for Project Petunia. We need to find 50 sponsors for this year.

Thank you for those that have sponsored this in the past.

A poster for Project Petunia, a community beautification initiative. The poster features a floral border on the right side. The text is centered and includes a dedication to flower baskets along King's Highway, a list of names in memory of, a list of names in honour of, and a thank you to sponsors. At the bottom, there are logos for FedNor, Ontario, and Rainy River Future Development Corporation.

Project Petunia
COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION INITIATIVE

Dedicated to...
THE FLOWER BASKETS YOU SEE HANGING ALONG
KING'S HIGHWAY ARE DEDICATED TO:

IN MEMORY OF:
George Armstrong - Deceased family members of Jean & Eloise Camirand
Simone Caron - Campbell Smith - Elinor McTaggart - Marvin Olson - Jim Brown
Alan W. Lowe - Freddie Beck - Merdo Krawchuk - Bill & Joan Allison - Doris Brown
Eileen & Harvey Strachan - Patti-Jo Reid - Jean & George Cates - Dolly Roach
JoAnne McCaig - Donald & Elsie Ball - Ingrid Christiansen - Mary & Ed Shepanski
Ann Ryan - Deceased Loved Ones of Marie & George Supinski - Howard Honka

IN HONOUR OF:
Elizabeth Patricia Ford - The Protection of Rainy Lake - Kim Metke - Boston Pizza Staff

Thank You
PROJECT PETUNIA WISHES TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
SPONSORS WHO MADE THIS PROJECT A REALITY

B.E. June Smith - M.L. Caron Electric - George Armstrong Co. - Gary & Lorna Angus
Boston Pizza - Jane Johnstone - Evelyn Metke - The Gibbs Family - Jim & Marnie Cumming
John & Debbie McTaggart - Dr. Lorena Jenks & Dr. John Nelson - David & Linda Bourgeault
Jean & Eloise Camirand - Flint House - Chris Lowe - John & Helen Pohanka - June Caul
Good Impressions Printing - Dan & Judy Webster - Roy & Chad Avis - West End Motors
Susan Allison - Doug Brown - Marilyn Allan - Sunset Country Ford - Lidkea Optometry
Mary & David Hickling - Toey Bone - Wendy Brunetta - Gillons Insurance - Patricia Mauren
Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion - Gord & Nettie McBride - Jane Gillon
Jan Gustafson - Allan & Lenore Cates - Meg & Den Roach - Michael Hanzuk - Mark McCaig
Leda & Mary Ann Beck - The Children & Families of Donald and Elsie Ball - Eileen Krawchuk
Marie & George Supinski - Dorion Chambers - Paul & Gay Ryan - Rainy Lake Conservancy
Fort Frances Horticultural Society - Nick Shepanski - Tannis Drysdale - NCDS

FedNor Ontario RAINY RIVER FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Future Development Corporation

January 2019

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Support

The RRFDC continues to support small and medium sized businesses in the District and report of those activities is outlined in our annual report which can be found at www.rrfdc.on.ca. This support includes one on one counselling and a loans fund to help existing and start-up ventures.

Transition and Succession Match

We have invested in a new program that assists with the transition and sale of small businesses through a company called Succession Matching. The RRFDC held a seminar earlier in the year discussing issues and steps to prepare a business to sell and we now can offer free advertising and promotion opportunities to local businesses. Succession Matching has developed specialized programming to help new immigrants in Ontario find Provincial Nominee eligible businesses to purchase. The company has representatives who visit countries where investment class immigrants are shopping for companies to purchase and matches them with their identified businesses for sale.

Branding/Digital Marketing

The RRFDC continued the social media work to present the Town of Fort Frances on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We do ongoing training in social media management and the utilization of those tools to market the district.

Social and Digital Media Training

As we work internally to improve the digital and social footprint of our community, we have provided a number of training sessions for local small businesses to gain skills and develop their marketing on various social platforms.

Industrial Lot Sales

The RRFDC continues to work with administration assisting with lot sales. During the first part of 2018 a number of inquiries were handled and offers were sent to council for deliberation and decision. We are currently working with a mining supply business looking to relocate to the Fort Frances Industrial park.

Go Local

Go Local is entering its 6th year in 2019.

We now have:

- 3976 Loyalty Members
- 16,832 gift cards issued (\$425,000)
- 3,071,195 points issued

January 2019

Agriculture

Land Clearing and Tile Drainage

The RRFDC has facilitated the following tile drainage and land clearing projects with area producers and the NOHFC. These projects represent significant financial investments by the producers and the NOHFC.

- ☐ Land Clearing #1 - \$1,800,000 (100% Complete)
- ☐ Land Clearing #2 - \$1,700,000 (Approved in October)
- ☐ Tile Drainage #1 - \$2,000,000 (Completed)
- ☐ Tile Drainage #2 - \$2,000,000 (Completed)
- ☐ Tile Drainage #3 - \$2,000,000 (Completed)
- ☐ Tile Drainage #4 - \$2,000,000 (Approved)

Land Clearing

The land clearing projects are a direct benefit to the District as all producer and NOHFC investment dollars will go to local contractors who undertake the land clearing. These contractors hire employees, maintain and purchase much of their equipment locally.

Tile Drainage

Once all the tile projects have been completed the District will have approximately 8,000 acres of tilled cropland. The projects have significantly diversified the area's agricultural economy through the growing of canola, soybeans, wheat and oats which has dramatically increased the economic benefits of the sector to Fort Frances and the District. The following is a sample of the increase in economic activity which did not exist in 2014.

Trucking:

The chart below indicates the number of loads of cash crops sent to these destinations in 2017.

Thunder Bay	56 loads
Manitoba	6 loads
United States	21 loads