

Economic Development Activities:

RRFDC ACTIVITY REPORT

March 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.

March 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.

In this quarter we have applied for funds from:

Summer Experience Grant: \$7,316	(waiting approval)
Canada Summer Jobs Grant: \$13,975	(waiting approval)
Canadian Heritage; Community Support, Multiculturalism, and Anti-Racism Initiative Events component (South Asian Festival): \$6,700	(waiting approval)
Celebrate Ontario: \$21,000	(waiting approval)
Northern Ontario Tourism \$15,000	(approved)

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) We continue to wait on a response to this request.

March 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. We have requested a meeting with New Gold's new manager and they have agreed, we are currently attempting to find a suitable date.

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.

Forestry

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 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.

The company now has a drafted legal agreement and RRFDC has had this draft reviewed by its attorney.

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

A presentation from Mike Willick on the ESFL process to the RRMDMA was well received.

March 2019

Mill Asset

An enormous amount of activity has been undertaken in the effort to successfully transfer of the mill property to an owner who operate the property as a paper mill. Currently the only entity who has expressed that interest is Repap who wish 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.

Work done by Council and the Economic Development Office to assist in that endeavor included:

- Providing Repap 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.
- Setting up meetings for Council with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Finance.
- Attending meetings for Repap with Ministry of Natural Resources to explain fiber supply.
- Development and organization of a broad partnership of interests.
- Retaining expert legal assistance to review documents and provide Council with the best advice.
- Retaining the services lobbyist services to forward the opinions and interests of Fort Frances.
- Liaised frequently with the MPP's office.
- Preparing and sending numerous letters to Resolute, Ministry's and stakeholders.
- Preparing communications on behalf of Council.

The Town created a working group that met and continues to meet frequently, to review the status and determine next steps.

As we now move close to the end of this phase of our efforts the community should be assured that Council has provided every resource at its disposal to attempt to make this match successful. For very practical reasons it was impossible for Repap to sign the NDA with Resolute.

We understand the Repap still intends to submit a bid to Resolute on or before their deadline of March 15.

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 should be announced soon.

An RFP closed in December and in will be named in the coming weeks will be awarded. Regardless of the conclusion of the mill property transfer, the Town intends to proceed.

March 2019

Tourism

Tourism Center

The Fort Frances Tourism Center will reopen in May 2019 for the season.

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. Sadly, due to shortages in cannabis the Government of Ontario changed it's tactics and in the short term smaller communities were eliminated from the initial lottery.

MAT

We are working with the accommodation industry to implement the MAT. Tonight, Council has the agreement that will start the formation of the committee. The first revenues have been received.



Report to Fort Frances Council

March 2019

Rainy Lake Market Square

Rainy Lake Series

We will again in 2019 provide entertainment 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.

Announcements will come soon on a new Movie Night sponsor.

We are excited to announce that all three local bands who applied to participate in the series will be featured at the square this summer. Thank you to the over 550 members of the public who voted for their favourites. Dylan Ossachuk will join us on a series night as well.

The 2019 season is falling together well and should be a great fun location for all this summer.

We are still eager to have others use the square and ask anyone interested to call our office to see how we can make that happen.

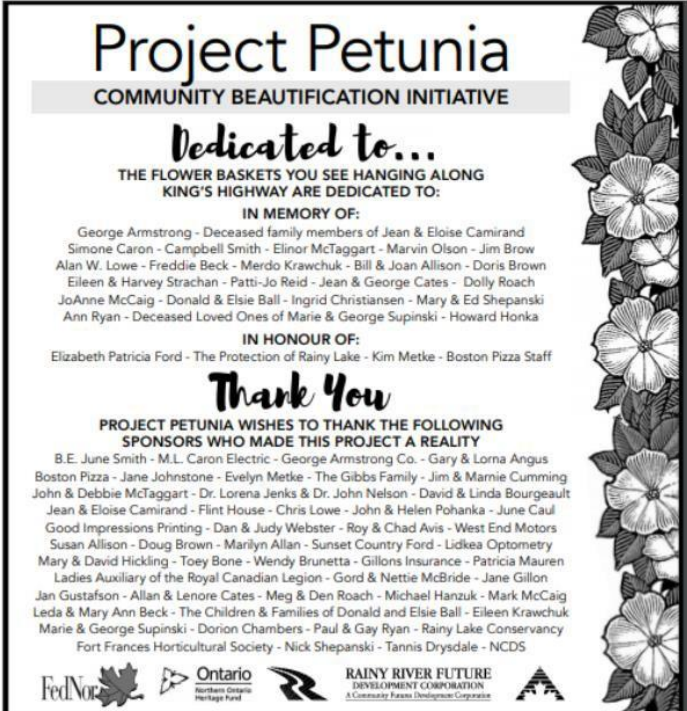
Rainy Lake Market

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 ONE MORE 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 decorative border of various flowers on the right side. The text is centered and includes a dedication to those who have passed, a list of sponsors, and a thank you message. At the bottom, there are logos for the Federal Government, Ontario, and the 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 Brow
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 & Community Future Development Corporation

March 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. March is our Anniversary and will be holding a week of celebration in the end of March.

March 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