



RRFDC ACTIVITY REPORT

January 2017 to June 2017

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 to June 2017

Economic Development Activities:

Mining – Industrial and Residential Preparedness

The RRFDC assisted with labour market shortages and it undertook activities to help the business community by:


- a) becoming better at marketing positions
- b) understanding the resources available to them through government/local agencies
- c) connecting with potential employees

Meetings were held with project partners dedicated to Labour Market Issues and two events were planned.

Working with partners the RRFDC reviewed several speakers who could facilitate a session on small business marketing to employees.

Rainy River Future Development Corporation Proudly Presents

RECRUITING, RETAINING & MOTIVATING EMPLOYEES IN SMALL BUSINESS






With 'Customer Service Activist,'
Roy Prevost
As seen on CBS News,
Fox, NBC & ABC!

A 2-hour interactive event!
The Future of the Workplace
Your Life as an Owner/Manager
Motivating & Retaining Employees

Thursday, January 19th **FREE**
Copper River Inn
Appetizers at 5:30 pm | Workshop at 6:00 pm

RSVP by Wednesday, January 18th
Email: ecdev@fort-frances.com | Call: (807) 274-9621

Roy Prevost is Roy is a management consultant with experience in marketing, wholesale, retail, and manufacturing in the giftware industry. He has presented more than 250 workshops on Big Box Retail as well as guest lectured at Simon Fraser University on the future consumer. His clients include The Retail Council of Canada, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development Associations, and Shopping Centre Associations across North America

The workshop outline was:

Recruiting, Retaining & Motivating Z gen Employee's

This workshop is for the Small Business who is looking for ways to create a "Team" Culture among their millennial employees as well as a culture of "Contribution" and Engagement" for their customers.

January to June 2017

The event was held with the support of NTAB and NCDS Career Works. 25 employers attended with their key staff. Roy Prevost did one-on-one follow up meetings the next day with area small businesses.

In May, we helped to put on a hiring fair to link employees with employers. As employers explained that labour shortages were a significant impediment to growth and stability, the fair aimed at finding a new labour force for the small business community. Over 25 employers attended and most reported that they had found suitable potential employees.



The adjustment of the dates for the mine's opening slowed down the "landing" on permanent suppliers of goods and services. Contracts will begin to be awarded again and we will continue to work closely with New Gold's material procurement manager in order to identify potential companies for locating in the District.

Forestry and Wood Products:

The RRFDC met with the Ministry of Natural Resources' officers responsible for the Resolute file and discussed the mill's actions encouraging a sale, the current prospect and mill position is a going concern and what the next steps will be if the efforts to abandon and demolish the mill will be. A brief for council was prepared and shared with the community at a recent council meeting by the Mayor.

The RRFDC also met with other forest/fiber users to continue discussions regarding fiber access and availability.

We prepared correspondence to Resolute inquiring about Mill status.

Geoff attended a workshop regarding new fiber use industries.

We assisted with briefs to be presented at AMO.

Early discussions at EDAC have begun, regarding opportunities in a post Resolute Mill Fort Frances if demolition is the course. We have made inquiries with various Ministries and are assembling a proposal to subsidize the large-scale land use planning activity that will be triggered by a demolition.

Resolute has provided the Economic Development Office with a list of buildings that they might be interested in selling and those are being marketed appropriately to external inquiries.

Tourism

We participated in the renegotiation of the Tourism Center lease, and we lobbied the Provincial Government via Northern Tourism Marketing, for funds to continue to operate the Center. This resulted in a reduction of 44% in costs to operating a \$20,000 grant.

Grant applications were written to both the Provincial and Federal governments seeking funds for the TIC three summer students. Both applications were approved allowing for 3 students to be hired. The value of these grants is approximately \$17,000 that helps to subsidize student costs.

January to June 2017



The RRFDC continued to work with the Early Iron Club to help them market their Canada Coasters event. We have produced a sponsorship package, flyers and posters and helped them understand how to position their event in the marketplace.

A sponsorship and marketing organizer was sourced to work with the Ontario high school hockey championship planning committee to make sure that the event is well funded and results in the best possible Public Relations for the community. As a result, the event was well funded. A letter from the OSSFSA committee is attached in Appendix A.

Summer Ads

We placed ads in Sunset Country and the Fort Frances Guide this year. (Attached in Appendix A) We offered to partner with the Chamber and have a joint advertisement.

Hotel Development

In the fall of 2016, the RRFDC began working with two companies interested in placing a chain hotel in Fort Frances. To help facilitate this interest we began to measure occupancy daily, compile a competitor analysis, and provide property information and data on the marketplace. One of the interested consortiums is now building a Microtel on the highway.

Branding/Digital Marketing

The RRFDC continued the social media work to ramp up the Town of Fort Frances' presence on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We continued to train in social media management and the utilization of those tools to market the district.

We have added more live video to our media offering and are increasing engagement. A visit to the lookout Tower is now on the Town's Facebook page.

These tools are proving to be useful in providing information to potential residents moving here as a result of New Gold.

We have added a feature to the Facebook that automatically responds to inquiries.

Report to Fort Frances Council

January to June 2017

We added two more Facebook pages Rainy Lake Square and Rainy Lake Fishing with the goal of developing a community of interest and being able to direct market into the US for fishing and International Falls and District for the square.

Rainy Lake Market Square

The RRFDC applied successfully to Ontario 150 to support a summer entertainment series at the Market Square in the summer of 2017, we believe we will receive Ontario Arts grant monies and have obtained sponsorship from Tbaytel.

This has allowed us to create 5 nights of entertainment in the square to start to build a community habit of being there.

Dates are:

The Wild Horses	August 24 (local band)
Pop Vegas	August 31 (top 40)
Elvis Show	September 7
Little Miss Higgins	Sept 14 (folk - jazz)
Various Northern Artists	Sept 21 (local singers - in Sunset Country)

We will also make sure entertainment in the form of buskers and singer/players is active in the square.

We have attended markets in the community and reached out to vendors across the North to make a market a success. We will continue with a Thursday market and add in a Saturday morning market.

We will be providing tables and tents to vendors.

A marketing plan has been created. We have applied for \$20,000 in funding over two years to help accomplish this.

We purchased a giant blow up movie screen, projector, and using the sound system we will put on family movies in the square in September.

A highway sign was purchased at the east end of the community.

Light weight barricades were purchased for the market area to contain events.

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Canada Day

We planned the Canada Day Parade.



Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Support

The RRFDC continues to support small and medium sized businesses in the district a report of those activities is outlined in our annual report.

Telecommunications

Fiber optics will be installed in Fort Frances in the Spring and Summer of 2017. Tbaytel will build a permanent office in the industrial park. We sold a building lot to Tbaytel in the industrial park as a result of this project.

January to June 2017



Canada 150 PIN

Canada 150 pins specific to Fort Frances were ordered and we have worked to encourage volunteer groups and individuals to nominate community members for awards.

Project Petunia

We initiated the Project Petunia package again for Spring 2017. Sponsorship is available for \$50 a basket. All baskets were sold this year.

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 - Simone Caron - James Plumridge - Jane Sus - Ingrid Christiansen
Jack Mutz - Doris Brown - Elinor McTaggart - Marvin Olson - Bill & Joan Allison
Campbell Smith - Hilda Busch - JoAnne McCaig - Bruce Holmlund - Edith Newman
Vivian O'Donnell - Lee Oelke - Mary Caul

IN HONOUR OF:

Kim Metke - Community Living Fort Frances & District - Good Impressions Printing
Those who strive to enhance the beauty of our community - Mr. & Mrs. Louis Camirand
The Fagerdahl & Polenske families - Mr. & Mrs. Buster Saunders - Mrs. Elizabeth Patricia Ford

Thank You

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

David & Linda Bourgeault - Doug Brown - William Plumridge - George Armstrong Co.
ML Caron Electric - Roy Avis - Chad Avis - West End Motors - Judy & Dan Webster
Chris Lowe - Gay & Paul Ryan - Jean & Eloise Camirand - Dr. Lorena Jenks & Dr. John Nelson
John & Helen Pohanka - John & Debbie McTaggart - Jim Cumming - Sunset Country Ford
Community Living Fort Frances & District - Good Impressions Printing - Susan Allison - NCDS
Gillons' - Geoff & Nancy Gillon - Elvi Colvin - Tannis Drysdale - June Caul - June Smith
Wendy Brunetta - Teresa Engler - Rainy River Teacher's Local - Marilyn Allan - Marilyn Brown
Cynde Milette - Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion - Mark McCaig
La Place Rendezvous - Kathy Judson - International Early Iron Club - Rainy Lake Conservancy
The UPS Store - Holmlund Financial - Boston Pizza - Ken Perry - Flint House - Evelyn Metke
Fort Frances Horticultural Society - Gary & Lorna Angus - Sarah Mueller - Eric & Caren Fagerdahl





Go Local Report: June 2017

Our program continues to show strong results and is being recognized by economic development agencies across Ontario as a “best practices” case study.

Agriculture

Land Clearing and Tile Drainage

The Tile Drainage #2 project was completed during the last week of September. Our Tile Drainage #3 project has been sent to the NOHFC for review.

The NOHFC has requested that the members of Land Clearing #2 project whom have not received assistance yet be included in Land Clearing #1; and, the combined project is to be sent to them for approval. This is due to numerous participants in Land Clearing #1 withdrawing leaving a sizable amount of approved funding unutilized.

Housing Grants

The Fort Frances Residential Building Grant brochure was updated. (Attached in Appendix A)

APPENDIX A

EXPERIENCE THE CANADIAN EXPERIENCE



Ahh the great outdoors – where the free spirit of wild abandon leads to bad pictures and tell it like it was stories in the nursing home.



Fort Frances – a better life exposed.

Call the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce for more information 1-800-820-FORT.

VISIT WWW.FORT-FRANCES.COM



FORTFRANCES
BOUNDLESS



Canada



RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
A Community Futures Development Corporation



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I know if my planned improvements are eligible?

You may discuss your plans with us before you apply and a local realtor may be able to give you advice on the value of your improvements.

How long will the Town accept applications?

This is an on going program, you may apply at any time. The Town will review this program regularly and the program may be cancelled/ changed at the discretion of Town Council.

Does it cost anything to apply?

The Town has no charge to process this application.

How long will it take to process my application?

If your application is complete and contains all the information required to process, an approval or denial will normally be issued within 10 working days.

How do I receive my rebate?

Included in your application package will be a form to apply for the rebates. You **MUST** keep copies of all receipts and submit them to the Town office for reimbursement.



HOW TO APPLY

It is suggested that you consult with your realtor before you begin your application. In most cases you may require a realtor to advise you of the increase in value that your property will likely achieve as a result of the improvements.

In all cases property owners must apply in advance of starting their improvements. And applicants must have a building permit or a building permit for demolition.

Full application and program details are available at www.fort-frances.com or by contacting the Town of Fort Frances.



FORTFRANCES
BOUNDLESS

Town of Fort Frances

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RESIDENTIAL
BUILDING GRANT

WWW.FORTFRANCES.CA

BUILDING GRANTS

The Town of Fort Frances believes in the value of having strong, healthy residential communities. Knowing that every community is only as strong as its weakest link the Town has endeavored to create a program that can help residents improve their properties.

This program will help improve properties that have deteriorated to the point where repairs are not feasible and demolition is the only option or where the permit amount will be greater than \$25,000.00. By encouraging property owners to partake in repairs and renovations, this program provides the opportunity to increase the value of such pre-existing properties.

By promoting construction within existing infrastructure, our community will continue to grow without expanding core services and incurring future maintenance costs. This not only benefits today's citizens but will be an advantage for generations to come.



This Brochure is intended to provide a brief overview of the program offered. Full details and requirements are available at the time of application.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Property Value Revitalization Grant

DEMOLITION, REBUILD,
REVITALIZATION

This grant will provide a rebate on identified Town services or costs relating to demolition and property revitalization up to a maximum of \$2,000.00.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- The property must be residential.
- The value of the renovation must be \$25,000.00 as determined by a building permit.
- The property must be located on existing water and sewer services.
- Rebates for town services related to a demolition on a residential property are eligible if the intent is to rebuild on the property within two years, the rebate will be provided at the time that a building permit is issued.

Grant rebates only apply to approved in kind Town services. All services must be paid for in advance and then with receipts applicants will receive rebates.

