

RRFDC ACTIVITY REPORT

April to June 2015

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Report to Town of Fort Frances

April to June 2015

Economic Development Activities :

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 with Economic Development Advisory Committee meetings and numerous projects.

Forestry:

The RRFDC closed the RFP for a Strategic Forest Products Opportunity Analysis in early January. Strategy Corp continued to work on behalf of the RRFDC through this period along with input and advice from Mike Willick, the Forestry Consultant.

Mining:

Industrial and Commercial Preparedness

The RRFDC held a “Women in Mining” symposium on May 6 at the Copper River Inn. Over 60 women participated in this session. The session was held in conjunction with members of New Gold’s staff and Barb Courte of PARO.

We also promoted the District as a mining supply and services location and worked with New Gold in seeking training assistance.

Housing

The RRFDC worked with New Gold to discuss housing opportunities in Fort Frances and the District. Video production continued to include two additional videos that will help new residents know more about our community. Our interns continue to work with ENGAGE, the young professionals network.

The RRFDC participated in the grand opening of the mine site.



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Tourism

Harmony of Nations

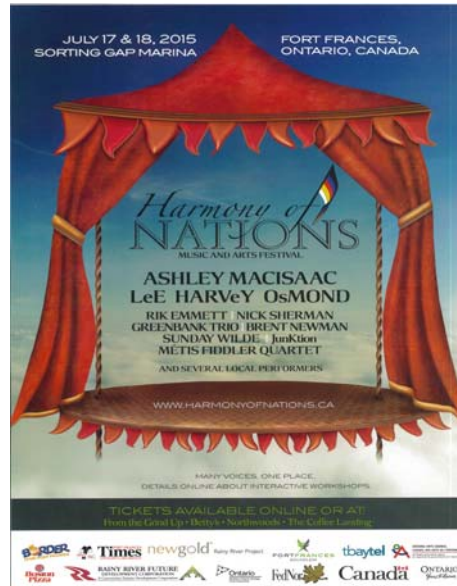
RRFDC continued to plan the second Harmony of Nations Music Festival for July 17-18th, 2015. Online tickets and paper tickets were made available.

| | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| FRIDAY 5:00pm | Opening Ceremonies | SATURDAY 5:00pm | Junktion |
| 5:45 pm | Metis Fiddler Quartet | 5:45 pm | Ethan Armit |
| 6:30 pm | Robert Olson | 6:00 pm | Sunday Wilde |
| 6:45 pm | Brent Newman | 6:45 pm | The Wild Horses |
| 7:30 pm | Jamie Labrador | 7:00pm | Greenbank Trio |
| 7:45 pm | Rik Emmett | 7:45 pm | Ira Johnson |
| 8:45 pm | Ryan Van Belleghem | 8:00 pm | Nick Sherman |
| 9:15 pm | LeE HARVeY OsMOND | 8:45 pm | Kings of None |
| | | 9:15 pm | Ashley MacIsaac |

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A mailer was sent to International Falls and significant online advertising was done to encourage American and out of area attendance.



Bass Tournament

The RRFDC continued to assist with the FFCBC, by providing the tent and any other support requested by organizers.

Dudley Hewitt Cup

Fort Frances Laker's Junior Hockey Club successfully held the Dudley Hewitt Tournament with all but one game sold out.



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Snow Birds

The Town of Fort Frances successfully hosted the Snowbirds Air Show on June 10th, 2015. This exciting event saw an attendance of over 1200 aviation enthusiasts.



Fort Frances Tourist Information Center (FFTIC)

The FFTIC has re-opened for summer 2015 and our partnership with Sunset Country is stronger than ever. We have invested in new displays (fish and a moose), and signage and are in the process of installing pictorial panoramas on the walls.

We continue to remain active on all the Town's social media platforms.

Branding

The Brand has been presented to various organizations within the community.

The RRFDC has updated the Town of Fort Frances' marketing through digital media and launched the new Fort Frances website.

We have also installed new entrance signage at both ends of the town.



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Summer Tourism Ad



Rainy Lake Market Square

The NOHFC portion of the project, \$1 million, has been approved and we are awaiting approval of the \$655K requested from FedNor.

Value Added Products

The RRFDC continues to assist the Fort Frances Clinic in seeking new private sector opportunities and in their efforts to gain access to adjacent lands for development.

Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Support

The RRFDC has held business start up sessions and social media presentations.

Assisted Living

The RRFDC continues to assist the Assisted Living Action Group (ALAG) in their efforts to develop an assisted living facility in Fort Frances when asked.

We also continue to work with a group of seniors support agencies to evaluate the potential for Fort Frances accessing a provincial grant for Age Friendly Community planning for 2016.

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The RRFDC also continues to work with the Seniors Group in Emo who are now looking to develop an independent living apartment complex as the LHIN is now taking care of assisted living units.

Telecommunications

The RRFDC has submitted our Phase II application to the NOHFC and our partner, Tbay Tel, has submitted to Industry Canada to upgrade telecommunications services across the District.

Go Local

Go Local is now in its 2nd year. Over 4000 cards are in circulation and the businesses have awarded over 1,000,000 points and over \$50,000 in gift cards have been given out to loyalty members that have ultimately returned to the pockets of our local businesses.

Community Foundation

The RRFDC hosted a fundraising session with Sandra Larmour from Toronto. She is a private consultant who specializes in fundraising for community foundations. Over 35 people from various community organizations attended.

Agricultural Cluster

The RRFDC continues its work with the two agricultural consortiums, Land Clearing and Tile Drainage. The tile drainage project is well underway with over 1300 acres tiled this past summer. MNRF approvals and recommendations have been received and producers are moving ahead with their clearing.

The RRFDC has also submitted a Tile drainage #2 project to the NOHFC for approval.

We are also working on submitting a Land Clearing #2 project later this spring.