



Building blocks for the future

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

The City of Peterborough continues to be a city in transition. And that's a good thing as new ideas and processes have the potential to move our community forward in a positive way. That said, councillors will have some decisions ahead of them that will have an impact on our members. At the General Committee meeting of January 15th, councillors were presented with several reports on these issues including:

Legalization of Cannabis

Peterborough has been identified as one of 40 Ontario communities to have an Ontario Cannabis Retail Corporation (OCRC) store open this year, with another 110 across the province by the end of 2020. The report by City Solicitor Patricia Lester outlines what is known about the role of the municipality under this new federal and provincial legislation. Lester highlights that as a creature of the province, the municipality cannot deny a business license and that the final location choice is in the hands of the OCRC.

E-Tendering and E-Bidding System

The City of Peterborough is planning to change its online tender and bidding system to a group called Bids and Tenders. In her report to council Director of Corporate Services Sandra Clancy states that "issuing the City's procurement documents through Bids and Tenders



will streamline the process for staff, create efficiencies within the departments and reduce the number of non-compliant bids being submitted by vendors."

The new system, which will be implemented between June and September of this year, also comes with a lower annual membership fee of \$165 compared to the current \$250.

Brownfields Tax Assistance Program

The tax incentive only applies to properties requiring environmental remediation. During the length of the agreement with the property owner, the City does receive taxes based on the assessment of a clean property. However, the owner receives a rebate equal to the difference between the taxes of the clean and unclean property, to cover the cost of remediation. After the agreement the City then realizes the full amount of taxes based on the assessment of the cleaned up property.

The view is that there is more value in the long run to the City on a remediated property than one that stays as is.

The Director of Corporate Services concludes that, "The BTAP program is having a positive impact on enabling development to happen at locations that are environmentally challenged that would otherwise likely not be redeveloped."

Development Charges Amendment Study

The goal of the amendments is to encourage more development in the downtown core. Doing so will help the municipality on several fronts including meeting provincial Places To Grow targets and opening up a variety of residential opportunities.

The current by-law has a life cycle of five years before a full review is required. Therefore, any amendments approved by Council will be in place until January 1, 2020. At the will of Council, they could continue in the next iteration of the by-law as well.

The study presented to Council examines the following:

1. Assess the exemption of Development Charges for "Schedule J" – Central Area Lands of the Official Plan for residential developments with a minimum of 15 apartment units, and mixed-use developments with a minimum of 1,000 square metres of commercial floor space and 15 residential apartment units; and
2. Assess the impact of removing the Development Charge exemption for Industrial zoned land within the City.

A public meeting on the amendments will be held on Monday, February 5th, 2018 at 5:00pm at Council Chambers and a secondary report will be presented to Council sitting as General Committee on March 26th.

The next City Council meeting is Monday, January 29th, 2018.

More: peterboroughchamber.ca/blog

LEPC looking for input on newcomer employment activity

The Peterborough Chamber of Commerce is a member of the Local Employment Planning Council (LEPC) Industry Business Engagement Working Group.

The LEPC is a provincial pilot project that is in the process of developing a clear picture of the workforce landscape in eight Ontario communities, including the City and County of Peterborough.

One of the projects is a study of Newcomer Employment Activity by Laridae and the Workforce Development Board (WDB).

Peterborough Chamber members can help out by completing a short survey on their views, concerns and needs with respect to recruiting and hiring newcomers to Canada.

Take the survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EmployersNewcomerProject>

The survey will be open until February 5th. It should take about ten minutes to complete. Your response will be anonymous. In addition, please share the survey with other employers.

Thank you for taking the time to provide input to this project. Your opinion is valued!

*About the Newcomer Employment Integration Project

The aim of the study is to provide new information to document what's happening in our regional workforce from the perspective of both newcomer job-seekers and employers.



CHECK OUT OUR MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

Our members do it all!

Venture North adding cafe space

Amusé Coffee Co. will soon be operating a new pop up location in the Venture North building. Amusé has been present at several announcements that were made in the lobby recently. Good to know they will soon be a fixture!

More: amusecoffeeco.ca



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STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Accolades for the CMHA HKPR

The Canadian Mental Health Association, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Branch has been awarded Exemplary Standing from Accreditation Canada.

They met 454 of the 456 standards of these standards, demonstrating 99.56% compliance.

More: cmhahkpr.ca

Event Calendar



TUESDAY, February 6th, 2018

Peterborough Axe Club

Unit 1
280 Perry Street,
Peterborough



4:00pm – 6:00pm

Details: Here's your chance to be the champion of the Chamber Axe Throwing PBX! (trophy to be determined).

PBX is a great opportunity for the business community, employers, consumers, and community agencies to make valuable connections.

Bring your business cards and get ready to get connected to the Peterborough business community.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs

Note: Space is limited; pre-registration is required



TUESDAY February 13th, 2018

What's on the horizon for Peterborough

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East
Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Cost: Pay for your breakfast

Speaker: Jeffrey Humble, Director of Planning, City of Peterborough

Be ready with your 30-second elevator pitch to tell others what's going on in your business.



WEDNESDAY February 21st, 2018
(Chamber & WBN Members only)

Cybercrime Prevention

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Carlye Boruta, VP Shaw Computer Systems Inc.

What you'll learn:

As technology continues to move forward, making our lives easier and more connected, cyber criminals are developing more sophisticated techniques to exploit technology for their benefit.

Cost: Free (Bring your lunch)

Note: Pre-registration required

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