



## Committee Report

**To:** Warden Mitch Twolan  
Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**From:** Kara Van Myall  
Director of Planning and Development

**Date:** July 9, 2020

**Re:** July Communications in the Field

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### Recommendation:

That the July 2020 Communications in the Field Report is received for information.

### Background:

The July Communications in-the-Field Reports for Economic Development and Land Use Planning - reporting on June activities and updates - are included below.

### Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no financial, staffing, legal or IT considerations associated with this report.

### Interdepartmental Consultation:

N/A

### Link to Strategic Goals and Elements:

N/A

Approved by:

Sandra Datars Bere  
Chief Administrative Officer

## Communications in-the-Field Report

There are three objectives driving economic development communications in Bruce County: 1) Attract more young families and other residents over time; 2) Attract new and expanding businesses; 3) Encourage sustainable, longer stay and off-season tourism

### ECONOMIC TASK FORCE

In response to the urgent, critical needs of Bruce County's business community in the wake of COVID-19, the Economic Task Force has acted quickly since its inception on March 26. The Economic Task Force has also provided guidance on the launch of several components of the \$1.75M Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund, endorsed by County Council on May 12, including:

Component	Total Available	Launched	# of Applicants*	Approximately Funds Remaining*
Emergency Business Sustainability Loan	\$750,000	May 21	16	\$460,000
Enhanced Spruce the Bruce Grants	\$125,000	June 1	48	\$31,000
<i>Tourism Special Edition "Spark" Grants</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>June 4</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>\$0</i>
<i>Business Pivot / Adaptation Grant</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	<i>June 18</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>\$0</i>

\*as of June 26

### ACTIVITIES

- Bruce County Economic Development has partnered on the "ShopHere Powered by Google" program: now available to businesses and artists in Bruce County through a new partnership with Digital Main Street and other corporate and government sponsors. The program sets participants up with an online shopping experience at no cost and covers monthly membership fees for Shopify software for the first 90 days.

**Coming up:** Launch of the final 2020 component of the Support the Bruce: Business Sustainability Fund, the Business Safety Supplies Grant, anticipated in early July

# Communications in-the-Field Report

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There are three general areas that will be reported monthly, including: 1) Legislative changes and other trends 2) Land Use Transformation project update 3) highlights or planning applications of interest.

## LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

- The Province passed a Regulation in June that ended the suspension of Planning Act timelines as of June 22<sup>nd</sup> that were put in place for the pandemic. The normal time-based requirements for processing planning applications are back in effect.

## PROJECTS

- Plan the Bruce projects on hold as per the April 16th Committee resolution. Staff are currently evaluating timelines for the Plan the Bruce discussion papers.
- 3 projects funded by the Municipal Modernization Fund are currently underway:
  1. Reviewing the role and structure of the Land Use Planning Division
  2. Identifying best practices for the Official Plan (OP) and land use planning service delivery
  3. Creating a shared system - bringing together information and data from upper and lower-tiers to support effective development planning and longer-term growth management planning
- Investigation of using under-utilized Municipal Modernization Funding underway to support drafting a Memorandum of Understanding for Municipal Development Application Services and a Land Use Planning Fees Review

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- The processing of applications continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, with applications received somewhat lower in April (10 applications) and then rebounding in May (23 applications). The year to date total of 102 applications is somewhat lower than last year's pace so this will be monitored over the summer months to see if volumes catch up as the Province reopens.
- An application for a residential subdivision in Lucknow was recently submitted (late June) which proposes 28 single-detached lots and 38 - 46 townhouse units.