



Email of October 10, 2020 from Doug Robertson:

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Dear Merrickville-Wolford Business Owner,

What a perfect time to give thanks to local small businesses – our retailers, restaurants, service providers, agri-food producers, artists and manufacturers are at the heart of our local economy and we are pleased to share these new tools, resources, government announcements, digital main street supports, farm & food business workshops and more...

Digital Main Street Program Grant Approved! – In previous communications we've shared updates about the 3 new programs through a provincial/federal government and Ontario Business Improvement Area partnership, to help small 'main street' businesses create and enhance their online presence and digital capabilities. The Village has since partnered with the United Counties of Leeds Grenville, who led a regional application for a Digital Main Street Service Squad Grant to hire resources to help local businesses grow and succeed online. We are pleased to share news of the successful grant application (thanks to the Counties EcDev Department and #DigitalMainSt Ontario Grant Program). With grant funding, the Counties will be hiring in the coming weeks - it won't be long before local 'main street' businesses can take advantage of this free service from experts in digital transformation and marketing! We will keep you posted on timing, and in the meantime, if you are interested in meeting with a service squad member,

[317 Brock Street West, P.O. Box 340, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0
www.merrickville-wolford.ca reception@merrickville-wolford.ca](mailto:reception@merrickville-wolford.ca)

please let us know by contacting our Economic Development Officer at edo@merrickville-wolford.ca or 613-269-4791, ext 242 and we'll direct you to the Counties' resources.

Ontario Supports Small Main Street Businesses with PPE Grants - The Ontario government is continuing to help businesses reopen safely, rebuild, reinvest and create good jobs across the province. Earlier this week, the provincial government announced Ontario's Main Street Recovery Plan and intends to introduce the Main Street Recovery Act, 2020 - proposed legislation that would support small businesses and modernize rules to allow them to innovate and meet the challenges of today. If passed, the act will remove hurdles faced by small businesses and allow them to pursue new opportunities, while maintaining or enhancing protections for public health, safety and the environment. [Click here](#) for more details.

FREE Upcoming VIRTUAL Workshop for farm and food businesses looking to expand their markets “Selling Food to Ontario” – This Zoom webinar workshop is suited to farmers, producers, food & beverage start-ups, small food & beverage manufacturers and food business retailers/restaurants, and will help business owners create new business opportunities by learning how to expand into new markets such as farmers' markets, food service and retailers. Workshop date is November 5, 2020 from 8:45am to 12:30 pm. Click for [agenda](#) and [registration](#) information.

Recent Change to Employment Standards in Ontario - Effective October 1, 2020, the minimum wage increased from \$14/hr to \$14.25/hr. Student minimum wage increased from \$13.15 an hour to \$13.40, and liquor servers' wage from \$12.20 to \$12.45 per hour. More information can be found [here](#) and click [ESA poster](#) for the current version of the poster. This information has been provided to us by CSE Consulting – providers of Employer Services including professional support in recruiting, selecting, and training new employees, with the potential added value of financial assistance during the training period. CSE delivers the Canada Ontario Job Grant (COJG) in our region: <https://www.cseconsulting.com/>

Power Boat TV in the Village – LeBoat (the European luxury boat rental company based in Smiths Falls) brought a team from PowerBoat TV on a cruise up the river to showcase the Rideau Canal and Merrickville. They spent the day and overnight on September 14th. PowerBoat TV is a weekly half-hour television show focusing on power boats and the boating lifestyle, broadcasted through various platforms to millions of viewers including across Canada on Global Television on Saturdays at 11:00 AM. [Click here](#) for more information about the show. Mayor Doug Struthers had the opportunity to meet with the team and provide them with information about our Village, it's history, and the many things to do and see in Merrickville-Wolford. Watch for the Merrickville-Wolford airing in 2021!

COVID-19 Safety Measures to Protect Your Customers & Employees - A reminder that Health Unit posters are available on [our website](#) for businesses to download & post:

1. [Safe Shopping Regular Stores](#)
2. [Safe Grocery Shopping](#)
3. [Mask Required](#)
4. [Protect Yourself & Those Around You](#)

As always, a list of local PPE suppliers throughout the United Counties of Leeds Grenville is updated regularly on [their website](#), along with additional business resources and programs.

We hope that this information is helpful to our local businesses.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

Doug Robertson
CAO/Clerk/Director, Economic Development
Village of Merrickville-Wolford

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If you become aware of a local business owner who did not receive this e-mail that you feel would benefit from being added to our e-mail list, please invite them to e-mail a request directly to edo@merrickville-wolford.ca. Indirect, third party requests to add someone to the list will not be processed.