



MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD
Jewel of the Rideau

Email of December 17, 2020 from Doug Robertson:

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Dear Merrickville-Wolford Business Owner,

Many activities are happening throughout Merrickville-Wolford these days, and federal/provincial government programs for businesses are being announced – we'd like to share a few updates with you:

Digital Main Street Squad members are here for your business – Have you been contacted by a Digital Main Street Squad member yet? Squad members are experts, providing free one-on-one service in digital transformations. Multiple squads are now in the region, reaching out and working with local businesses to help improve online presence, including:

1. Google listing, analytics, support
2. Website - review, updating, creation, photography, videography, best practices
3. Social Media – creation, support, best practices, advertising
4. Digital Transformation Support: loyalty programs, point of sale systems, e-commerce, back-end business operations support (i.e. setting up QuickBooks etc.)
5. Technology – support and guidance for the best options of technology tools

If you are interested in meeting with a service squad member, please let us know by contacting our Economic Development Officer at edo@merrickville-wolford.ca

317 Brock Street West, P.O. Box 340, Merrickville ON K0G 1N0
www.merrickville-wolford.ca reception@merrickville-wolford.ca

wolford.ca or 613-269-4791, ext 242 and we'll direct you to the Counties' resources.

Janet Campbell Wins Bill Thake Award – It is our pleasure to share the news that Janet Campbell, founder & owner of Mrs. McGarrigle's Fine Mustard and Fine Foods, has won the Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership – the award acknowledges those who show outstanding leadership resulting in the growth and vitality of the Leeds Grenville economy. Winners were named at the United Counties of Leeds Grenville Economic Summit on November 20, 2020. Congratulations Janet!

Update on the New Merrickville Public Square – Over the past couple of months, the parkette next to the Blockhouse at the NW corner of St. Lawrence St and Main Street has been undergoing an exciting transformation into a new public square ... a place for family visits, tourist and day-tripper connections, or simply a memorable spot to sit quietly and have a sandwich or ice cream cone while watching the hustle and bustle. The hard landscaping was completed at the end of October and a bench, plantings and signage will be installed in the spring. Special mention and thank you to the Chamber of Commerce for the beautiful Christmas decorations!

As the spring arrives, please also watch for equally exciting landscaping improvements to the asphalt boulevard along the west side of Mill Street adjacent to Blockhouse to complement the new square. Combined, these attractive upgrades will greatly improve the positive impact of this highly visible gateway to our business district, contributing to visitors' wonderful experience and memories of our community.

Canadian Agricultural Partnership Cost-share funding now available - Support is now available for farmers and other businesses (plant health) for key priority areas, including economic development, environmental stewardship and protection and assurance. The intake is open until **January 6, 2021** at 5 PM ET. Applications will be received and assessed on a continuous basis while funding is available. Program details, including how to

apply, program guides, and application forms can be found on the Ontario Soil Crop Improvement Association, [OSCIA website](#).

[Up to Speed: Ontario's Broadband and Cellular Action Plan](#) – The Ontario government announced investments to improve and expand broadband and cellular access across the province over six years. This funding will be used for shovel-ready projects starting in 2019-20, will create jobs, and connect unserved and underserved communities during COVID-19 and beyond. Read more [here](#).

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 and government programs for businesses is updated regularly [here](#).

Please note that **new public health measures** put into effect December 14th related to the move to the Yellow – Protect level of the Keeping Ontario Safe and Open COVID-19 Framework may impact hours of operations for certain settings, limits on the hours for sale food and beverage establishments, limits on the number of individuals permitted in certain settings, and formalized Workplace Safety Plans for many businesses / organizations. Full details are on the Health Unit's website [here](#).

We hope that our local businesses have a happy Christmas and holiday season.

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.