



Municipality of South Bruce

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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Presentation to BWDSB Annual Community Planning and Partnership Meeting May 8th, 2018

THANK YOU - On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of South Bruce, we would like to take this opportunity to discuss the community's willingness to work with the Bluewater School Board and local agencies and organizations to ensure the schools in both Mildmay and Teeswater remain open for many more years.

Schools are vital to the growth and prosperity of our communities. Our communities will not survive the closure of our schools. Families looking for a place to settle will gravitate to communities with schools, health care, grocery stores, recreational and cultural opportunities.

Although historical enrolment trends do indicate that the school population in South Bruce is declining, from 2017 – 2018 we did see an increase of 6% and we believe that a number of exciting initiatives will result in further growth in South Bruce in the very near future.

- Gay Lea Foods Co-operative is nearing completion of their \$60 million expansion to their facility in Teeswater. Adding approximately 25 more jobs.
- Kinectrics, a primary supplier of Bruce Power, purchased 9 acres of Industrial land outside of Teeswater to build a 40,000 sq ft facility to break ground this spring. Creating approximately 50 jobs for the region.
- Formosa Springs Brewery & retail store has re-opened and has created 14 new jobs with the potential of doubling or tripling these numbers
- Within the past year alone, we have seen growth in our economy adding several new businesses in South Bruce. Examples include: Hometown Pizza, Jenessa's Hair Studio, Essentially Lavender, The Scrapbook House, Tint Plus, and renovations to the former Vendome Hotel for housing and future wellness centre possibilities.
- Million dollar expansion to the Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Centre and major upgrades to the Teeswater Town Hall are nearing completion.

- Wightman telecom invested millions of dollars in Teeswater to bring fibre optic technology to Teeswater.
- Building permits in South Bruce increased from 124 in 2016 to 135 in 2017
- 2 subdivisions are being developed – one in Formosa and one in Mildmay
- New before and after school programs have been implemented in Teeswater and Mildmay
- Studio 410 in Teeswater continue to bring new art and wellness programs which has increased cultural opportunities to South Bruce
- South Bruce is actively participating in the Business to Bruce program that will provide a climate for business success and economic growth.
- South Bruce is 1 of 3 remaining communities in Southern Ontario that is considering the possibility of siting a deep geological repository for nuclear waste within its boundaries.
- Bruce Power and the County of Bruce have teamed up to establish a regional economic development initiative to leverage opportunities in our area with the upcoming refurbishment program at the nuclear facility.

Both Teeswater and Mildmay schools have been identified as having available unused space that could be used in appropriate community partnerships. South Bruce has ideas that could be investigated to partner with the school board to maximize the facility's use:

- Licenced day care facilities/spaces (there are currently no licenced day care facilities in South Bruce)
- Health & wellness programs and facilities
- Youth skills training and activities
- Small business/trade training opportunities
- Senior programs, services & activities
- Agriculture programs and training

Although we recognize the fiscal challenges to keeping small schools open, the Board's primary purpose is to support and nurture student achievement and well-being. Sitting for extended hours on a bus, while travelling to schools in other communities, does not contribute to the well-being of a student. Students will miss out on recreational and employment opportunities that also contribute to a healthy lifestyle and well-being.

Council asks the members of the Bluewater District School Board members to join the communities in the development and promotion of a strategy that keeps our small rural schools open.