



Township of Huron-Kinloss

2023 Sustainability and Strategic Plan: Our Future Huron-Kinloss
Progress Report

February 5th, 2024

Sustainability and Strategic Plan: Our Future Huron-Kinloss

The Township of Huron-Kinloss adopted a 10-year sustainability and strategic plan in 2013 called Our Future Huron-Kinloss. The plan was created with members of the community, Council, and staff to ensure that decision-making met the expectations, wants, and needs of the community and the organization over the next 10 years.

In 2018, Council and staff reviewed what was accomplished in the first 5 years of implementation and developed a new action plan that outlined important milestones the Township hoped to achieve by 2023. The action plan was updated to include projects, initiatives and services that help the Township achieve our goals of being a prosperous, vibrant, spirited, environmentally conscious and accessible community. Working within these goals sets us on the path to achieve our over-arching mission and vision.

Vision: Huron-Kinloss celebrates a unique mix of welcoming communities and natural beauty.

Mission: Support the communities of today to inspire the generations of tomorrow.

In the following pages, staff has identified the projects and initiatives they worked on, implemented, or completed in 2023 to help the Township achieve the five goal areas in the sustainability and strategic plan.

In 2023 an updated strategic plan was created in collaboration with Council, Staff and the community. The 2023-2033 Strategic Plan: Blueprint for Our Future was presented to Council and approved in principle on January 15th, 2024.

Our Future Huron-Kinloss Progress Report

The progress report is divided into five sections, by goal area. Outlined in each section is the description of the goal, including what we are trying to achieve, followed by the list of 2023 accomplishments. The accomplishments section provides highlights from each department.

We are a Prosperous community that continues to grow in a sustainable manner

Prosperity is achieved by:

- ✓ Retaining and expanding our existing businesses and attracting new ones
- ✓ Diversifying our economy
- ✓ Growing a diversity of tourism opportunities
- ✓ Strengthening our agriculture and agri-business sector
- ✓ Investing in infrastructure

In 2023 our accomplishments in the prosperity goal area include:

- Holiday Shopping Pass promotion received 1091 completed passes and over \$163,000 spent in Huron-Kinloss between November 12th and December 24th, 2023. The Holiday Shopping Pass had a new addition this year, "Ronkin" the elf on a shelf, visited many of our participating businesses as part of a new social media campaign promoting the pass.
- \$40,016,436.45 in new building construction, with 207 permits issued in 2023
- Implemented building requirements to meet new legislation in Ontario's Bill 23; More Homes Built Faster Act
- Hired Deputy Building Official to support the Building and Planning Department
- Full closure and rehabilitation of Bell Bridge on Lake Range Dr. Project completed ahead of schedule.
- Reconstruction of Tanglewood, Jardine and Ridgewood roads in Point Clark
- Construction of Ripley Southwest Storm Sewer project including redesign of road layout to reduce the number of trees needing to be removed (after consultation with residents)
- Launched business recognition program and business survey
- Development of Business recruitment pitch-kit
- Attended Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and EDCO's Investor's Dragon's Den event, pitched Huron-Kinloss as a prime destination for commercial and industrial investment
- Awarded funding for a third time through the Skills Development Fund for the Women in Construction program totaling \$445,275.00, hired Workforce Development Coordinator to further employer engagement and facilitate

workshops to support an additional 40 women. Partnered with Bruce County to apply for multi-year funding to continue the Women in Construction program beyond SDF 3.0.

- Received certification for the Ripley Industrial Park to be listed as an Ontario Certified Site through Invest Ontario. Construction continued on the Ripley Industrial Park including hydro services agreement. Land sales continue with the total area sold equal to 3.5 acres of 18 net developable acres.
- Finalized the Water and Wastewater Servicing Master Plan (Growth and Servicing Master Plan), Public Works Operations and Transportation Review and Fire Services Master Plan.
- Updated the 2023-2033 Huron-Kinloss Strategic Plan: Blueprint for our Future with the help and support of Council, Staff and the Community.
- Continued participation and investment in the Municipal Innovation Council
- Participation in NWMO studies as Primary Significant Neighbouring Community Working Group, attended first South Bruce Nuclear Exploration Forum in Teeswater, Mayor Don Murray and Deputy Mayor Jim Hanna toured the DGR in Finland (expenses paid by the NWMO)
- Supported businesses with the Downtown Improvement and Spruce the Bruce grants. In 2023 Huron-Kinloss businesses applied for and received 2 façade grants; one in Ripley and one in Lucknow.
- Continued participation on the Clean Energy Frontier Regional Steering Committee to learn more about opportunities in the nuclear sector
- Hosted a guided Investors Day bus tour with over 30 Investors, Developers, Realtors and Community Partners to showcase investment opportunities in Huron-Kinloss.
- Received an Economic Developer's Association of Canada Marketing Award for the Investors Day Bus Tour.
- Received Economic Development Council of Ontario Rural Excellence Award (for 2022 initiatives, received in February 2023)
- After three years of service, The Hub, our local business support center, officially closed its doors on December 15th. The closure marked the completion of its predetermined funding period, during which The Hub played a vital role in supporting and assisting local businesses. The business support center assisted 213 businesses, not only in its local area but also in Bruce County.
- \$55,000 invested in continuing education for our community through the Early Investment in Education and Skills Program in partnership with the NWMO
- Hosted Job Fair at the Ripley-Huron Community Centre with 18 exhibitors and 130 attendees

We are a Vibrant community that values our uniqueness and creativity

A vibrant community is achieved by:

- ✓ Creating places where people want to be

- ✓ Celebrating what makes us unique
- ✓ Preserving and protecting our history and heritage
- ✓ Supporting and growing the arts and creativity

In 2023 our accomplishments in the vibrant goal area include:

- Point Clark Lighthouse and Museum was completely revitalized with all new exhibits, flooring and lighting and re-opened for the first time since 2019. Over 2000 visitors paid for a tour of the Lighthouse Museum and we sold over \$14,600 in merchandise. Multiple events were held at the Point Clark Lighthouse in partnership with the Point Clark Beach Association, Bruce Power and Ripley & District Lions Club.
- Launched Secrets of the Back 40 tourism strategy including building a new tourism website www.secretsoftheback40.com, installed new tourism kiosks and pedestrian signs.
- Hosted Secrets of the Back 40 soft launch event at Grassroots Rural Retreat in Lucknow with 150 attendees
- Continued support for and participation in Grey-Bruce Local Immigration Partnership Council
- Received Summer Experience Grants for Tourism Officer and Lighthouse Coordinator summer student positions.
- Assisted Music in the fields with Celebrate Ontario Grant application, they were awarded \$125,000 for the 2023 event and the Township provided up to \$10,000 in in-kind donations
- Continue to offer marriage commissioner services with over 50 marriage ceremonies each year
- Provided \$100,000 in funding through the Community Well-Being Program to Huron-Kinloss not-for-profit and community groups;
- Supported Lucknow Kinsmen and Dungannon Tractor Pull in hosting the Dungannon Super Pull and Demolition Derby at Graceland in Lucknow, includes up to \$10,000 in in-kind donations
- Council forgave \$4000 loan for the Lucknow Community Centre Board (total loan amount \$8000 provided during COVID-19 pandemic to support the facility during mandatory closures).
- Support for Drifter's Car Club to host 3 car shows in the parking lot of the Ripley-Huron Community Centre
- Hosted business appreciation event at Pine River Mercato and Pizzeria

We are a Spirited community that takes pride in calling Huron-Kinloss home and welcoming others

A spirited community is achieved by:

- ✓ Supporting a diversity of lifestyles
- ✓ Maintaining a sense of connection and cohesion with others
- ✓ Engaging in our community
- ✓ Retaining our youth

In 2023 our accomplishments in the Spirited goal area were:

- Facilitated many new and continued programs offered by the Community Services Department, in partnership with many community partners and fitness instructors, including:
 - Home Alone Safety Course
 - St. John's Ambulance Babysitting Course
 - Spin
 - Strength
 - Move Your Body
 - Low Impact
 - Dance with Carmen
 - Ballroom Dancing
 - Spring Ball Hockey
 - Youth cooking classes
 - Men's Huff n' Puff Hockey
 - Mom and baby fitness classes
 - Youth fitness classes
- Expanded the Wolf Cub Adventure Camp to 5 weeks of programming instead of 4; 168 campers attended camp.
- Awarded a \$1,500 grant for Ripley Wolf Cub Adventure Camp from the NWMO Sponsorship and Donation program.
- Offered a Discovery Western STEM Camp in Lucknow with reduced registration fees through the NWMO Early Investment in Education and Skills Program
- Hosted multiple successful events:
 - Ripley Winter Carnival; served 500 pancake breakfasts
 - Hosted games for the WOAA Girls Year End Tournament
 - Hosted games for the Kincardine Silver Stick
 - Hosted the Huron-Bruce Minor Hockey 3 on 3 March Break Tournament
 - Baseball Day in Ripley hosted by Ripley Summer Sports Committee
 - Hosted WOBA U9 Year-end Baseball Tournament in partnership with the Ripley Summer Sports committee
 - Ripley Food Art and Craft Festival; 63 vendors and 650 attendees
- Constructed two outdoor ice rinks, one in Point Clark and one in Ripley
- Replaced the bleachers at Point Clark and Ripley ball diamonds
- Construction of walking path between Sunset Place and Menomini Rd. Point Clark
- Research and initial plans for the Point Clark Community Centre Pickleball courts completed
- Restored wood planks on Waterworks walking bridge in Lucknow
- 3 Pollinator gardens constructed in partnership with the Ripley Horticultural Society at the Ripley Cemetery, Langdon Park and Pearl Elizabeth Park
- Supported Lurgan Beach Association in the construction of a toy library at Langdon Park

- Hired Recreation Programmer Co-op student to support implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan through funding from the Early Investment in Education and Skills Program through the NWMO
- Hosted Heritage Park community engagement session at Heritage Park, to discuss park maintenance and updates, 25 attendees
- Entered into a lease agreement with Her Strength Studio to lease the basement of the Point Clark community Centre to offer fitness classes throughout the year

We are an Accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone

An accessible community is achieved by:

- ✓ Ensuring people have a place to live
- ✓ Having amenities nearby
- ✓ Being age friendly
- ✓ Enhancing our mobility
- ✓ Being open and transparent

In 2023 our accomplishments in the accessible goal area include:

- Trained 11 staff on the International Association of Public Participation Fundamentals and 3 staff on IAP2 techniques (Action from the Community Engagement Strategy)
- Continued implementation of the Communications Action Plan including streamlining many communications procedures
- Adoption of Digital Modernization Review and began implementation of new software including; Questica, Univerus (registration), Laserfiche, Envisio, and Cloud Permit (By-Law module); through Municipal Modernization Program
- Develop new IT Strategy to support staff with IT concerns and issues.
- Launched new corporate website powered by Govstack
- Partnered with the Kincardine Family Health Team and Ripley Family Y Childcare centre to begin medical and childcare centre renovation project. Design complete, RFQ posted and project to be complete in 2024 which will increase day care capacity by 13 spots and bring healthcare services back to Ripley.
- Construction of the Ripley-Huron Community Centre's accessible front entrance and dressing room completed
- Boiler Beach Traffic Study presented to Council
- Support for construction of Bell wireless tower to increase cell service in Lakeshore area
- Facilitated round 3 of the Women in Construction program; 18 participants completed the carpentry program with an 80% employment rate and 40+ participants attending the 6 workshops provided (skid steer, back hoe, chainsaw)

- Pledged continued support to Kincardine Community Healthcare Foundation Hospital Redevelopment Capital Campaign
- Completed the third year of the 10 year golf car pilot project with the Ministry of Transportation, with a total of 99 cars registered. This project provides options for accessible transportation in Huron-Kinloss
- Reviewed Parks student program due to consistent shortfalls of applicants; adjusted program to 4 students and 1 full time contract position for grass cutting. No implications to the budget.
- Purchased new pick up truck for the Fire Chief.
- Purchased 2 new pumper trucks, 1 for the Lucknow & District Fire Department and 1 for the Ripley-Huron Fire Department with funds from the NWMO Near Term Investment Fund.
- Successful 2023 budget engagement and public consultation with 37% increase in survey participation (215 responses)
- Implemented cloud-based online file storage system, Laserfiche
- Updated Strategic and Sustainability Plan to 2023-2033 Huron-Kinloss Strategic Plan: Blueprint for our Future with extensive Council, Staff and Community feedback and participation.
- By-Law enforcement pilot program provided weekend coverage along the lakeshore to determine call levels and types
- Replaced flooring, bathroom partitions and ice surface dehumidifier in RHCC, replaced tile flooring at Municipal Office
- Completed 2023 Municipal Discovery Guide and mailed it out to all permanent residents
- Contracted Playchek to conduct annual inspections of Township parks to ensure safety and compliance
- Review and Renewal of Alcohol Risk Management Policy and Permanent Liquor Sales Licence with community partners
- Purchased 5 Skate Helpers to make learning to skate more accessible for adults and youth. Donations for the Skate Helpers were made by Superheat, Ripley Lions Club, Ripley Legion Branch 440 and Ripley Legion Ladies Auxiliary
- Updated and began implementation of the 2024-2028 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan
- Created the RZone Policy and the Volunteer Policy for the Township

Emergency Management 2023 Year in Review

- No emergencies declared
- Municipal Emergency Control Group received annual training on required topics

- Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Critical Infrastructure (CI) List
- Municipal Emergency Response Plan (MERP) including roles & responsibilities
- Activation and operation procedures under MERP
- Emergency Operations Centre Location & communications infrastructure
- Annual exercise completed
- Winter storm and power outage
- In person exercise held at the Primary Emergency Operations Centre
- Annual compliance documentation submitted to Emergency Management Ontario
- 8 Special Event Permits Issued – (Point Clark Canada Day Fire Works, Bruce Beach Annual BBQ, Lucknow Music in the Fields, Lucknow Fall Fair, and Ripley Fall Fair, Dungannon Tractor Pull and Bruce County Library Summer Reading Launch)
- In person presentation with Purple Grove Women's Institute
- Public education displays at Ripley and Lucknow Fall Fairs
- Monthly public education posting on social media

Health and Safety 2023 Year in Review

- 4 Safety Incidents (break and enter, struck head, strained arm, rolled ankle)
- 14 Safe Operating Procedures created or updated.
- Delivered Occupational Health and Safety Act required safety training and refreshers to 29 new and all existing staff
- Required staff attended additional training such as traffic control safety
- Regular/Monthly safety tailgate meetings with Public Works, Community Services, Huron Landfill and Municipal Office covering workplace specific safety topics, SDSs, policies and procedures
- Implemented new digital inspection software (CityReporter) and utilize work order system to assign findings and corrective actions with Community Services Department.
- Monthly workplace inspections completed at 13 Township facilities which identified hazards to be corrected.
- Quarterly JHSC meetings held with all three JHSCs. During meetings the committees discuss previous inspections, review Safe Operating Procedures/ Guidelines, and discuss any safety concerns raised to members

We are an Environmentally Conscious community that are good stewards of our natural environment

We achieve an environmentally conscious community by:

- ✓ Protecting our natural resources
- ✓ Using our resources wisely
- ✓ Being aware and taking responsibility

In 2023 our accomplishments in the Environmentally Conscious goal area were:

- LED lighting upgrades were installed at additional HK facilities.
- Planted over 500 trees and shrubs in partnership with SVCA and local volunteers at Concession 2/Lake Range Rd and Boiler Beach Rd./Concession 10.
- Planted 1000 seedlings on road allowance off Sideroad 5 due to removal of trees without Township consent
- Hosted Spring Road Tour for Council to view road conditions throughout Township
- Finalized Kinloss Landfill Expansion report
- Began process to licence new gravel pit on Kairshea Ave.
- Awarded \$3,505,816.44 in grant funding from the Federal and Provincial Governments for replacement of the Lucknow Standpipe, the total project cost will be \$5,531,775 – Completed construction of the Lucknow Standpipe
- Restoration of the Lakeshore standpipe
- Algae harvesting continued weekly in July and August and bi-weekly in May, June and September.
- Initiated North Point Clark drainage project to address road flooding – Lake Range Rd. and St. Arnaud
- Adoption of Clean and Clear Yards and Property Standards Complaint Policy
- Investigation of commercial fertilizer use; the affects on adjacent landowners and options for municipalities to regulate; worked closely with OMAFRA, MECP, CFIA to learn more about the product and our options to support residents
- Women in Construction participants constructed a shelter for the staff at the Kinloss Landfill to protect from weather
- Purchased landfill compactor for Huron Landfill through Near Term Investment Program by the NWMO
- Implementation of Food Cyler Program in partnership with Municipal Innovation Council, 130 units sold to Huron-Kinloss residents

Conclusion

The Huron-Kinloss Team was successful is completing many new and long-term projects

and initiatives in 2023 that promote a prosperous, vibrant, spirited, environmentally conscious and accessible community for our residents, visitors and businesses.

We look forward to implementing the goals and objectives of the updated strategic plan that will assist us in achieving our shared vision of a unified, engaging and caring community that cultivates opportunities and embraces the rural lifestyle.