

# TILLSONBURG CONNECTS



WINTER 2010

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Two new business funding programs

The Town of Tillsonburg is strongly encouraging Oxford County businesses to check out the funding options available under the new Sand Plains Community Development Fund and the Southern Ontario Development Program. Check out [sandplains.ca](http://sandplains.ca) or [southernontario.gc.ca](http://southernontario.gc.ca) for more information.

### Export Market Funding

As the Canadian and global economies rebound, it is a good time for your company to start exploring new markets and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Export Market Access (EMA) Program is one way to offset the costs of your investigations. The program provides up to 50 per cent of a project's eligible costs, to a maximum of \$30,000 per project and is specifically designed to:

- Assist businesses to access and expand their growth in new international markets;
- Encourage SME exporters to the US to seek other global markets; and,
- Increase export sales of Ontario goods and services by reducing risks involved in entering a foreign market.

Eligible activities include trade shows, trade missions, market research & materials, and foreign bidding. For more info, visit [exportaccess.ca](http://exportaccess.ca).

For more information contact:

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Development Commissioner  
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[www.tillsonburg.ca](http://www.tillsonburg.ca)

## LPRCA Relocates to Tillsonburg

The Long Point Region Conservation Authority (LPRCA) has relocated their administration offices to the Town of Tillsonburg as of February 5, 2010. The relocation was made possible by the purchase of the Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board's administration/head office building, which was announced in December 2009.

The LPRCA had identified the need for a new office as they had outgrown their former office, which was located adjacent to the Hay Creek Conservation Authority lands. The authority moved into that building in 1973 and had expanded it in 1979. As long ago as 1985 they had identified the need for larger facilities.

"From 1979 to now, we've grown from nine staff using the building to 20," says General Manager, Cliff Evanitski, "we outgrew the previous building and it was time for us to move into better quarters."

A building committee was struck two years ago and a number of locations were evaluated. A needs assessment found 10,000 to 12,000 square-feet of administrative space would be needed.

Evanitski said the committee went through the whole watershed and this was the only building that met their needs without requiring significant improvements.

"Tillsonburg was attractive for a number of reasons including its strategic location just south of Hwy 401, access to labour markets and its competitive real estate options" adds Evanitski.

The 5.39 acres that comes with the building was considered a plus and opens up the possibility of new initiatives; including potential demonstration plots and green energy initiatives. "The excess land provides us with an opportunity to be creative," Evanitski says "and we are excited about the possibilities it gives us and the enhanced profile for our organization."

"The Town of Tillsonburg is pleased to welcome the LPRCA to our wonderful community" says Tillsonburg Mayor Stephen Molnar, "they provide a valuable service for the community in terms of protecting and improving our natural environment and we look forward to working with them to further establish the Town as a centre for environmental excellence."

The Ontario Flue-Cured Tobacco Growers' Marketing Board will remain a tenant of the building through a leaseback of approximately 2,200 square-feet of space.

## Improving Signage

The Downtown BIA is proud of their new downtown entrance signage and the new street name blades. Improving signage is one of Tillsonburg's priorities and they are working on a number of initiatives in this regard.



*The Town of Tillsonburg is a growing town of 16,000 persons that serves a regional population of 118,000 persons within a 20 minute drive. Our workforce is available, skilled and has a strong rural work ethic that is rooted in the area's long agricultural tradition. Tillsonburg is strategically located in the centre of Ontario's agriculture and manufacturing heartland and with easy access to Highway 401, Canada's Trade Corridor. The Town is home to a diverse group of businesses that offer a wide variety of skills and services to meet your needs. **Best of all, our town offers some of the lowest prices for industrial land in Ontario, NO industrial development charges, low property taxes and lower labour costs.***

# Call For Nominations

## Tillsonburg Chamber of Commerce 2010 Business Awards of Excellence



TILLSONBURG DISTRICT  
Chamber of Commerce

The Tillsonburg District Chamber of Commerce is pleased to invite nominations for the Annual Business Awards of Excellence. The award categories are:

### BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to a commercial or professional/service sector business that has achieved one or more of the following:

- A unique operational improvement or new product;
- An enhancement of management or employee skills through the development and implementation of unique training and motivation programs or projects;
- Growth of the organization;
- Organizational support for quality control, or environmental awareness.

### COMMUNITY

Awarded to a manufacturing, commercial or professional/service sector business that has demonstrated community involvement/service through one or more of the following:

- Community involvement outside of the normal practice of day to day business;
- Community involvement by providing direct services of personnel, contributions, or the development of a community facility;
- Community service can also involve the financial assistance towards community oriented education, cultural and sports activities as well as environmental protection/enhancement projects;
- Can be part of an established assistance program or one that the business has developed on its own.

### ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

Awarded to an individual or small business that has introduced a new product or service and has accomplished one or more of the following:

- A unique product or service that captures a new segment of the market;

- The product or service has achieved a high level of success resulting in business expansion;
- The product or service has achieved recognition;
- The product or service has resulted in the creation of a new market;
- The product or service may be an expanded component of an existing business category or may be a totally new introduction to the domestic and/or export markets.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Awarded to the business that best demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship and conservation through meeting one or more of the following:

- Manufactures, markets or promotes an innovative green product or technology;
- Demonstrates a commitment to future growth and development of green technology; and,

See **AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE** on back page

## Town of Tillsonburg Welcomes New CAO



The Town of Tillsonburg is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kelley Coulter to the position of Chief Administrative Officer. Ms. Coulter is replacing former

CAO, David Morris, who retired in December after 36 years of public service.

During his tenure with the municipality, Mr. Morris was involved in major projects including Downtown redevelopment, Annandale House Restoration, various Community Centre and infrastructure projects, restructuring of the Municipality, and most recently, the municipal trail expansion in conjunction with the new Bridges at Tillsonburg golf course.

“On behalf of all elected members, our corporate team and the residents of

Tillsonburg, I would like to congratulate David for his exceptional contributions to the Town of Tillsonburg, says Tillsonburg Mayor Stephen Molnar, “and we would like to wish him and his wife Dag a long and happy retirement.”

Ms. Coulter is a strategic and results oriented executive and has an extensive business background that is complemented by expertise in areas of community development, strategic planning, government relations and communications. Prior to joining the Town, Kelley worked most recently as CAO with the Municipality of Grey Highlands. In addition to this, she has worked for Meridian Automotive Systems, Honeywell International Inc, and UWO’s Huron College.

Coulter, having known about the town as a result of living in Woodstock for 12 years during her employment in Stratford and Brantford, was interested in an opportunity

in what she viewed as a ‘fantastic community’ with significant attractions. “I cannot get over what the community has accomplished considering it only has a population of 16,000 people.”

Coulter saw the community’s dedication and commitment to its success as directly related to that level of success and something she wanted to be a part of. “It’s a community that has everything (industry, health care facilities, quality schools and a vibrant retail sector).

Council is enthusiastic and confident that the outstanding leadership credentials of Ms. Coulter will continue to enhance Tillsonburg as a “Place to Build Your Future”.

## New Patient Transfer Business Opens Up



Tillsonburg business owners and entrepreneurial family, the Lavier, are pleased to announce that they are opening a new patient transfer business to serve the tri-county area. The business, Tri-County Patient Transfers, is scheduled to start operating by mid-April out of their 138 Concession St E location. They are a locally owned and operated company that has been developed to meet the needs of non-emergency patient transfers.

“Through extensive market research and analysis we

have identified that the area is underserved with respect to patient transfer services” says General Manager Brett Lavier, “the larger retired population found in the area and the variety of health service locations necessitate significant non-emergency movements of patients between these facilities as well as patient’s homes.” “We look forward to meeting this need and growing our business while providing excellent service.”

Tri-County has developed a number of policies that are

designed to ensure that their staff, vehicles and equipment meet or exceed all industry standards. They are offering their services 24 hours/day, 7 days/week and 365 days/year.

“It is encouraging to see significant entrepreneurial activity taking place in our community as the economy starts to rebound” says Tillsonburg Development Commissioner Cephas Panschow, “and the potential for 10 jobs initially and more as Tri-County grows is good news for our Town.”

“As Oxford’s first patient transfer company we are excited to be opening our business in Tillsonburg and we believe that our combination of professional staff and service will be a winning combination” adds Operations Manager Steven Lavier.

## Tillsonburg Salutes the Vancouver Olympic Games



Photo courtesy of Sean Jackson

The Olympic Torch Relay through Tillsonburg on December 22, 2009 was a once-in-a-lifetime event that saw record breaking crowds in Downtown Tillsonburg. Town officials believe that this is the largest turnout they have had for any public event with some estimates as high as 2,500 people showing up and 2,000 people in the Downtown alone.

“We are very proud of the success achieved by our Olympic and Paralympic athletes in these Olympic games and they can rest assured that they have made us proud” says Tillsonburg Mayor Stephen Molnar, “a number of area athletes have achieved their See **OLYMPICS** on back page

## Tillsonburg Doubles its Trail System

With the recent expansion of the Bridges at Tillsonburg Golf Course, the community has also realized a doubling of the Town’s trail system through the addition of a five kilometer trail loop around the perimeter of the expanded golf course. This system is unique in that the funds raised for the trail came entirely from the community, including a major donation from Pat Carroll and family. The Carroll Trail was unveiled during a grand opening ceremony in 2009 and is now being enjoyed by residents of all ages. Plans are underway to add another bridge by John Pound Road and George Street to create an easy-to-find access point to the trailhead in Coronation Park. This is being built and donated by Gilbert Vandenbrink of Eastwood Manufacturing. The trail is currently accessed by entering Coronation Park off Van Street in Tillsonburg. Other

fundraising is ongoing to obtain funds for additional site amenities and the Town of Tillsonburg recently secured a grant to realign and expand the Trans Canada trail as well as a portion of the trail that runs through the Bridges.

The Town of Tillsonburg is holding its annual Harbour and Trail Day on Saturday, May 1 and is inviting the community to come out and help clean up the trails and plant trees, capped off with a refreshing hike.

*If you or your company is interested in contributing to the Tillsonburg Trails as part of the Friends of the Trails Community initiative, please contact Kelly Batt at 519-688-9011 or by email at kbatt@tillsonburg.ca for more information.*



# Grand Re-Opening of the Participate Art Centre for Children and Youth

The Participate Art Centre for Children and Youth is re-launching its programming after a two year hiatus with grand opening and open house events on Friday, March 12 and Saturday, March 13. These events will be held at its location on the second floor of the Tillsonburg Town Centre Mall at 200 Broadway. The schedule is as follows:

## FRIDAY, MARCH 12

4:00 – 6:00

Open House and Reception with Ribbon Cutting at 5 pm

7:00 – 9:00

Youth Music Performance

## SATURDAY, MARCH 13

10:00 – 2:00

Open House with hands-on arts activities

The Participate Program staff are inviting residents of all ages to join them for art, music, food, and tours of the refreshed facilities during these times.

The Participate Program has been delivering arts programming to children and youth in Tillsonburg through summer and after school programs, their creative outdoor Turtle Garden, music and theatre productions, arts shows, etc.

One of the primary mandates of the organizations is to integrate youth into the community and for several years they have facilitated youth involvement in community events; including, Canada Day, Sidewalk Days and other events through-out the year. They have also partnered with schools and other children's service providers to take "arts experiences" to students in schools and community neighbourhoods. From 1999 to 2008 they were the primary delivery organization for creative programs to thousands of children and youth from ages 3 – 24 in Tillsonburg.

The refreshed space now offers a small theatre and music stage, a visual and fiber art area, a multi-media lab and will continue to source funding to support some music recording equipment. They also have a youth art gallery wall where they will feature an ongoing art exhibit of young artists. They are in the process of launching a variety of classes as well as opportunities for youth led arts events. A website with more information on the Participate Art Centre will be made public shortly. Check back in the near future to find out more at [www.participateart.ca](http://www.participateart.ca).

## AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE - CONTINUED

- Educates their employees and customers on the advantages of adopting green products/technology

## INDUSTRIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Awarded to a manufacturing business that has demonstrated one or more of the following:

- Initiated an operational improvement or new product that is unique, innovative and recognized by other businesses;
- An enhancement of management or employee skills through the development and implementation of unique training and motivation programs or projects;
- Growth of the organization;
- Organizational support for quality control, or environmental awareness

## TILLSONBURG AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

The award winner will be selected by

representatives of the Town of Tillsonburg. This award recognizes businesses that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Are proven leaders in their field demonstrated through market expansion, product development, growth and retention of sales and improved financial results;
- Demonstrate commitment to the community of Tillsonburg through positive community relations, a contribution to community improvement programs, and an overall commitment to the betterment of the social well-being and quality of life in Tillsonburg

Please contact

Suzanne Renken at 519.688.3737 or [suzanne@tillsonburgchamber.ca](mailto:suzanne@tillsonburgchamber.ca)

for more details on the awards and plan join us on Thursday, May 13, 2010 at the Special Events Centre when we celebrate business success!

## OLYMPICS continued

goals on the world stage and we could not be happier."

The Town of Tillsonburg would like to extend thanks to all the torchbearers, volunteers, sponsors and attendees that made the passage of the Olympic Torch through the Town of Tillsonburg an overwhelming success. The Town also extends thanks to the media for the coverage leading up to the relay including CKOT FM 101.3, Heart FM 104.7, Rogers Television and The Tillsonburg News.

## Industrial Building

**SALE: \$1,050,000**



**MLS® #:** 63-599

**Price:** \$1,050,000

**Address:**

25 Townline Rd, Tillsonburg  
Property known as: Tillsonburg News

**Near:** Vienna Rd.

**Type:**

Office(S), Industrial, Warehouse,  
Free Standing

**Property Size:**

2.54 ACRES

**Age:** 32

**Sale/Lease:** Building & Land

Addition put on building in 2,000. Seller has their own PSA, please call listing agent for details. Excellent modern building in industrial park located in south-east Tillsonburg. 13,000 square feet of warehouse with 10,000 square feet of office. Loading docks with load levelors plus ground level loading. Plenty of parking available. Lots of room for expansion.

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