



For Immediate Release

November 6, 2014

Elgin County Initiates Development of a Regional Community Improvement Plan

Elgin County has initiated the development of an exciting Regional Community Improvement Plan that will help promote the unique economic development advantages of the County. A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning and economic development instrument that sets out tools and strategies for improving the built, economic, and social environment of a municipality and region. Importantly, through the development of a CIP, the County will be able to offer financial incentives to local business and landowners to assist with improvements to private property.

Specifically the CIP will focus on assisting with downtown beautification and revitalization efforts and supporting new and existing agriculture and agri-business opportunities.

This CIP initiative will build on previous work undertaken to promote Elgin's economic strengths and quality of place. With the development of the County's first Official Plan in 2012 and ongoing work to update its Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan, Elgin County has established a clear direction for its future. There is now an important opportunity to align the County's broader economic development goals with a Regional Community Improvement Plan in an effort to make the County more attractive for new investment.

A number of consultation events will be undertaken as part of this two-phase initiative. These events will include a series of workshops with key stakeholders, members of the community, landowners, and representatives from the County's local municipalities.

Anyone who owns a business in the County's villages or agricultural land is invited to attend one of two workshops happening on November 18. Please visit www.progressivebynature.com for more information.

In addition, a Region-wide survey has been prepared to obtain input from the wider community on specific community needs and the types of incentives that should be offered through the Regional CIP. You can provide input and ideas by completing an on-line survey at www.progressivebynature.com by no later than Friday November 21, 2014. Hard copies of the survey are also being made available for pick-up at the County office and local libraries.

For more information about this project, please contact:

Kate Burns Gallagher,
Business Development Coordinator
Elgin County
519-631-1460 ext. 137
kburns@elgin.ca.

County of Elgin
450 Sunset Drive
St. Thomas, Ontario
N5R 5V1 Canada
Phone: 519-631-1460
www.elgin-county.on.ca