

Prosperity Round Table Update

January 2008



A Message from the Steering Committee

Happy New Year! We trust everyone had a happy holiday season and looks forward to what 2008 brings for the Prosperity Round Table.

On December 6th, 2007, the Steering Committee heard reports from each of the task team leaders and was impressed with the dedication of each team and the progress to date. We would like to thank all of the hardworking members of the Prosperity Round Table for their invaluable commitments to the economic opportunities identified for the Peterborough region.

The Steering Committee is also pleased to announce that the next Prosperity Round Table Plenary Session is to be held Wednesday, March 26th, 2008 at the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 52 Hall on Lansdowne St. We are fortunate to have Erik Lockhart, from the Executive Decision Centre at Queen's University, participate as our Round Table facilitator again. Look forward to more detailed information surrounding this event coming shortly.

Andy Mitchell, Judy Heffernan, Stuart Harrison and Greg Belanger

Industrial Land

The Industrial Land team, headed by Kathy Windrem, is interested in developing an inventory of available industrial land for the GPA. The team has met with Laura Lauzon, Business Development Manager at the GPA EDC, who is currently developing this inventory. The team most recently met with Malcolm Hunt, Planning Director for the City, to discuss what is happening at the Peterborough Airport. The team has decided that it is essential to create a positive awareness of what the Peterborough region has to offer in terms of industrial land. Kathy and her team will also be exploring opportunities for developing agreements between the City and County for immediate opportunities surrounding potential land purchases, and how to increase preparedness for these situations. The industrial land team expects to meet next with officials from Trent University regarding the Master Plan for Trent's endowment lands.

Business Environment

Dan Stanford and the members of the Business Environment team have worked hard through the fall and are now at the stage where they are ready to develop their action plan. The team has developed a list of comparative municipalities with which to compare the Peterborough region. They hope to rank Peterborough against these other communities in order to highlight potential opportunities. They have also proposed to create a survey to send out to businesses in the community, on the topic of competitiveness of their business. In doing so, the team hopes to create awareness, which will bring competitiveness to top of mind.

Welcome New Members

A special welcome to the following new members of the Prosperity Round Table: Dr. Stephen Hill (Community Vision), Carmela Valles (Community Vision), Todd Barr (Community Vision), Ken Doherty (Community Vision), Bob Jameson (Community Vision), Brent Tully (Community Vision), and David Graham (Industrial Land). Be reminded that the Prosperity Round Table is always seeking to broaden its membership. For more information, contact Victoria at the GPA EDC.



Downtown Revitalization

Darren Murphy and the Downtown Revitalization team have been very active in working towards their objective, having met eight times over the fall. The team was busy meeting with several different officials who are offering insight into what initiatives are taking place downtown regarding development. Thus far the group has met with: Ann Farquharson and Dean Pappas, Peterborough City councillors; Inspector Murray Rodd, City Police Services; Ken Doherty, City Community Services; and Ann-Marie Kelleher, GPA EDC. While the team has been busy gathering information and perspectives regarding downtown development, they have also reviewed a study of the downtown core conducted by Urbanmetrics Inc. and have met with the consultant for the study. The Downtown team is currently focusing on coordinating all of the efforts by several groups to better or develop the downtown, and expect to meet with others interested in the development of our downtown area.

Infrastructure

Bill Lockington and the Infrastructure team have met twice so far and have been busy reviewing material concerning infrastructure in both the City and the County. The team has decided to divide Infrastructure into two focuses: 1) "Core" Infrastructure, or "bricks and mortar" Infrastructure, and 2) "Investment" Infrastructure. The team has reviewed the capital budget forecasts for both the City and County for the next five years, and have concluded that there needs to be a public/private partnership to achieve the desired and appropriate infrastructure for the Peterborough region. Bill and his team will next be focusing on encouraging the City and County to develop an inventory of their assets and current infrastructure.

Transportation

Bruce Danford and the Transportation team continue to be busy into the New Year. Members of the Transportation team attended the City's Committee of the Whole meeting in December 2007. One of the results of the COW meeting was that Terms of Reference for the City's Master Plan are to be developed. The transportation team has developed a list of Transportation Planning Principles that they plan to suggest to the City to use in developing these Terms of Reference. The team will also be meeting with County officials soon, and will be continuing to explore suggestions for a regional transportation plan, and opportunities for co-operation between the City and County for joint services.

Community Vision

Joe Lipsett has welcomed several new members to the Community Vision team, all of who will offer additional valuable input to the visioning process for the Peterborough community. The three meetings held so far have helped the team identify that they face a challenge with such a broad-based task of vision development, but are confident and up to the tasks ahead of them. The team has reviewed several strategic plans and visions previously developed for the community, such as Vision 2020. The team is currently working within three sub-groups to review and refresh previous community visioning processes, and to establish new principles to guide them in vision planning. Joe and his team expect to have a new vision ready to present for the Spring Plenary session.



A Reminder

Victoria McPhail, Coordinator for the Prosperity Round Table, is happy to assist all members of the Round Table and is available for administrative support and coordination. Please feel free to contact her at the GPA EDC by phone at 743-0777 ext. 2131 or by email at VMcphail@gpaedc.on.ca.