



Second Career Ontario Laid off in the past 4 years? Get Funded. Train for a new career www.SecondCareerOntario.com

Contact Nursing Colleges Convenient. Flexible. At Home! Find Nursing Colleges in Ontario. CanadaUniversities.ca

Ontario Fly-In Fishing Trophy Fishing on Private Lakes. Remote Fly-in Accommodations. Great-Fishing.com/Northern-...



Simcoe

[Access Mechanical Ltd.](#)

Simcoe Reformer

[Careerad.com Classifieds](#)

[Obituaries E-Edition](#)

[Autonet](#)

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2011

[SUBMIT](#) [JOIN](#) | [SIGN-IN](#)
Community Sports

[News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Arts/Life](#) [Editorial/commentary](#) [Contact Us](#)

Archives

[Home](#) [Archive](#) Major work planned in downtown Port Dover

Major work planned in downtown Port Dover

By MONTE SONNENBERG, SIMCOE REFORMER
Updated 7 months ago

Downtown Port Dover will have a very different look next year at this time.

Thursday, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs announced a \$135,000 grant for improvements to Port Dover's downtown.

The grant is conditional on Norfolk County providing matching funds, bringing the total value of the announcement to \$270,000.

The money was awarded under OMAFRA's Rural Economic Development program. The Port Dover Board of Trade, the Port Dover Enhancement Association and Norfolk County will work together to deploy the funds.

"The most you can get from a Rural Economic Development grant is \$150,000, so \$135,000 is pretty good," said Rodger Pearlie, chair of the Port Dover Enhancement Association's downtown committee. "Getting this was a true community effort. This is the culmination of people partnering and working hard to come up with a proposal that pleases the province."

Norfolk council has the final say over the dispersal of funds. However, the plan submitted to the province contains many improvements similar to the upgrades downtown Simcoe experienced several years ago when Norfolk Street was rebuilt.

This includes heritage signage and street lighting, public benches and resting areas, and other landscape improvements. There may also be gateway improvements on the major roads leading into Port Dover.

Funds will also be spent on a "gap analysis" in downtown Port Dover. The study will compile an inventory of existing businesses and services. Consultants will review the results and make recommendations on the kinds of businesses and services Port Dover needs to generate maximum consumer and tourist traffic.

"In a growing community, you want to keep your core strong and viable," Paul Morris, president of the Port Dover Board of Trade, said yesterday. "You do an analysis of what you have and what you're missing so businesses arriving in town know what is needed."

Funds will also be used to find ways of maximizing Port Dover's potential as a destination for tourists. This means devising strategies for attracting visitors to town from October through April.

"This is wonderful news," Morris added. "The board of trade recognized the need for this several years ago. This is a big step forward."

Norfolk staff will draft the reports and proposals that come before council.

"We are excited to partner with the province to help grow and strengthen local businesses in Port Dover," said Chris Baird, Norfolk's general manager of planning and economic development. "This project will help us increase visitor traffic to the downtown and surrounding areas, creating a climate conducive to retention and expansion of existing downtown businesses to serve visitors and residents alike."

In yesterday's news release, Brant MPP Dave Levac, a member of the McGuinty government, said: "Today's announcement underlines how our government is collaborating with business and local governments to help create jobs and boost regional economies."

Monte Sonnenberg 519-426-3528 ext. 150

**WORK LIKE A PRO
SAVE LIKE A PRO**

Rent the right tools for any job at
The Home Depot Tool Rental Centre.

[LEARN MORE](#) **THE HOME DEPOT** ToolRental™

Newspaper
 UR Norfolk
[Archive Information](#)

MDG

Finance a Laptop at
49¢ /day

[shop NOW](#)

+ get a **free**
22" LCD HDTV!



Norfolk, who do you think you are?
Tracing Your Family Roots in and Around Norfolk April 5 to 9, 2011 is 'Archives Awareness Week' in Ontario so the Eva Brook Donly Museum &[...]

The Libyan Trap
The USA has realized what is really happening in the civil war in Libya; No clear objective, no idea who/what the "rebels" represent, no consensus, no[...]

US/Canada Security Perimeter
It appears that this latest negotiation of a US/Canada "security perimeter" is in the works. Those in this country opposing the process bemoan a loss of[...]

Record All Non Unanimous Votes of Council
In the middle of last October, in preparation for the coming municipal election, Keith Ashley of the Reformer wrote a column suggesting "Do your homework before[...]

Widgets and Babies
The foibles of modern biotechnology have come back to bite is in our assets but once more. A childless couple in BC contracted a surrogate[...]

Yes to long form census
Hello I am back blogging ... time for the facts please! Who in their right mind would try to make policy or develop a business[...]

Sign up for
the latest, breaking news, weather, sports and more [Subscribe](#)
sent right to your inbox!

What are these icons?
 = Photo Gallery
[Click here for the icon legend](#)



msonnenberg@bowesnet.co m

Advertisement

Fairfield Inn & Suites

Fairfield Inn & Suites- Enjoy a Stay w/ Free WiFi & Hot Breakfast.
Marriott.com/FairfieldInn

Article ID# 2742134

[Submit content](#)

Tools    

Archives Articles:

- [Denver Melo-drama drones on](#)
- [Corolla powers ahead](#)
- [Simpler G hits the spot](#)
- [Dodge up to muscle challenge](#)

[More »](#)



Norfolk Golf & Country Club
Est. 1895

EVERYONE WELCOME

Stanley Thompson Society Recognized Golf Course
Highly Accessible 1st Tee
Member's Leagues
Year Round Membership and Facility

NEW MEMBERSHIP PROMOTION
Ends April 30th
**PARTNERED MEMBERSHIP
FOR THE PRICE OF ONE**

Details:
519-426-1300 Ext. 21
www.norfolkgolffandcountryclub.com

[Travel, Sports and Recreation](#)

Today

Beyond the Garage Door

Calling all artists and creative spirits

EAT & DRINK NORFOLK

Green Living Show EcoMentors Youth Conference

Hagersville & District Lions Club Craft Show

Life with Eva

Paper Treasures!

Weekly Meat Draw/ Raffle

Apr. 17, 2011

Scentsy Open House

Apr. 18, 2011

Simcoe: Pleasure Craft Operator Card safe boating course and exam

Simcoe: Pleasure Craft Operator Card safe boating course and exam

Apr. 19, 2011

Coffee with the Curator

Business Name
City

[» Search](#)

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Arts/Life](#) | [Editorial/commentary](#) | [Contact Us](#)

© 2011 , Sun Media Corporation | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Website Advertising](#) | [Research](#) | [RSS](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Report a Bug](#)