

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
ACTIVITY REPORT NOVEMBER 2015**

Activity:	COMPLETED	ON-GOING
Establishing the Clare economic development office	<p>Department established with Economic Development Officer in place April 2013 Departmental budget approved for 2014-2015 FY</p> <p>Advisory Board established August 2013- meets semi-monthly</p> <p>Terms of Reference for committee approved by council November 2013.</p> <p>Recommended changes to Terms of Reference approved by council Feb. 19 2014.</p> <p>½ day session held with partners Feb. 14/14 looked at various plans and made recommendations to CED committee Operational committee continues to meet to discuss projects/opportunities.</p> <p>Economic Development and Tourism and Recreation created organizing committee to host first ever Gran Fondo in NS (Gran Fondo Baie Sainte-Marie cycling event). Member of organizing committee as Finance Coordinator and Committee Chairperson. Organizing committee includes Municipality, private sector and CDENE. Event held on Sept 27/15 with 412 participants.</p>	<p>Planning stages for Gran Fondo 2016 on Sept 24-25 2016; planning projections based on 800-1000 participants.</p>
Expanding the scope of the Centre de l'Entrepreneuriat	<p>Committee asked CDENE to lead CEDIF initiative. Info session held Oct/13.</p> <p>CDENE is assisting group in Clare in creation of CEDIF for entrepreneurial investment. Investissement Clare Investments Limitee CEDIF initial offering closes</p>	
Development and promotion of the ecoparc	<p>Ecoparc signage developed and installed on site.</p> <p>Logo used on correspondence, business cards and facebook page.</p> <p>Ecoparc welcomed its first private sector tenant at ecoparc (Cooke Aquaculture/Kelly Cove Salmon) May 2013.</p> <p>Renamed office building at ecoparc site in honor of Edmond M. Comeau. Ceremony held Nov/13.</p>	<p>On-going site-related activities include coordination of general maintenance, scale and electricity consumption reports and other activities as required.</p> <p>Working with private sector companies as potential tenants for recycling centre building/ecoparc office building. Tender documents for disposing of recycling equipment and lease documents for tenants to be drafted.</p>

	<p>Closure of municipal recycling centre- working to find tenant for recycling centre building.</p> <p>Ecoparc Development Study completed Nov 2014 (funded by ACOA & Municipality) to analyze cost of infrastructure improvements, create sawmill and power plant business case.</p>	
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Collaboration with the Regional Enterprise Network (REN)	<p>Municipality agreed to join REN Fall 2013. Board of directors for new REN formed. CEO hired August 2014.</p> <p>Meetings held with new WREN CEO to discuss collaboration plans. Awaiting draft MOU. Attended BRE (Business retention and Expansion) training January 2015.</p> <p>BRE strategy developed with WREN EDO. Attending staff meetings.</p>	<p>Working with WREN BRE officer to identify BRE clients. Invited BRE officer Gilles Babin to present at local Chambre de commerce de Clare board meeting Sept 9/15 to explain and promote BRE program. Attending quarterly Western economic developers network meetings.</p> <p>Invited to participate on EDNNS (Economic Developers Network of NS) through WREN. First meeting as member Oct 22 2015.</p>
Annual report on economic progress		
Developing Haskap and other berry farming potential	<p>Haskap info session held for public June 10/13 (+-100 participants).</p> <p>Attended agriculture session in December on "Igniting Growth"</p> <p>Individual consultations re: available programs for haskap development..</p>	<p>2 workshop/info sessions for local agri producers on marketing of products held in April and June. Partnering with CDENE.</p>
Buy local/go global campaign	<p>Supported "Magasiner à la Baie": a buy-local campaign organized in Dec/13 by Chambre de commerce de Clare. 12 000 participating ballots in 34 stores.</p> <p>Magasiner à la Baie 2014 campaign held December 1-7, 2014. 30+ participating stores. 10 000 ballots filled out.</p>	<p>Continued relationship with Chambre de commerce includes participating in monthly breakfast board meeting, preparation of correspondence and minute taking. Currently sit on executive of board as Board Secretary.</p> <p>Magasiner à la Baie 2015 campaign to be held November 30 to December 6 2015.</p>
Attracting immigrants and immigrant entrepreneurs	<p>Included USA students in "Magasiner à la Baie" promotion by encouraging them to shop locally to discover community and potential employers.</p> <p>Attended first meeting with group from USA to look at ways to better integrate international students into community.</p> <p>Participated in focus group for francophone immigration in NES, (conf call followed up by all day</p>	<p>Suggestions for additions to Municipality of Clare website are being compiled (ex: "Why Come to Clare?" section). Working with web developer on municipal website re-design- new site up since Sept 2015.</p>

	session June 16) Attended SNA immigration consultation Feb 18/15 to discuss francophone immigration issues.	Supporting CDENE "LIP" (Local Immigration Partnership) application.
Developing Université Sainte-Anne opportunities	Analysis of "cross-over" in both plans was discussed at Feb 6/14 CEDC meeting where Allister presented USA's strategic plan. New project for USA announced (public/private sector partnerships, greenhouses, R&D). "Petit-Bois" project approved to further develop trails, interpretive panels and incorporation of other ecological elements. Attended official opening of Nova Ouest Laboratory on Nov 15/14.	Sit on advisory committee for "Colloque en entrepreneuriat" to be held at USA Nov 17-19 2015.
Fostering home-based employment		
Broadening tourism infrastructure and opportunities	Prepared recommendation to Council to provide letter of support for development of a sustainable recreational Atlantic salmon fishery as proposed by the Salmon River Salmon Association. Recommendation accepted by Council and letter prepared for Salmon River Salmon Association.	Inter-departmental meetings will look at possible ways to identify gaps/opportunities. New Department of Community Development formed April 2015. Regular monthly staff meeting being held with managers. Working with Clare Golf & Country Club on 50th anniversary (2016) promotion.
Attracting Retirees	Age-Friendly Community Project: Clare Region , Action Plan and Report was presented to CEDC in Feb 2015.	Funding secured through Prov of NS Dept of Seniors for Transport de Clare re-branding initiative (including new brochure and advertising). Leading project with senior representative and Transport de Clare representatives.
Supporting the mink industry		
Supporting the fishing and seafood processing industry		
Supporting the forestry sector	Wood-supply study conducted in 2013. Meeting held with NS Minister of Natural Resources and CelluFuel partners Feb 13/14 to share ecoparc integrated plan. Presented at Clare Woodlot Owner's Association meeting on May 27/14 to give update on ecoparc. Sat as steering committee for 2015 Western Woodlot Owner Conference held on March 7 th at Saulnierville Legion. 112 participants.	On-going discussions with local investors regarding re-opening of sawmill. Held several meetings with provincial government regarding security of supply.
Fostering renewable energy	ComFIT (Community Feed-In Tarrif) application submitted by CelluFuel to operate biomass power	Continued relationship with CelluFuel- company looking at establishing renewable diesel plant at

	<p>plant at ecoparc.</p> <p>Continued referrals for energy advisors to connect with businesses upon request.</p> <p><i>Recommendation from Operational Committee that energy efficiency and renewables be considered as part of planning process for new Villa acadienne</i></p> <p>MOU between Fundy Tidal, our municipality, Municipality of Digby and Town of Digby finalized to establish formal partnership in development of tidal energy initiatives. Establishment of entity not going forward at this time after many managing partners group meetings to study initiative.</p> <p>Explored wind turbine (ComFIT) project opportunity for Meteghan area.</p> <p>Attended Digby Port Days- Sept 10/11 2014</p> <p>Tidal (other)- Both EDO and Warden attended</p> <p>ICOE (International Conference on Ocean Energy) Nov 4-6/14 in Halifax. Wide-spread press coverage on Digby County contingent at conference.</p> <p>Coordinated annual LED Christmas light exchange on December 7th during Recreation Department's Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Event sponsored by Efficiency NS and Clean NS. 62 residents participated by bringing in 2 sets of older lights for 1 new set</p> <p>Steering committee member for Digby County Renewable Energy Symposium (Ride the Green Wave) (held September 17-19 2015) . Participant and presenter at event.</p>	<p>ecoparc. Meeting held Feb 13/14 with all 4 partners of to discuss timelines. Attended "Shovel-turning" event/announcement Sept 3/14 in Brooklyn re: start of pilot plant. Coordinating talks between CelluFuel and potential sawmill operator.</p> <p>Sourcing 3 locations where electric car charging stations will be installed in Clare. Funding secured for station purchases. Municipality and Chambre de commerce will cover installation costs.</p> <p>Applied for 2 LED light exchanges in Clare Dec 2015- 1 in Little Brook and 1 in Havelock. Received confirmation of funding for 1 event only for Clare- will host event for first time in Havelock on Dec 5th.</p>
<p>Building the Clare brand</p>	<p>Seeking partner for "Vivre à la Baie"- a video initiative to showcase quality of life in Clare compared to away. Working on obtaining rights to song. (Initiative delayed).</p>	
<p>Other natural resources development</p>		
<p>Supporting regional infrastructure</p>	<p>New service provider in region (Mainland Telecom) is providing internet service to municipal building/CIFA (15 mbps download speed/ 75 mbps upload speed). Looking to offer service to residents. A map of internet availability (from all sources/providers) to be developed.</p>	<p>Meeting will be held to discuss ETS systems regional Partnership activity with Municipality and Town of Digby. Presentation to council held in March. Gathering additional information for program delivery possibility.</p>

	Attended Nova Scotia Power's IRP (Integrated Resource Plan) session in Yarmouth May 30/14; re: grid issues, costs, innovation. Attended NSP follow-up session in March/15 to discuss findings during public engagements sessions for Integrated Resource Plan.	Former Legion building now owned by Municipality of Clare. Funding proposal developed for renovations through Canada CIP fund. Application approved. Renovations started Oct 2015.
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