

Choosing our Future... Working Together



2014

Planning & Economic
Development
Business Plan

November 2013



Hamilton

Planning and Economic Development

Purpose/Function

The Planning and Economic Development Department works with communities to plan, build, support and promote a progressive City, its vision and the City's Strategic Plan.

Divisions Include:

- Building Services
- Economic Development
- General Manager's Office
- Growth Management
- Planning
- Parking and By-Law Services
- Strategic Services Special Projects
- Tourism and Culture

Programs and related services that are provided by the Planning and Economic Development Department (as defined by the Service Delivery Review) include:

- Development and Growth
 - Land Use Planning
 - Development Approvals
 - Zoning By-Law Review
 - Business Development
 - Urban Renewal
 - Growth Management
- Public Safety
 - Building Permits
 - Building Inspections
 - By-Law Enforcement
 - Animal Services
 - Parking Operations
 - Business Licensing
 - School Crossing Guards
- Tourism, Culture and Heritage
 - Tourism Development
 - Cultural Development
 - Museum and Heritage Presentation
- Corporate Services
 - Planning and Economic Development Support Services
 - Real Property Management
 - Building Services' Customer Service
 - Heritage Asset Management

2013 Highlights:

The 2014 update of the 2013 Departmental Business Plan contains a total of 231 strategic projects, showing the following result:

- 43 are have been completed;
- 136 are in progress;
- 51 are new and/or not yet started; and
- 1 has been discontinued.

Projects that are not meeting our previously identified completion dates have been delayed as a result of staff vacancies and lack of resources, new priorities and work pressures, as well as, day-to-day pressures. As a result, new completion target dates have been set in this version of the Business Plan.

A Prosperous and Healthy Community

- Exceeding \$1 Billion worth of Construction value for the 2nd consecutive year and 3rd in the last 4 years
- OMB approval of the Urban Official Plan
- Approval of Phase 2 of the Airport Employment Growth District (AEGD)
- Employment Areas infrastructure (Red Hill Business park Transportation Master Plan EA, and Twenty And Dartnall Roads extensions)
- Approval of 13 Plans of Subdivision; over 800 dwelling units and \$22.7 million in new municipal infrastructure
- Approval of Phase 3 of the Cultural Plan
- War of 1812, signature event and community commemoration
- Expanded incentives to the 6 community downtowns
- OMB approval of the Setting Sail secondary plan
- Rental Housing Licensing review and the establishment of a Rental Housing enforcement program
- Source Water Protection Plan
- Hamilton recognized and best world-wide Business Retention and Expansion Program by Foreign Direct Investment Magazine and Best City to Invest by Site Selection Magazine
- New downtown development including 12 new Multi-residential buildings in the downtown core planned or under construction
- New 180 room Hilton Homewood Suites in the Downtown
- First Downtown Grocery Store, Nations Fresh Foods
- Major industrial expansion including, Stackpole, Anderson Water Systems, Baffin Polar Footwear, Russell Steel, Steeped Tea
- Downtown Parking Study Update
- Illegal Dumping Pilot Enforcement Program
- Establishment of the Neighbourhood Disputes Mediation Service
- A new low industrial building vacancy rate of 1.3%

Valued & Sustainable Services

- City/Conservation Authorities Memorandum of Understanding
- Reorganization of the Tourism and Culture Division
- Completion of the Open for Business Review
- Improved service delivery in Building Division by the addition of 9 FTEs to accommodate increase in economic growth
- Residential Drainage Assistance Pilot Project
- Over 35,000 contacts to the Visitor Information Centre
- Over 350 Special Event approvals
- 322 film permits issued to date
- A new Public Education/Awareness Program for Animal Control

Leadership & Governance

- Engagement in Provincial reviews of planning legislation ie Growth Plan and PPS
- Implemented Hamilton's first recognition Awards of Excellence for Building permits submissions and inspections
- Implementation of the new Tourism and Culture Division
- Parking and By-law Division Organizational Review

2014 Initiatives:

A Prosperous and Healthy Community

- Bayfront Secondary Plan/Redevelopment Strategy and Brownfields Strategy
- 2015-2018 Economic Development Strategy
- Barton Street Redevelopment Strategy
- Visitor, Events and Tourism Strategies implementation
- Business Plans for Auchmar and St. Marks
- Development Plans for the West Harbour Recreation Area, Pier 8 and the Barton/Tiffany lands
- Transit dock and shoreline improvements for Pier 7
- Downtown Secondary Plan Review
- Downtown Built Heritage and Cultural Heritage Landscapes Inventories
- Corridor study for James North and Lands surrounding the James St. Go Station
- Enhanced illegal rental housing enforcement program
- Natural Areas Acquisition Strategy
- Kiosk Pilot Project expansion into various BIAs and downtown core
- Comprehensive Engineering guidelines review
- 2014 Development Charge Background Study
- Final OMB approval for the AEGD

Valued & Sustainable Services

- Cultural Report Card
- SEAT IT project and procedures
- Digital on-line development applications, pending work on the Web-redevelopment project
- Ongoing implementation of the Open for Business Strategy

- Taxi Services Review
- Hosting 2014 Creative City Summit
- Creative City network Summit
- Cultural Report Card
- Taxi service review for Plate issuance and adherence to AODA

Leadership & Governance

- Development and implementation of the Departmental Employee Engagement Program
- Ongoing consultation with the Province on the review of Planning related legislation
- Building Division Review of Practices and Policies
- Municipal Archaeology Master Plan