

Mid-November 2024 to Mid-February 2025 Economic Development Activity

Business Support:	Nov 15 – Dec 31, 2024	Jan 1 – Feb 15, 2025
General Business/Marketing Support Interactions	10	18
Expansion, Location & Development Conversations	8	12
Business Visits	2	4
Events Attended	1	2

Expansion, Location & Development Conversations by Industry:

Asphalt Plant, Construction Manufacturing, Food Processing, Agri-Tourism, Retail, Commercial Space/Plaza Development, Pharmacy, Agri-Business, Church

Events Attended:

Tavistock Chamber Lunch; SCOR EDC AGM; EDCO Training - Planning 101 for Ec Dev

Projects & Partner Collaboration:

- a. Strategic Planning Process for 2026-2029 Strategic Plan
 - Draft Strategic Planning Process timeline and Consultant RFP presented to the Board for approval and budget allocation at the February 28th Board Meeting
 - Economic Development Director and Board Chair to review proposals and recommend a preferred Consultant to the Board at the April 25th Board Meeting

- b. Rural Oxford Agri-Food & Manufacturing BR&E Surveys – 24 Completed
 - Next Steps: Continue Outreach, Business Visits & Surveys in 2025

- c. Oxford County Ag Zoning Bylaw Initiation
 - Met with Policy Planners to review Ag Zoning Bylaw Initiation
 - Invited Policy Planners to present at February 28th Board Meeting
 - Learn More: <https://shorturl.at/GQpea>

- d. 7 NEW Stories added to our Newsroom: <https://ruraloxford.ca/news>
 - Little Bones Grill (Norwich); Sunova Worx – For the Future (Lakeside); Tourism Innovation Grant Program; Government Investing in Ontario’s Dairy Processing Sector; The Life Sciences Scale-Up Fund (LSSUF); US/Canada Tariff Updates; Crescent Ridge Services and Stonecrest Engineering- Client Focused Vision and Small Town Vibes

- e. Tourism Innovation Grant Program
 - Launch and promote 2025 Grant Program
 - Application Deadline is February 21st
 - Finalists will be notified by March 10th
 - Finalists will make their Pitch to a panel of Judges on March 24th
 - Grants will be issued to the selected recipients on March 31st
 - Learn More: <https://cfoxford.ca/tourismgrant>

- f. Community Employment Services – Oxford County Career Expo
 - 3500 Students/Participants will meet with 150+ Employers
 - Event Sponsor: Cash & In-Kind (5 Roadside Signs)
 - CED Grant Application submitted to Community Futures Oxford
 - Support coordinated effort of a shared county-wide government booth
 - Learn More: <https://workinoxford.ca/career-expo>

- g. “Discover Rural Oxford” at Canada’s Outdoor Farm Show (COFS)
 - Begin planning for the 2025 “Discover Rural Oxford”
 - CED Grant Application submitted to Community Futures Oxford
 - Learn More: <https://ruraloxford.ca/discover>

- h. Shop Local Gift Card Program – Research Phase Cont’d
 - Met with Ingersoll BIA, Tillsonburg BIA, Miconex
 - Phone Calls with potential Community Partners
 - Invited Community Stakeholders to a 30-Min Discovery Call
 - Learn More: <https://shorturl.at/akXAz>

- i. Support for Rural Chambers
 - Attend Norwich Council Meeting for Norwich Chamber delegation
 - Attend Tavistock Chamber Christmas Lunch
 - Sponsor Tavistock Chamber “Welcome to Town” Bags
 - Design, Print and Setup Roadside Sign for the Taste of Norwich Event
 - Renew Tavistock and Norwich Chamber Memberships

- j. Oxford Connection
 - Planning Meeting to discuss SIAL (April 29 - May 1 in Toronto), CMTS (Sept 29 – Oct 1 in Toronto), Plastex (Oct 21 – 23 in Toronto), Real Estate Appreciation Day (Sept 16 in Tillsonburg); with further exploration into WMTS, Shows in BC, and Research FDI Training

Governance & Administration:

- Met with EZT Staff to go over Purchasing Card Policy
- Met with Rural Oxford EDC Consultants for a Christmas Brunch
- Work with Digital Consultant on 2024 Digital Media Year in Review
- Draft Rural Oxford EDC's 2024 Year in Review
- Draft Strategic Plan Timeline and RFP
- Rural research, data collection and compilation
- Prepare for February 28th Board Meeting
- Sent out Director Intentions Survey
- Draft 2025 Work Plan