2020 Newsletter

Planning and Development Division

norfolkcounty.ca
Quick Facts...

402
New dwelling units created which is the highest in the last 8 years

51
Created Dwelling Units from Indwell and the Dogwood Suites

1195
Total number of permits issued in 2020 during COVID-19

$125,553,426.00
was the total value of Construction in 2020

21%
greater than 10 year average
Accessory Dwelling Units – 2nd Dwelling Units on a Property (ADU’s)

An Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) is a second unit that is self-contained and supplemental to the permitted primary residential dwelling unit of the property. The ADU has its own entrance, kitchen, bathroom and no more than two bedrooms. ADU’s are a great way to provide more independent living for an elderly family member, or as a rental income to help pay off the cost of owning a home.

Planning and Zoning staff have drafted a brochure, work sheets, and has most recently posted all of this information on the County website in order to assist the public in understanding of the bylaw requirements, and also how to apply for the necessary permits.

To date we have issued approximately 20 permits for ADU’s, and we have approximately 3-4 enquires per week regarding the bylaw on ADU’s. Zoning staff are keeping records on enquires, and locations of the ADU’s throughout the County.

We anticipate that our numbers in issuance of permits for the ADU’s to increase significantly in 2021 due to the fact that the cost of living and owning a home has increased significantly and people are looking at ADU’s as an affordable way of living.

On-Farm Diversified Uses

Supporting a resilient and diversified farming base by promoting on-farm diversified uses. As Ontario’s Garden, we have some of the richest lands for growing and passionate farmers who are looking to showcase their incredible lands and businesses.

In March of 2020, the Planning department opened the door to collaborate with our farm operators to diversify and supplement farm income by promoting value-added and agri-tourism uses in prime agricultural areas. In 2020 alone, Planning staff saw proposals to establish farm-to-table restaurants, cooking classes, nature retreats, tile bed making, and equine events; all sprouting right in the heart of Ontario’s Garden.

Cannabis

In 2020 the Planning Department successfully applied zoning by-law provisions for cannabis production and processing facilities at a Local Planning Appeal Tribunal (LPAT). This included the implementation of requirement for site plan control for the establishment of these uses. The site plan control includes requirements for air treatment systems and lighting plans to mitigate impacts to neighbouring residential.
Quick Facts...

- 5 new Planners and a new director
- 196 planning applications
- 900 general inquiry calls between March 2020 and the end of the year

GIS

Impact of Web GIS Internally

GIS has a far reaching impact within Norfolk County. Internally, GIS has become a quintessential part of the decision making process. The ability to identify trends, visualize patterns and anticipate impacts of future decisions are just a few of the benefits GIS provides to the organization as a whole. Although building and curating datasets is a large part of what Norfolk GIS team does, it is not simply enough to have quality data if it is not easy to obtain in a timely matter.

Community Web Map Views

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>14,639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>22,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>26,399</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>30,513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>38,793</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Development Engineering Department had many challenges throughout 2020. In spite of those challenges...

Development Engineering

328 developed applications completed
new technology
shorter review times
cost recovery for all modelling applications were implemented

For 2021, cross division/department collaboration and development review will be improved through new processes and procedures.

Importance of Storm Water Management

Low impact development (LID) is a stormwater management strategy that seeks to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution by managing runoff as close to its source as possible. LID comprises a set of site design strategies that minimize runoff and distributed, small scale structural practices that mimic natural or predevelopment hydrology through the processes of infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration and detention of stormwater. These practices can effectively remove nutrients, pathogens and metals from runoff, and they reduce the volume and intensity of stormwater flows.
In March of 2020 the museums were closed and a temporary staff reduction occurred due to the pandemic. The remaining Heritage and Culture team immediately recognized the need to continue to serve the community and developed a diverse selection of new virtual programs and events with appeal to a wide audience. In addition to creating a collection of podcasts, a monthly video series, “Carved in Stone,” was developed and features the stories of Norfolk County’s cemeteries and the citizens at rest within. Live, virtual summer camp programs, which focused on the museums’ collections and the history of Norfolk County, were created and facilitated weekly. A virtual ceremony was held on Remembrance Day. Over the winter season, children’s programs, a dramatic reading of “A Christmas Carol” and the Port Dover Harbour Museum’s Annual New Year’s Levee all took place in the virtual domain. In addition to these new programs, staff prepared the Teeterville site for permanent closure, which included completing an inventory of, and packing, over 5000 artifacts. In spite of the challenges, staff continued to strive to meet best museum practices by dedicating time to collections management, preventative conservation and customer service.

In January 2020, the Economic Development Department team successfully delivered the annual Economic Development Symposium. Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown began, and staff shifted gears into emergency support mode. While the department consisted of one staff member at this time, it nonetheless was able to provide support to the areas where it was needed the most, while simultaneously pursuing opportunities for recovery funding that could greatly benefit the community. With this focus in mind, the department applied for and received funding through the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund (RRRF) grant program, which enabled staff to implement (and to continue implementing) various projects aimed at creating opportunities and demand for the tourism industry and other small-businesses in the community. Projects funded through this grant included gateway signage, a “Shop Local” holiday brochure along with a much-liked video and campaign, a Tourism Destination Mobile App, a Digital Marketplace, a new Tourism Brand Strategy, and more. Additionally, staff were successful in applying for a Digital Services Grant, a program aimed at helping small businesses build a foundational online storefront and a digital marketing presence. In the summer, the “Norfolk County Economic Recovery Taskforce” was convened, and the Department was joined by a new Director in September whose primary priority was to start working with the taskforce towards a year-end plan. Following an initial consultation process, the taskforce presented and gained approval for the County’s Economic Recovery Plan in December, which included many high-value projects that contributed to an overall exciting and ambitious Departmental workplan for 2021.