

***City of Dryden  
Community Strategic Plan  
2007 – 2010***

***Fall 2008 – First Annual Update***



**Our Wilderness City...Dryden**

- ***Dryden's Community Strategic Plan was approved in September of 2007***
- ***Identified and Prioritized Key Objectives***
- ***Links Quality of Life and Economic Prosperity***
- ***Based on Broad Community Consultation***
- ***Laid out our Vision, our Mission, and our Values***



**Our Wilderness City...Dryden**

## *Our Five Priorities*

- *Economy*
- *Environment*
- *Social Character*
- *Land-use Planning*
- *Affordability & Accountability*



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## *Economy – 4 Objectives*

- *Enhance position as a Regional Manufacturing Centre*
- B. Enhance position as a Regional Hub*
- C. Encourage and engage in Partnerships for Progress*
- D. Dryden Development Corporation*



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## Regional Manufacturing Centre

- ***Focus on support and encouragement for primary and value added forest industry, light industrial expansion and mineral exploration***

### Status

- ***We continue to support our primary industry, Domtar through sharing of info and lobbying (eg. Species at Risk)***
- ***On value added front, we continue to be involved through the DDC in the Two Feathers Initiative***
- ***Encouraging light industrial expansion by surplusng several properties and selling them to adjoining business (eg. Whitney St. extension, Sale to Ricci Trucking)***
- ***Also moving forward on the North Dryden Commercial Business Park***
- ***DDC Encouraged mineral exploration by pulling deal together with Laurentian Goldfields and have held a mining symposium and did a geological compilation with NOHFC funding***



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## Regional Hub

- ***Key areas include: Retail and Professional, Healthcare, Continuing Education, Provincial Government, MNR Fire Suppression, Air/Rail & Road Transportation and Telecommunications.***

## Status

- ***Supportive of CT Scan initiative***
- ***Strategic Planning for the Airport***
- ***Lobbying for improvements/4-laning Highway 17***
- ***Growing our DMTS/Dryden Mobility out into the Region***
- ***Supported two FIRE Conferences and a labour marketing working group set up***



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## *Partnerships for Progress*

- ***With First Nations, Private Investors, Government and Regional Community Development Programs and Municipal Associations***

## *Status*

- ***Working on the Northern Forest Innovation Centre Project involving First Nations, educators, etc.***
- ***Partnerships with PACE, Chamber of Commerce and Dryden Marketing Association***
- ***Mayor & City Manager active on Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association***



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## [Dryden Development Corporation](#)

- ***DDC formed and in place as of January '08***
- ***Working as the project delivery agent for business retention, expansion and tourism in order to meet economic development and diversification objectives***

### **Status**

- ***Was formed in 2007 and up and running as of 2008***
- ***Budget significantly increased in 2008***
- ***DDC working through their own Strategic Plan and various projects aimed at Economic Development and Diversification***



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## *Environment: 5 Objectives*

- A. Growth and Infrastructure***
- B. Green Space***
- C. Waste Diversion***
- D. Brownfield/Contaminated Lands***
- E. Energy Conservation***



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## Growth and Infrastructure

- ***Planned, compact development implementing the North Dryden Development Plan***

## Status

- ***Final approval for the North Dryden Development Plan obtained and growth & development being pursued based on this plan***
- ***Grant applications made for extension of water & sewer services and road development***



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## Green Space

- ***Prioritize trail development using Dryden Trail Development Plan***
- ***Complete Rotary Park***
- ***Maintain natural state of existing parks and rec spaces***
- ***Protect ecologically sensitive areas***

## Status

- ***Funds from RIII Provincial Grant dedicated to trail development in 2007 with more work done in 2008***
- ***Skateboard park opened in 2007 along with new soccer pitches and washrooms in Rotary Park in 2008. Work planned on parking lot for 2009***
- ***Continue to maintain a high level of maintenance at existing parks***
- ***Working to acquire the Laura Howe Marsh from MNR in order to enhance and protect this ecologically sensitive area***



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## Waste Diversion

- ***Create and implement a Waste Diversion Plan***
- ***Collect and divert hazardous waste***

## Status

- ***No progress made to date. Anticipate implementation in first ½ of 2009.***
- ***Very successful Hazardous Waste Day held in conjunction with local service club***



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## **Brownfield/Contaminated Lands**

- ***Develop and implement a Brownfield Rehabilitation Strategy***
- ***Secure Provincial/Federal funding to rehabilitate sites***

### **Status**

- ***Small (\$5000) grant obtained to have Brownfield Strategy developed this year***
- ***This to be used for guidance for any future rehabilitation***



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## **Energy Conservation**

- ***Develop an Energy Conservation Plan***

### **Status**

- ***Successfully participated in AMO pilot program and obtained free energy audit for City Hall***
- ***Staff member (Dan McArthur) designated as Energy Conservation Officer***
- ***Formal energy management plan started with committee formed and terms of reference approved. Target for completion is end of 1st quarter 2009.***



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**Social Character: 8 Objectives**

**A. Volunteerism**

**E. Community Health**

**B. Community Access**

**F. Community Participation/Inclusivity**

**C. Community Identity**

**G. Cultural Diversity**

**D. Centennial 2010**

**H. Recreation**



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## Volunteerism

- ***Support community based volunteer networks, organizations and individuals***

## Status

- ***Continue to Support Leadership Dryden annually with training dollars and educators***
- ***Developed Snow Knight campaign and for 2008 evolved it into the Good Neighbours program***
- ***Ambassador program initiative launched in support of tourism***



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## Community Access

- ***Work with accessibility advisory working committee for safe attractive accessible public spaces***

## Status

- ***Ensure that all new construction and/or retrofit takes accessibility into account***
- ***Active working committee with staff and community representatives***
- ***Brought in an expert consultant with Red Lake to provide additional advice***



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## Community Identity

**Enhance and highlight geographic landmarks, community spaces, heritage sites, structures and buildings to foster civic pride**

- **Continue to support Accessibility Advisory Working, Communities in Bloom, and Revitalization Committees**

## Status

- **Commenced the rebranding of the City as “Our Wilderness City”**
- **Again awarded 5 Blooms under Communities in Bloom**
- **Community Revitalization Committee spearheaded projects like the new downtown street signs, over 20 new benches featuring local artwork and a planned Pedestrian Suspension Bridge over the Wabigoon River is moving forward**



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## Centennial 2010

- ***Lead community centennial celebrations***

### Status

- ***While City is not the direct lead we have endorsed a community led effort which has a logo and is busy planning numerous events***
- ***Committee includes a number of City Staff and Council Representation. Council has provided \$10,000 startup budget in 2007 and \$10,000 in 2008***



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## Community Health

- ***Support DRHC in their role as a regional health care service provider***
- ***Support the Dryden Regional Health Services Foundation***
- ***Support community health and safety initiatives***
- ***Maintain quality and diversity of recreation facilities, green spaces and trail networks***

## Status

- ***DRHC working on a CT Scan to increase its regional scope of services. City provided a \$75,000 grant payable in 2010***
- ***2 health related foundations merged into 1 to support Doctor Recruitment and Retention and Hospital Capital projects***
- ***Many H&S initiatives supported including safe communities, Employee Wellness Fair and Health Unit initiatives***
- ***2007 & 2008 budgets provided funding for new playground equipment***



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## Community Participation/Inclusiveness

- ***Work to ensure diverse interests are reflected when making decisions about growth and development***

### Status

- ***Key objective is to solicit public input on key municipal issues (eg. Fluoridation, budget planning, zoning and official plan amendments)***

## Cultural Diversity

- ***Create and implement a cultural policy***

### Status

- ***Dryden Area Cultural Partnership formed and actively developing a City Cultural Policy for approval this fall***
- ***Dryden recognized as a provincial leader in municipal cultural planning***



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## Recreation

- ***Create a 5 year strategic plan for recreation and leisure***

## Status

- ***Strategic Plan for Recreation & Leisure developed and being implemented***
- ***Work progressing on design for Arena expansion***



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## Land Use Planning – 4 Objectives

**A. Community Design**

**B. Development Focus**

**C. Housing Choice**

**D. Reducing Barriers to Redevelopment**



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## Community Design

- ***Ensure a community design that emphasizes local identity, ensures physical safety, attracts visitors, facilitate community interaction and integrates land uses through land use planning guidelines and community input in the development stages of those plan***

## Status

- ***Rebranding to Our Wilderness City underway and Community Improvement Plan (CIP) approved***
- ***Investigating expansion of the CIP to the Waterfront***



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## Development Focus

- ***Reduce number of access points to Hwy 17***
- ***Construct alternate service road access and develop light industrial commercial lots***
- ***Address the sewage treatment capacity issue by 2010***
- ***Complete a sustainable waterfront development plan for Van Horne landing***

## Status

- ***Work accomplished on reducing the number of access points in 2007***
- ***Engineering done for new service road and 2/3 grants applied for with approvals pending. Certificates of Approval (water & sewer) applied for and received***



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## **Status (cont'd)**

- ***Water metering study completed and is seen as being tied into getting a new waste water treatment plant funded***
- ***Preliminary Waste Water Treatment Plant design underway. Some federal funding (\$2.77 million) approved, balance being pursued under Build Canada Fund with an expectation of no more than a 1/3 share for the City. Cost may be in the \$25 million dollar range***
- ***Sustainable Waterfront Development Plan underway with successful Charrette process completed and various grant applications in progress through DDC***



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## Housing Choice

- ***Encourage a range of housing options***

## Status

- ***Council supported the Life Lease initiative through the sale of property, a project security guarantee for up to 5 units and services in lieu to the value of \$300,000***



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## [Reducing Barriers to Redevelopment](#)

- ***Guidance and assistance to those seeking to improve commercial spaces***
- ***Minimize red tape and reduce approval timelines for CIP***
- ***Improve access to funding for community improvement and rehabilitation projects***

### **Status**

- ***An extensive CIP was approved and six businesses have taken advantage of the incentives to improve commercial space and store fronts.***
- ***Biz Pal – an on line small business support service put in place***
- ***Numerous grant applications pursued and approved for community improvement and rehabilitation e.g. Waterfront Walkway Bridge Project at \$199,500***



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## *Affordability and Accountability – 3 Objectives*

***A. Operations***

***B. Annual Operating Budgets***

***C. Annual Capital Budgets***



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## Operations

- ***Provide web site service for access to essential information***
- ***Conduct an organizational review of the management structure***

## Status

- ***Web content design has been tendered and revamp expected by year end.***
- ***Organizational review of management structure discussed and objective set aside by Council.***
- ***Other departmental restructuring being considered and SMT reduced in size from 9 to 6.***



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## Annual Operating Budgets

- **Approved no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **Include service delivery definitions and H.R. requirements for all departments**

## Status

- **2008 Budget approved in January of 2008. Budget time line for 2009 Budget is December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**
- **Service delivery definitions yet to be completed**
- **Budget in 2008 included reporting of HR requirements and changes**



**Our Wilderness City...Dryden**

## Annual Capital Budgets

- ***Approved no later than December 15<sup>th</sup>***
- ***Include a long term 5 year capital expenditure plan***
- ***Include life cycle planning***

## Status

- ***Timelines same as for operating budget***
- ***5 year capital plan being worked on for 2009 Budget***
- ***Life cycle planning to come for 2010 as information gathering is underway.***



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## Concluding Remarks

***This annual update of the 3 Year Strategic Plan suggests two key outcomes:***

- 1) We need to take pride in and celebrate the significant progress made during this first year.***
- 2) We need to focus on the Strategic Plan and the objectives yet to be accomplished.***



**Our Wilderness City...Dryden**

***Thank You to all of Council for their leadership and Staff for their support on the 24 Objectives in our Community Strategic Plan.***

***Arie Hoogenboom***

***City Manager***

***October 22, 2008***

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