

DCE - Future Economic Hub

MOVING FORWARD WITH A VISION

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There will always be people who will tell you why something cannot be done but Real Leadership provides a vision for the future that moves beyond the status quo.

When life serves you lemons you make lemonade. We believe Haldimand can take a negative and turn it into a great positive that will ensure the future peace and prosperity for all involved. There is no doubt that DCE has created an economic setback for businesses and development in Haldimand. We can sit back and wait 20 years for the government to solve problems or we can move forward with hope and a vision for the people of Haldimand, Six Nations and a solution for the Ontario government.

Haldimand is within a one hour drive of 7 million people where it is now the cultural norm for many to leave big cities to seek out country settings almost every weekend. Hundreds of thousands drive each year to places like Niagara-on-the-Lake for quaint shops, theatre and good food. Haldimand is in a prime area to attract tourists if leadership would simply tap into this potential treasure.

We believe a Haldimand Tourism Attraction Centre built on DCE at Ontario's expense would create hundreds of full time jobs and millions of dollars in spin-off business in Haldimand.

Ontario Government's Role

The Ontario government created the problems in Haldimand directly due to their political approach to policing. This approach seriously damaged the economic prosperity of Haldimand County. The same government must provide the resources to create to help revitalize the area.

The government needs to provide two things; 1) Approx. \$40 million in capital investment to create the Haldimand Tourism Attraction Centre as shown below. 2) A five year subsidy & seed money program to help local farmers, artists, etc. from both native & non-native communities take part in the Centre's success.

Some may ask why would the government provide such funds? Next year is the provincial election and McGuinty is already facing serious problems due to the Eco-tax, soaring Hydro rates, HST, etc. As the saying goes the squeaky wheel gets the grease - to date Haldimand Council has been unwilling to say anything that may upset McGuinty and as a result has received little from the province.

If the Conservatives are elected they would be more willing to help Caledonia and blame McGuinty for having to spend \$40+ million on the Centre - they could be seen as heroes for bringing renewed prosperity to Haldimand.

Moving Forward

Can we imagine a day when we can look at DCE and forget the negative history and move forward to true healing and reconciliation with Six Nations while providing for a prosperous future? We think so. Our plan is designed to start public dialogue to ensure Haldimand Council has input into what happens there.

The economic activity and taxes from a successful Tourism Centre would help Haldimand plan for the future, re-vitalize downtown cores, and maintain infrastructure and social services. It would increase property values, increase the tax base, spur revenue to local businesses and establish Haldimand as a great tourist attraction.

A park, as some have suggested, will never provide a solution since it would be used by few residents who would continue to see Six Nations and DCE in a negative light. While we believe the original sub-division should be built, we understand it helps no one to spend the next 20 years fighting about it. What we need is something positive, something that creates jobs, something that draws people to Haldimand, something that restores people's trust and faith in the future and something that allows people to move forward.

Now that Six Nations leaders have acknowledged their people no longer support occupations that tore the two communities apart, the project may be right for them, too.

OUR CONCEPT VISION FOR DCE

The shops must be unique, reflect local products and businesses to attract tourists and residents. The design is not complete, but is a beginning to get people talking and hoping that the future could be peaceful and prosperous.

- A - Year Round Indoor Farmers' Market
- B - Aboriginal artists' stores
- C - Local Artists and Craft shops
- D - Outdoor Amphitheatre
- E - Wildlife and Environmental Centre
- F - Community Event Area
- G - Public Washrooms
- H - Picnic Area
- I - Indoor Pool
- J - Splash Pad
- K - OPP sub-station
- L - Snacks and Ticket booth

Certainly there is room for many other possibilities such as a dinner theatre, overnight accommodations, etc. What do YOU think?

Haldimand Tourism Attraction Centre

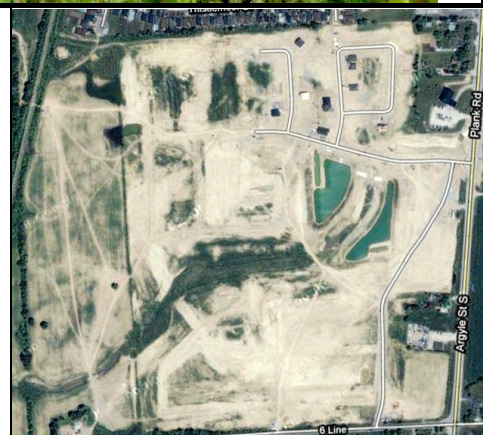
Thistlemoor Dr. Area



The current DCE site (shown to the right from Google Maps) cannot be allowed to sit for another 5, 10 or 20 years as an empty pit that is an economic drain on Haldimand. It cannot remain a symbol of what divides people but must become a symbol of the future and prosperity. Bold leadership is needed to think outside of the box, that dares to believe something positive can come from all that has happened. We believe that a STRONG Haldimand Council can and will produce positive benefits for the people of Haldimand.

Community Input Needed

We are committed to public meetings to ensure that your views are listened to and considered before any development occurs on DCE. Your voice will be heard.



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Vote for the Future and Against the Status Quo