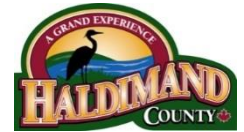


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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report PED-EDT-06-2018 Partnership with Mohawk College to Offer Post-Secondary Education



For Consideration by Council in Committee on May 15, 2018

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide Council with an overview of the proposed partnership with Mohawk College to offer college level training within Haldimand County to residents that may not be able to access these courses via traditional methods.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report PED-EDT-06-2018 Partnership with Mohawk College to Offer Post-Secondary Education be received;
2. AND THAT the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the attached Operating Agreement between City School by Mohawk College and Haldimand County respectively.

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**Respectfully submitted:** Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, General Manager of Planning and Economic Development

**Approved:** Donald G. Boyle, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Haldimand County has been approached by Mohawk College (City School by Mohawk College) and several key community partners to provide introductory post-secondary education in Haldimand County between May 28 and August 24, 2018 as a pilot project. The intent is to expand into a multi-year program. This report provides an overview of the proposed programming, the recommended locations, as well as the agreement that is required to be executed between Haldimand County and Mohawk College.

### BACKGROUND:

Access to post-secondary education is recognized as a barrier for many rural communities including Haldimand County. While post-secondary institutions are situated nearby, there are many Haldimand residents that can not attend these post-secondary programs for a wide variety of reasons including: insufficient financial resources to participate in post-secondary education, the lack of a high school certificate, no access to public transportation, and limited child care resources to name just a few.

The importance of access to post-secondary education is well recognized by our communities. Recent statistics and studies demonstrate the importance of providing increased post-secondary opportunities to Haldimand County residents including:

## **Haldimand County Community Profile**

(Haldimand County Economic Development and Tourism 2017)

- The number of Haldimand County residents between the ages of 25 and 64 (56.9%) with a post-secondary certificate is slightly lower than the province (64.4%).
- 12.8% of Haldimand County residents between the ages of 25 and 64 have not completed high school. This number is slightly higher than Ontario which sits at 11.5%.

## **A Roadmap to Healthy Haldimand and Norfolk – Together We Can Turn that Curve**

(Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit 2011)

- One of the key outcomes from this study is to increase the number of people attending post-secondary education.

## **Help Wanted – Growing the Talent Pool, the Local Labour Market Plan**

(Workforce Planning Board of Grand Erie 2017-2018)

This study identifies a number of key challenges related to the local labour market that could be addressed through access to more local post-secondary opportunities including:

- The aging population is contributing to a shrinking labour force, leaving fewer workers to fill the jobs in local businesses;
- 1 out of 3 companies report having hard-to-fill jobs because they lack applicants or have applicants who lack the qualifications and soft skills required. As a result businesses are unable to meet their production and service demands;
- 1 in 2 manufacturers are having difficulty filling positions, including those of general labourers and machine operators;
- Education continues to be a major contributor to workforce attachment and success. Individuals with low education levels experience higher rates of unemployment and lower incomes;
- A lack of understanding about the local economy, industry sectors, occupations, skill sets and work environment contribute to poor worker retention;
- There is a need to attract, engage and retain workers in the Grand Erie region. Stagnant and declining labour force numbers, coupled with the aging population declining numbers of workers in the core working age, will continue to increase labour shortages; and
- Growing the labour force requires mid and long term strategies that promote local employment opportunities and life-style to workers with the skills and talent needed. Increasing the involvement of existing residents requires more immediate and short-term activities that will engage youth, under-represented groups and discouraged workers.

## **Employer One Survey**

(Workforce Planning of Grand Erie 2016)

In this survey local employers have cited the following as the top reasons of why they can't find people for hard-to-fill positions:

- Not enough applicants.
- Applicants lacking motivation, attitude or interpersonal abilities.
- Lack of qualifications (education/credentials).
- Lack of technical skills.

In 2015, Hamilton based Mohawk College launch a new initiative called City School by Mohawk College (City School). City School is community-based programming aiming to break down barriers to education and employment through increased access to college level courses. City School focuses on developing specialized learning programs and workshops to encourage gradual steps to post-secondary and

employment pathways, and foster life-long learning. To date this programming has been offered in partnership with a variety of Hamilton community agencies and at locations such as Eva Rothwell Centre, Hamilton Public Library, as well as most recently, at the Centre on Barton (the former Centre Mall property in Hamilton).

In 2017, City School launched their mobile classroom, a fully transportable and self-sufficient trailer. The mobile training trailer is equipped to deliver a variety of training programs in any community. The City School mobile training trailer is fully equipped with heating and air conditioning and runs on two diesel run generators if a connection to power is unavailable. The trailer is fully accessible, fully lit inside and has access to Wi-Fi connectivity, however, there are no washrooms within the trailer. The mobile trailer is connected to Mohawk's security system via Wi-Fi.

The mobile trailer is currently configured to offer classes in welding, electrical, carpentry and plumbing for up to 12 students, or general college delivery courses for up to 20 students. While the concept of mobile learning is not new, Mohawk College is the first college in Ontario to bring post-secondary to underserved communities and provide an introduction to post-secondary education to those whom might not typically have access.

The City School courses are designed for individuals 19 years of age and older who are not attending high school or post-secondary school. Individuals who have not attained an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent to are also encouraged to participate. City School includes not only college level training courses, but also, access to support and assistance to individuals in reaching their goals of post-secondary education or employment.

Upon learning of the new City School programming being offered through Mohawk College, local representatives from St. Leonard's Community Services invited representatives from Mohawk College to attend a meeting with other local partners to learn more about the program and discuss how this programming could be brought to residents in Haldimand County.

## **ANALYSIS:**

Earlier this year, Haldimand County staff were approached by the community groups including St. Leonard's Community Services, Haldimand-Norfolk Literacy Council, Haldimand-Norfolk Social Services, Contact North, as well as Mohawk College, to identify potential locations in Haldimand County that could host City School by Mohawk College (both the training trailer and the pop-up college 101 courses). Mohawk College had recently circulated a survey through key stakeholders to determine if there is a need for post-secondary classes in Haldimand County. Through their outreach, a total 40 responses were received. The survey confirmed the following:

- Most respondents were from Dunnville (13) and Caledonia (11).
- 16 responses indicating they would like to see City School operate in Dunnville, and 9 indicated Caledonia.
- The majority of responses (29) came from people ages 30 to 59.
- 70% of respondents indicated that they would like to participate both in college credit courses, and non-credit workshops.
- When asked about the programs in which they would like to earn credits - Business and Human Services ranked first (21 votes in favour) and Health Studies, Media Arts and Skilled Trades tying for 2<sup>nd</sup> (15 votes in favour).
- When asked about scheduling, respondents indicated they would attend classes 1-3 times a week during a range of times (evenings, all day, and afternoons ranked top, in that order).

Following discussions between key partners including the representatives from Mohawk College; results from the survey and input from staff, locations in both Dunnville and Caledonia were identified

as possible sites for the post-secondary programming. Staff from Planning and Development, Building Controls and By-law Enforcement, Support Services, Community Development and Partnerships, Haldimand Libraries, Facilities and Parks Operations, as well as Economic Development and Tourism reviewed the proposed locations to confirm suitability including reviewing the zoning and other applicable by-laws; determining if any building permit would be required; suitability of the location to park the mobile trailer; access to washrooms, as well as any potential conflicts of use.

Following a thorough review of key locations, site tours with Mohawk College representatives and key partners, staff recommend the following post-secondary programming be approved by Council for the 2018 pilot project for City School in Haldimand County.

In 2018, City School in Haldimand County is planning to offer a combined approach between locations and service types using the City School Mobile Training Trailer, as well as, offering the Pop-Up College 101 courses in our libraries. This combined service approach will increase the visibility of the City School initiative across Haldimand County, encouraging community members to participate in the courses being offered that will include:

### **1. Pop Up College 101 Course – Caledonia**

This course is an introduction to post-secondary experiences and includes lessons related to key skills to success required as a student. The course includes building a plan for transitioning to post-secondary education or work right into the course material. This is a general education course that applies as a credit to many program areas of Mohawk College when students are required to take an elective course.

- Haldimand Public Library will provide meeting space for College 101 courses at the Caledonia branch.
- Proposed to run two days per week (Thursdays and Fridays) from 10am to 2pm.
- Start date May 24 to June 29, 2018.
- The space will be provided free of charge and the existing library rental agreement will be signed by the required parties for the use of the space.

### **2. City School Mobile Trailer – Dunnville**

While there are various programs that can be offered through the mobile training trailer, City School by Mohawk is proposing to offer two intakes of the Introduction to Construction module in 2018. In addition, a one day workshop on Working at Heights has also been scheduled.

- The trailer is proposed to be located at the Dunnville Memorial Arena and Community Lifespan Centre (see Schedule “A” in Attachment 1 for the location map).
- The trailer will be on site from approximately May 28 to August 24, 2018.
- Proposed course schedule will be as follows:
  - Week of May 28<sup>th</sup> – Mobile unit to be located on site and an Open House organized.
  - June 5<sup>th</sup> to July 4<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Construction offered 3 days per week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) from 9:30am to 1:30pm.
  - July 5<sup>th</sup> – Open House.
  - July 10<sup>th</sup> – Working at Heights 9am to 5pm.
  - July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> – Introduction to Construction offered 3 days per week (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays) from 9:30am to 1:30pm.
- An agreement (Attachment 1) will be required between Haldimand County and Mohawk College for the use of Haldimand County property.
- The mobile classroom will take up approximately 10 parking spaces and will be powered by diesel generators that are supplied through the City School mobile training trailer (Attachment 2 and 3). Given the time of year this will have no adverse impact.

- Keys will be provided to the instructor to ensure access to the washrooms located on the exterior of the arena (at the back) for the participating students. These washrooms will be maintained daily by Facilities and Parks Operation staff.
- The trailer is equipped with its own security system that will be monitored by Mohawk College. The security system include cameras both inside and outside that are monitored by Mohawk College security 24 hours a day.

There are no substantial costs to Haldimand County in partnering on this initiative. The use of staff time required to maintain and clean the arena washrooms for the group is a minor cost that can be absorbed into the current operating budget. This in-kind contribution is an appropriate means of supporting this initiative.

The proposed location will ensure the least interference with users of the Dunnville Memorial Arena and Lifespan Community Centre, as well as other events and activities that are planned at or near the property. Staff have not identified any significant concerns in terms of conflict of use given that there is no summer ice and therefore arena use during the weekdays is limited. As well, the use of the adjacent baseball diamonds is generally in the evenings and weekends. Staff have connected with key users of the Dunnville Memorial Arena and Lifespan Community Centre as well as the users of the adjacent ball diamond to inform them of this proposed initiative. At the time of writing this report, no comments or concerns from users have been received. If this initiative is approved, staff will advise all special events and rentals using the facility.

Mohawk College has confirmed that they would be prepared to offer programming on an annual basis as long as Haldimand County is able to accommodate and provide a location to park the mobile trailer and identify the appropriate programming. In 2019, ideally staff would like to see the mobile trailer be located in both Dunnville and Caledonia. In order to allow the mobile training trailer to be placed at the Haldimand County Community Centre (HCCC), the current zoning would need to be updated to include this use. Planning staff have confirmed that this can be accomplished through the zoning by-law update initiative that is currently in progress. There are alternative options in Caledonia to locate the mobile unit however, these are not owned by Haldimand County.

### **Community Outreach**

An open house for the mobile classroom will be organized once the trailer is located on site in Dunnville (likely the week of May 28<sup>th</sup>). The open house will provide an opportunity for interested community members to tour the mobile classroom and receive information about the courses being offered.

Mohawk College has prepared marketing materials promoting the courses being offered in both Caledonia and Dunnville. Due to the proposed course schedule these marketing materials have already been circulated to key community partners with the acknowledgement that the program is tentative until Council approval. Following Council approval, Mohawk College and all key partners will then begin to actively promote throughout the community and confirm with those that have already expressed an interest.

### **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

An agreement will need to be executed between Haldimand County and Mohawk College and signed by the Mayor and Clerk. This agreement has been previously reviewed by Support Services as well as Mohawk College's legal representatives. Mohawk College is required to name Haldimand County as additionally insured and carry a minimum of \$2 million of liability insurance.

## **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Facilities and Parks Operations staff will be required to maintain the washrooms located at the rear of the Dunnville Memorial arena daily to ensure they are in good condition for the students and Mohawk College staff attending training. Staff have advised the Lifespan Community Centre hall group, users of the baseball diamonds and other rentals of the facility of this initiative and the proposed location of the mobile trailer.

Community partners, Haldimand County Library and Haldimand County Economic Development and Tourism will actively promote the courses to ensure each program is well attended.

## **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: Yes

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Operating Agreement between Mohawk College (City School by Mohawk College) and Haldimand County.
2. Mobile Classroom Specifications.
3. Photos of the Mobile Training Trailer.