



## **SDG Counties Economic Development**

**Newsletter - February 2023**

# **SDG Counties launches new "Made in SDG Brand for Economic Development**

SDG Counties is launching a new brand that will focus on the good work being done in our region related to economic development.

'Made in SDG' has been created by SDG Counties Economic Development as a platform to provide information on grants, services and programs available to our businesses and not-for-profits. Likewise, this new branding will highlight 'Made in SDG' success stories related to consumer experiences, new product launches and local business highlights.

"We are proud of the stories of our people, and we're excited to share their tales of growth and success," said Tara Kirkpatrick, SDG Counties Manager of Economic Development. "In SDG Counties there are boundless opportunities. We have some of the lowest-cost housing in the province and our quality of life is what the Canadian dream is made of."

'Made in SDG' has its own Facebook social media channel, where regular updates will be posted. In addition, SDG Counties' economic development web page is being revamped to include the 'Made in SDG' brand.

"Our economic development web presence is being augmented this year," said Kirkpatrick. "We have already been adding new feeds to

our economic development site, including access to census data that markets our region as an amazing place to live, operate a business and raise a family.”

[Visit our Website](#)

## Countryside Adventures is a "Made in SDG" Experience



Six years ago, Nicolas Seguin of Moose Creek, Ontario was running a successful forestry and excavation business when he began toying with the idea of what to do with his large, forested property, located about 40 minutes east of Ottawa. Countryside Adventures was born from Seguin’s skill at land clearing and his understanding of the beauty of his property, which features meandering creeks and ponds.

With the support of a cost-sharing grant from the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry’s Regional Incentives Program, Seguin began the process of carving out trails in the forest and clearing an area for parking lots and accessory buildings. On his first winter, he flooded the initial trail and opened up his property to skaters.

Since his grand opening, the site has matured and the offerings grown. Countryside Adventures now offers a 3-kilometre trail circuit through the woods that winds up and down marsh areas, ending at a scenic pond frozen into winter perfection. The trail is lit by what seems like an endless stream of

Edison bulbs that glow with an almost magical golden sheen at night, creating an evocative setting for date nights and family fun.

A new equipment rental location and permanent washrooms have replaced the trailers that were used initially and the skating trails have expanded to include snowshoeing trails.

A tubing mountain will leave you breathless and screaming in delight as you glide down a family-friendly mountain that was purpose built for sledding. There are multiple tubing lanes, so prepare yourself to race to the bottom with your friends and family!

If you need a break from the thrills, there are plenty of friendly animals in the petting zoo to enjoy some quiet time with, and there are spacious outdoor fire pits for relaxing while sipping a hot chocolate.

The s'mores kits are as legendary as the poutines from the food truck, making this a one-stop shop. New this year, families can even rent ice-side party buildings that are intended for groups and events. The buildings are lit and heated and offer shelter from the elements and a fun place for groups to celebrate.

During the summer months, Countryside Adventures offers axe throwing and archery.

They also rent out seasonal cabins that offer a great place to unwind and escape from the pressures of a busy lifestyle. The cabins are simple and rustic. They are outfitted with a bunk bed with a double mattress and space on the floor for additional sleeping bags. Each cabin has its own fire pit, picnic table and a charcoal barbecue with everything needed to light it. Solar lights and a solar USB charger will keep you connected to the world – if you so desire. There are Adirondack chairs on the decks for star gazing and ponds for fishing and splashing. Kayaks, stand-up paddle boards and pedal boats are also readily available. The accommodations are designed to make you feel the grandeur of the forest, more a piece of it, than a visitor to its warmth.

[Watch the video](#)

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## **SDG Counties Regional Incentives Program**

**NEW intake now open. Applications are due by 12 pm on  
Friday, February 24, 2023**

The primary goals of the Regional Incentives Program are to:

1. Stimulate investment in tourism and in the agricultural sector by funding diverse, on-farm expansions and agri-tourism.
2. Encourage redevelopment and private sector investment in existing building stock within the County to support employment, reduce the number of vacant commercial, institutional and industrial buildings, and increase the assessment base.
3. Increase the amount of permanent roofed accommodations within the County to specifically accommodate for an increase in tourism establishments that cater to short-term accommodations.

For more information on the program please contact Economic Development Manager Tara Kirkpatrick at 613-932-1515, ext. 1227, or [tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca).

[Visit our Website](#)

## Province opens intake for "Seniors Community Grant"

The Ontario government is investing in the 2023-24 Seniors Community Grant program to help enable municipalities and local organizations to deliver programs to older adults to stay socially and physically active in their communities.

Senior Community Grants, ranging from \$1,000 up to \$25,000 help support community organisation's ability to provide opportunities for greater social inclusion, volunteerism and community engagement for older adults, from the safety of their homes or other safe environment.

The 2023-24 **Seniors Community Grant program** will focus on the following three key priority areas:

1. Increasing older adults' awareness of how to identify, report and prevent elder abuse and fraud.
2. Reducing older adults' social isolation by increasing access to programs and services.
3. Increasing volunteerism and promoting employment and entrepreneurship among older adults.

Beginning Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 applicants can apply through Transfer Payment Ontario online at [Ontario.ca/GetFunding](https://Ontario.ca/GetFunding). The deadline for all applications is March 6, 2023 at 5PM EST.

**Laurie Millard- New  
Manager of Skills, Training  
& Economic Development at**

# St. Lawrence College

Laurie Millard has just joined St. Lawrence College as its newest Manager of Skills, Training and Economic Development with the Department of Innovation & Business Development.

Her main areas of focus are on building community workforce through inclusive skills development opportunities and creating meaningful relationships with local partners, while supporting a diverse set of programs and initiatives by leveraging the college's resources and services. Millard previously served as the Project Coordinator for the Skills Advance Ontario Healthcare Initiative with St. Lawrence College. She can be reached at [lmillard@sl.on.ca](mailto:lmillard@sl.on.ca)

## Canadian Apprenticeship Service hosting Feb. 28th info session in Cornwall

The Canadian Apprenticeship Service offers up to \$5,000 in grant funding for any new level 1 apprentice and up to \$10,000 per apprentice who identifies as under-represented.

On February 28th at 8 am, Join Canadian Apprenticeship Forum representatives for breakfast at the beautiful St. Lawrence College Library on the Cornwall Campus to learn about this new program, as well as other resources available to support employers

The Canadian Apprenticeship Service is being delivered through a collaboration of industry-leading partners: BuildForce Canada, SkillPlan, ApprenticeSearch.com, Aboriginal Apprenticeship Board and the Canadian Construction Association. The program will provide a range of supports, in addition to the grant, to the expert trainers of Canada's future skilled trades workforce.

The Information Session is being hosted by St. Lawrence College, which has a number of skilled trade programs at its three campuses, including carpentry, welding/fabrication and automotive technician on the Cornwall Campus.

There is no cost to attend the event, but advance registration is required.

[Click here to register](#)



## Winter is beautiful in SDG.



SDG Counties is dedicated to supporting our residents and businesses. Subscribe to our free newsletter to stay informed about grants, supports and news impacting our community.



**The United Counties of  
Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry  
Department of Economic  
Development**

Tara Kirkpatrick, Manager of Economic  
Development

[tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:tkirkpatrick@sdgcounties.ca)

[www.madeinsdg.ca](http://www.madeinsdg.ca)

T. 613-932-1515 ext. 1227

United Counties of SDG | 26 Pitt Street, Cornwall, K6J 3P2 Canada

[Unsubscribe kbelanger@sdgcounties.ca](mailto:kbelanger@sdgcounties.ca)

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