



# Staff Report

## Communications and Economic Development

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**Report To:** Committee of the Whole  
**Meeting Date:** September 11, 2017  
**Report Number:** FAF.17.113  
**Subject:** Economic Development Advisory Committee Changes  
**Prepared by:** Elizabeth Cornish, Communications and Economic Development Coordinator

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### A. Recommendations

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THAT Council receive Staff Report FAF.17.113 'Economic Development Advisory Committee Changes';

AND THAT Council appoint Steve Simon as the The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce representative to the Economic Development Advisory Committee;

AND THAT Council suspend the positions of Agricultural Advisory Committee member and Youth member on a temporary basis.

### B. Overview

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Council is being asked to confirm the new Chair and Vice-Chair of EDAC, as well as the new representative from The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce. The Committee has had challenges meeting quorum, with vacancies on the committee being as high as 1/3 of its membership. EDAC is recommending that vacant committee positions be converted to non-voting status, ensuring the business of the committee continues.

### C. Background

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#### Nominations for Board Chair and Vice-Chair

With the resignation of Jim Farmilo as Chair of EDAC, the committee had a vacant position to fill. The Vice-Chair, Casey Thomson was asked to move up to Chair, which she accepted, and Andrew Siegwart agreed to take on the Vice-Chair position. The Committee made the following motion:

THAT Casey Thomson be confirmed as the new Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel

Seconded by: Mylisa Henderson

The motion is Carried.

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THAT Andrew Siegwart be confirmed as the new Vice-Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Gail Ardiel                      Seconded by: Tim Newton

The motion is Carried.

### **Naming of New Representative of The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce**

The Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) has welcomed Steve Simon as the representative of The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce. Dolf Jansen, President of the Chamber, has been representing the Chamber on EDAC during their selection of a replacement for Jim Farmilo, who retired last spring.

In support of this the Committee passed the following resolution:

THAT EDAC recommends to Council that Steve Simon be confirmed as The Blue Mountains Chamber of Commerce representative to the Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Moved by: Andrew Siegwart                      Seconded by: Mylisa Henderson

The motion was Carried.

### **Challenges With Meeting Quorum**

EDAC has been finding it very challenging at times to meet quorum. We have had challenges finding representatives for several roles on EDAC, which combined with temporary vacancies in other roles, has meant that decision-making has been challenging.

Our Youth Advisory members have often had work schedules and workload that meant they could not attend on a regular basis. There have been two representatives, both of whom have had to vacate their position.

We experienced the same challenges with the Agricultural representative. After consulting with the Agricultural Advisory Committee, it was clear that they required support on specific issues, rather than regular, ongoing participation on EDAC and as a result, did not wish to name a representative to the committee.

After looking at a number of other accommodations and options, the Committee decided that until such time as we can find individuals who would fill these roles, we would like to have those roles converted to non-voting status. This would ensure quorum is met at each meeting, speeding up and simplifying the decision-making process. Rather than identify specific positions, the Committee is recommending to Council:

THAT Council approve the conversion of Committee Positions to non-voting status when they are vacant.

Moved by: Andrew Seigwart Seconded by: Gillian Fairley

The motion is Carried.

EDAC remains committed to supporting agricultural businesses and youth entrepreneurs regardless of their presence on the committee. Members of EDAC will continue in their efforts to recruit for these positions.

#### **D. Financial Impact**

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None.

#### **E. In consultation with**

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In consultation with Shawn Everitt, Acting CAO.

#### **F. Attachments**

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1. Biography, Steve Simon

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Elizabeth Cornish  
Communications and Economic Development Coordinator

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Shawn Everitt  
Director of Community Services and Acting CAO

## **Appendix 1: Steve Simon, Biography**

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Steve was born and raised in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and attended Wilfrid Laurier University where he achieved a Bachelor of Business Administration. Following this, he spent 15 years in packaged goods marketing and sales with tier one companies such as Campbell Soup and Frito Lay. In 1997 he joined BMG Music as Vice President of Sales eventually adding Distribution and Operations to his portfolio. In 2005 BMG merged with Sony music and Steve was given the added responsibility as general manager of the Commercial Division.

Steve Simon has been a visitor to the Blue Mountains area since he was a teenager. In 2005 he and his family joined Georgian Peaks Ski Club and one year later they purchased a home in Thornbury. In January of 2012, Steve and his wife Marla moved with their children, Laurel and Michael to Thornbury full-time. He joined Royal LePage, Locations North as a Sales Representative in 2012 and found immediate success being awarded platinum status his first full year, diamond second year and Chairman's Club (top 1% in Canada) in years three and four. His real estate team is called Lifestyles North and can be found at [www.lifestylesnorth.com](http://www.lifestylesnorth.com).

Steve served a full 4 year term as president of the Marsh Street Centre in Clarksburg, spearheading a return to profitability, stability and significant renovations to improve and maintain the facility. He remains an active volunteer at the Marsh Street Centre. In his free time Steve loves to snowboard, play squash and spend time with family and friends.