



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 10, 2021

Economic Development

Red Rock, Ontario – The Council of the Township of Red Rock has formally announced that Limestone Partners Canada Inc., a northern Ontario consulting group headquartered in Little Current, Ontario, has been contracted to assume the role as Economic Development Officer, for the Town of Red Rock. Red Rock is a progressive town in Northwestern Ontario, located in the Thunder Bay District, sitting on the north shore of Lake Superior, about 16 km west of the Nipigon River, and a short 100 km east of Thunder Bay. A place of destination to visit and live.

“Economic development plays an essential role in every community, and is critical to sustaining our municipal tax base, while expanding jobs in this community”, stated Mayor Darquise Robinson. The Mayor went on to state that “Red Rock relies on economic growth to deliver and maintain the services this community expects, and a well-balanced business and retail sector paying taxes, will continue to drive expansion and development”. After listening to Limestone Partners’ presentation, and innovative approach, the Council and I felt their passion, and saw that their professional experience was the perfect fit to bring positive development, local jobs, and expanded tourism opportunities to the Town of Red Rock. Limestone Partners understands our position, and the challenges we face, especially knowing they too come from a small North Shore community, and other areas of the north. “We believe this was the best decision for us to make, with a fresh set of eyes, from seasoned professionals, who could help deliver results coming out of the gate”, Mayor Robinson added.

“Through our on-site visits, Zoom meetings, and investigative sessions, Limestone Partners completed a detailed Tourism Study for the Town of Red Rock, in 2020, while working closely with the CAO/Clerk, the former Mayor, and Council”, stated Jib Turner, President of Limestone Partners. “While tourism is an important economic driver for the Town of Red Rock, it is only one piece of the overall economic development plan for the community”, Turner added, going on to say that “the community of Red Rock enjoys a devoted core of local businesses, boutique hotels, and other services, so the addition of an expanded, robust tourism strategy will bring more tourists to the existing businesses, and create the opportunity for enhanced development, added jobs, and increased accommodation capacities”.

The Limestone team brings more than 120 years of diverse business expertise to the table. This expertise, in conjunction with the office of the CAO, and Council, working as a cohesive team, will add value to the responsibilities assigned to the office of the EDO, thus enabling us to stabilize, and grow the Town of Red Rock. We have much to be proud of, including our work with the provincial and federal governments, to fund a long list of enhancements and capital projects over the past two years. Tom Ondrejicka Vice-President of Limestone Partners, goes on to say that “together, we are going to add to that existing success, moving forward”.

Quick Facts About Past Developments and Advancements in Red Rock 2019-2020

- \$1,800,000. grant approval in principle with formal communication to follow for the enhancement of the recreation center, and the replacement of our Zamboni, over-haul of bowling alley, pool, curling club, Gym, arena change room upgrades, seniors' room, outside insulation & siding.
- \$2,337,500. grant approval in principle with formal communication to follow for the replacement and enhancement of infrastructure needs related to Brompton, Newton, and Stadler.
- Three new electronic fire hall doors, and up-grades for the fire hall training room. \$16,000.00.
- The old fire hall doors re-purposed and replaced the old doors at the PW Cold Storage facility.
- \$50,000 enhancement of the library, including new ceiling tiles, new flooring, paint, and blinds.
- New municipal office enhancements, including new paint, ceiling tiles, blinds, new bathroom for administrative staff, kitchen, and new CAO office, all work done by dedicated staff.
- Corporate/Workplace review, to address operational and administrative changes required.
- Asset Management Grant FCM, to complete Level 2 and 3, as required under legislative requirements.
- Purchase of used combo plow and spreader, to alleviate wear and tear on road grader. \$38,000.00.
- New compressor for fire department. \$58,000.00.
- Submission of two grant applications for a RV Study Business Plan and Community Strategic Plan which we are waiting for approval. \$100,000.00.
- Submission of an application for a Marketing Intern. Waiting approval. \$35,000.00.
- Leaking Roof repairs conducted at the fire hall and public works building.
- Completion of paving on the main street, and other roads around town. 25% paid by Union Gas.
- Design and installation of new Township sign on Hwy 628 75 % funding by grant. \$30,000.00.
- New "Welcome Banners" placed at the entrance, and throughout the community to contribute towards community beautification.
- Up-grading of administrative computers, and the purchase of two laptops for staff.
- Replacement of records management system, including manuals, training, great support, and fail-safe processes put in place.
- Management contract signed with OCWA for the management and operation of the Water/wastewater plant, to recoup a saving of over \$500,000, over ten years which includes a water/wastewater rate review, 6-year financial plan that further mitigates corporate liability, which will enhance overall operations, and to ensure public safety.
- Placement of "Protect you Children" signs around school zones, to slow traffic. Rotary assistance.
- New mountain and trail signs using grant funds.
- Settlement of two collective agreements. (four-year contract)
- Relocation of staff from Water/Wastewater to Public Works, for operational enhancements, creating two new jobs in Red Rock through (OCWA) Managerial engagement.
- NEW SCADA system, to replace the old PCL system in the water plant, around \$400,000 which is funded by both the Federal and Provincial Government.
- New \$25,000,000. residential development. Contractual signage Feb 2021.
- \$60,000 repair and up-grade of the Trout Creek bridge. OCIF funded.
- Transfer of cascade properties to the Township in 2021.
- \$25,000,000 construction of new water/wastewater facility (100% funded).
- Aggressive process for the collection of outstanding taxes by administrative staff.

- Rebuilt of ICE Compressor Plant at arena.
- Up-grades in décor to Red Pebbles Café at the Rec Centre.
- Annual cultivation of mature Township trees to mitigate corporate liability and promote life expectancy.
- Replaced the old mill sign with pictographs to advertise local amenities.
- Conducted brush hogging at Marina, Baker, Escape Road & Red Rock Rd # 7.
- Council approved the purchase of a new sand box for PW 1 ton and a new ride lawn mower for parks.
- Council approved and accepted a new Conservation/Energy Plan for 2020 to 2024.
- Up-date of web site (grant \$5,000.00).

Your Council, Administration and Staff along with our external partnerships have been hard at work moving this community forward. Council would be remised if we did not acknowledge the late Municipal Councilor Larry Woods, Co/Public Works Superintendent & Project Manager Gerald Sarrasin for their dedicated commitment and efforts to the Township of Red Rock Community and its residents. Council would also like to acknowledge our long serving just retired Mayor Gary Nelson for his leadership, commitment, and dedication to the citizens of Red Rock and area. All are true ambassadors of our community.

For additional information, please call:

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