

# 2010 Annual meeting

Smooth Rock Falls  
Economic Development Corporation  
June 8<sup>th</sup> 2010

# History of SRFEDC

- The Renaissance Report was developed in 2005 in order to provide a strategic plan for Smooth Rock Falls
- One of the recommendation of the report was to establish an economic development body for Smooth Rock Falls.
- An economic development committee was initial form by the Town of Smooth Rock Falls.
- In August of 2006 the Smooth Rock Falls Economic Development Corporation was incorporated

# Overview of SRFEDC

- The SRFEDC is made up of eight Board members
- The Mayor and two councilors sit as members of the board
- The remaining five members of the board are elected at the Annual General Meetings
- All Board members are volunteers and receive no monetary compensation for time and work performed

# Overview of SRFEDC

- The SRFEDC employs an Administrative Assistant to provide admin support and look after the day to day operations.
- The SRFEDC also employs an Economic Development Officer to implement projects and to look for economic development opportunities for SRF.
- The SRFEDC also engages consultants from time to time to provide expertise on a specific project.

# Overview of SRFEDC

- The SRFEDC is a not for profit Corporation and is not part of the Municipal Governing structure.
- The SRFEDC currently has two sub-committees under the corporation, The Pride and Booster Committee and the Heritage Center Committee.
- These committees are made up of SRFEDC board members as well as many volunteers from the community.
- Other committees are formed from time to time on as required basis.

# 2009-2010 Heritage Center Highlights

- On May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009, SRF Heritage Center received 300 8"X10" photos from Ontario Power Generation on the construction of Abitibi Canyon. OPG also contributed \$4,000 towards the operation of the Heritage Center.
- This event brings in close to 200 people to the Heritage Center in a single day and makes the front page of the Timmins Daily Press.
- SRFCDC continue to work with Heritage Center and is successful at receiving funding for two summer students for the summer of 2009.

# 2009-2010 Heritage Center Highlights

- Heritage Center organizes exhibits from Conseil Scolaire catholique Grande Rivieres as well as remembrance day exhibit.
- April 2010, Heritage Center receives donation \$1,000 from OPG for advertisement signs along highway 11.

# 2009-2010 Pride and Booster Highlights

- The SRF CDC helps its subcommittee the pride and booster committee in organizing yet another successful Truck Fest event.
- The 2009, Smooth Truck Fest had an economic impact of at least \$167,000 to the economy of Smooth Rock Falls and surrounding area.
- Over \$5,000 profit was shared between the participating organizations. (Legion, Anglers and Hunters, SRF Hospital, SRF Figure Skating Club)



# 2009-2010 Pride and Booster Highlights

- Profits from the draw were distributed to local organizations most notably \$5,000 to the Smooth Rock Falls Hospital.



# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- Adele Bordeleau (started in Feb 2009) as Project Implementation Officer but she resigned in Oct 2009.
- SRFEDC continue to utilize the services of Bob Cheetham as Implementation officer on a contract basis.
- In November, Diana Brunet was hired as Administrative Assistant for the SRFEDC.

# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- SRFEDC funding through RED expired and SRFEDC/Town are unable to obtain further funding for operation
- SRFEDC sells its residential property that it had acquired from Tembec in 2006 in order to increase cash flow.
- SRFEDC participates with the Town of Smooth Rock Falls in a application for funding for a 2 year term through NOHFC.

# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- SRFEDC continued to work on the revitalization project with great difficulty in obtaining any fiber to realize this project.
- With the Help of MPP Gilles Bisson, the SRFEDC and the Town of Smooth Rock Falls exposes the flaws in the current fiber allocation systems.



# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- MNDMF opens up a Request for proposal for fiber and revues the forest tenure system that is currently in place.
- SRFEDC participates with its Cooperative partners in an application for fiber (March 2010)
- Over 115 application received by MNDMF and decision are expected within the next 6 months on the successful applicants.

# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- SRFEDC continues to look for opportunities in the forestry as well as other industries.
- SRFEDC had a number of positive discussions with a relatively large publicly traded company from the USA in establishing a plant in Smooth Rock Falls.
- SRFEDC works with a number of local citizens or entrepreneurs in evaluating ideas and/or projects.

# 2009-2010 SRFEDC Highlights

- SRFEDC looks at promoting Healthy living initiatives and provide application for funding through the Healthy Community Fund.
- SRFEDC works with the following organization in developing this initiative.

SRF Hospital

SRF Golden Age Club

SRF Golf Club

SRF Ski Club

Northern Spirit Adventures

# Challenges for the future

- SRFEDC has been mostly funded by government agencies to date, eventually this type of support will end therefore the SRFEDC needs to create economic revenue opportunities.
- It may become more difficult in attracting large industrial investors to the community due to the limited resources available.
- The SRFEDC currently doesn't have a Economic Development Officer and hiring a person with set skills and experience required may be difficult.



# Challenges for the future

- It's unclear at this time what effects the proposed Caribou Habitat will have on future forestry operation or other industries such as mining and/or tourism.
- Currently the community is not investment ready therefore some opportunities may be lost to other communities.

# Opportunities for the future

- A number of projects are propose within the immediate region of SRF. These include:
- Detour Lake mining operation
- OPG Lower Mattagami Expansion Project
- Yellow Falls Hydro Electric Project
- Eloro Mining Exploration
  
- These activities could present secondary business opportunities for Smooth Rock Falls.

# Opportunities for the future

- SRF currently has a lot to offer in terms of services at a low cost and residential opportunities exist for this area.
- With the aging population in Northern Ontario a demand for rest and retirement homes will increase over the short term providing opportunities for investment or development.
- The forestry sector is expected to see on going changes over several years and opportunities in this sector will be realized over the short term.

# Conclusion

- It's been a challenging year and although we sometimes did not get the outcome we had wished for, it's clear that the Board members surrounding this table have demonstrated their dedication through their on going efforts in revitalizing our community
- I would like to thank each and every board members for their efforts over the last year.
- On behalf of the SRFEDC I would also like to thank the members of the public for their on going support.