

## WE GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGE OUR DEDICATED PARTNERS

- ◆ Adjala-Tosorontio Residents' Association
- ◆ Angus & Area Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Alliston & District Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Alliston Business Improvement Assoc.
- ◆ Beeton Tottenham Business Improvement Association
- ◆ Bradford Board of Trade
- ◆ Bradford Immigrant Services
- ◆ Business Retention & Expansion International
- ◆ Business and Industry Partners
- ◆ Centre for Business and Economic Development
- ◆ Chartered Banks
- ◆ Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
- ◆ City of Barrie
- ◆ CONTACT
- ◆ Cookstown Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ County of Simcoe
- ◆ Dufferin Simcoe Land Stewardship Network
- ◆ Environment Canada
- ◆ Essa Healthy Communities Committee
- ◆ Focus Community Development Corporation
- ◆ Georgian College
- ◆ Greater Barrie Business Enterprise Centre
- ◆ Greater Innisfil Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Holland Marsh Growers Association
- ◆ Holland Marsh Joint Municipal Board
- ◆ Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- ◆ Lake Simcoe Stewardship Network
- ◆ Local Service and Youth Clubs
- ◆ New Tecumseth Streams Committee
- ◆ Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- ◆ North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation
- ◆ Nottawasaga Steelheaders
- ◆ Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority
- ◆ Ontario Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation
- ◆ Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- ◆ Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- ◆ Ontario Media Development Corporation
- ◆ Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
- ◆ Orillia Area Community Futures Development Corp.
- ◆ Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee
- ◆ Private Land Owners
- ◆ South Simcoe Arts Council
- ◆ Simcoe County District School Board
- ◆ Simcoe County Federation of Agriculture
- ◆ Simcoe Muskoka Workplace Development Board
- ◆ Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board
- ◆ Stevenson Memorial Hospital
- ◆ The Learning Centre
- ◆ The Local Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Tottenham Beeton & District Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury
- ◆ Town of Innisfil
- ◆ Town of New Tecumseth
- ◆ Township of Adjala-Tosorontio
- ◆ Township of Essa
- ◆ Western Ontario Community Futures Development Corporation



Nottawasaga Futures

# 2015 Annual Report

With the support of the Federal Development Agency for Southern Ontario, The Government of Ontario, NT Temps Inc. and Nottawasaga Community

Canada



Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario



Agence fédérale de développement économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario



# The Organization

## 2015 Board of Directors

Catherine Haller, President	Barbara Huson, director
Ranjit Sandhu, Vice President	Kim Keckes, Director
Susan Atkinson , Secretary	Mary Munnoch, Director
James Richardson, Treasurer	Helen Mabee, Director
Ian Campbell, Director	Cathy Nesbitt, Director
Susan Downs, Director	

## 2015 Staff

Suzanne Ainley	Martin Kuzma
Robin Brown	Gillian Murch
Meaghan Cave	Amanda Peck
Andie Cote	Silvia Pedrazzi
Jason Ferber	Danielle Pilon
Colleen Gouldson	Marlene Walker

## Priorities for 2016

2015 has been a year of developing, engaging and strengthening both old and new partnerships; implementing new initiatives and expanding services and supports to encourage job creation.

## Next year's highlights include:

- Identifying new opportunities to develop and grow our local businesses through our Community Investment Loan Fund
- Continue to develop Youth Entrepreneurship Programs
- Continue to partner with our municipalities and regional organizations to develop capacity and provide choice and opportunity for our communities
- Develop meaningful professional development opportunities for our local entrepreneurs



Through our valued partnerships with municipal, provincial and federal governments and community organizations, Nottawasaga Futures was able to continue to establish strategic projects to provide economic opportunities for our residents and businesses in South Simcoe.

Through the development and implementation of 15 highly successful initiatives in 2015 Nottawasaga Futures has:

- created 98 jobs;
- maintained 37 jobs;
- provided over 462 in-depth consulting sessions to over 254 South Simcoe businesses;
- responded to over 1,590 requests for information and support;
- provided \$806,823 in loans from our Community Investment Fund to 12 local area businesses; and
- held 29 Business Support Workshops

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to thank our many partners and supporters and pledge our continued dedication to provide choice and opportunity to the communities of South Simcoe.

Catherine Haller  
President, Nottawasaga Futures

## Our Corporate Goals

- ✓ Encourage community flexibility to respond to a changing environment through government liaison and human resource development.
- ✓ Increase availability of comprehensive resources to facilitate community interest-based growth through partnership development.
- ✓ Support and help community - based organizations through mentoring.
- ✓ Provide investment financing for start up, growth, expansion and reorganization of small businesses.
- ✓ Provide advice, counselling and support to new and existing businesses.
- ✓ Demonstrate accountability, to our funders and our community, for the use of the Corporation's operating and investment funds.

## Providing Choice and Opportunity

## Joint Initiatives & Core Activities

### Building Community Capacity

Nottawasaga Futures provided support to the:

- ◆ Alliston and Area Physician Recruitment Committee
- ◆ South Simcoe Streams Network
- ◆ Business Retention & Expansion International
- ◆ Local Immigration Partnership
- ◆ Renew New Tecumseth
- ◆ Tri County Food Entrepreneurship Project
- ◆ Small Business Centre, Barrie , Simcoe County, Orillia

### Core Activities

- ◆ Continue to increase the activities, tools, and resources (e.g., business lending library, government forms, research documents) available in our Business Excellence Resource Centre.
- ◆ Ensure easy access for local businesses to our Community Investment Fund.
- ◆ Continue to expand our environment and youth programs.
- ◆ Partner with local municipalities, county, federal and provincial governments on various activities and special projects to retain our existing businesses and attract new investment.
- ◆ Maintain and update the online South Simcoe Business Directory.

## South Simcoe Streams Network

South Simcoe Streams Network is a voluntary group of community leaders and representatives from local organizations and municipal government. The Network is administered and supported through Nottawasaga Futures and funded by government, community organizations and the private sector.

The goal of the program is to work with multiple partners and communities to improve water quality and stream habitat in South Simcoe. In its 8th year, this program annually works with over 800 volunteers and 60 partner organizations and engages in 20 public events on 15 project sites. Over 27,000 native trees and shrubs have been planted along our local waterways. Through education, community involvement, and on the ground activities, this program has developed innovative, action oriented ways for local communities to improve and protect local environments.



## Supporting Our South Simcoe Businesses

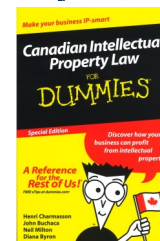
In 2015, a comprehensive community competitive analysis study was updated to provide valuable information and data that will inform South Simcoe's future growth and economic diversification.

**The South Simcoe Business Excellence Resource Centre** responded to 1590 calls of inquiry and facilitated over 462 one-on-one professional business consultations at no cost to South Simcoe businesses.

Business development activities in the centre resulted in support to 254 South Simcoe businesses, providing a complete range of services and support. From assisting with their business registration, helping to complete government forms, creating the appropriate linkage with funding sources; our feedback from our clients have rated our services consistently very good to excellent.

We continue to update our business library with new books, resources and studies. View our complete library online at [www.nottawasaga.com](http://www.nottawasaga.com).

We are proud to report that this support coupled with our investment loan fund resulted in 98 jobs created and 37 jobs maintained.



**The Community Investment Fund** Committee approved 12 loans for a total of \$806,823 for local area businesses. This fund created or maintained 30 jobs and leveraged \$462,515 from third party or owner investment.

Nottawasaga Futures is pleased to report that we continue to offer low interest rates on business loans through the Community Investment Loan Fund to specifically encourage established South Simcoe businesses to invest in green transition activities. These activities will result in reduced operational costs to provide the competitive edge needed to drive the South Simcoe economy.

Additionally, The Business Excellence Resource Centre hosted 29 business information workshops in partnership with our local service providers.

Special events included:

- ◆ 2015 Annual AgKnowledge Forum
- ◆ 18th Annual Business Excellence Awards
- ◆ Youth Entrepreneurship Workshops

### **Youth Entrepreneurship Program**

Nottawasaga Futures is proud to have introduced entrepreneurship as a viable career option to South Simcoe Youth through our Summer Company Program and Student Business Plan Competition.

In 2015, Nottawasaga Futures, in partnership with the Ontario Government, helped 10 local youth start their own businesses through funding, mentorship and one-on-one coaching.

Youth Entrepreneurship was also recognized through the addition of the Youth and Junior Youth Entrepreneurship Awards to the South Simcoe Business Excellence Awards program.

**Green Skills for the Green Economy** is a skills building and knowledge transfer initiative that aimed to provide rural youth and adults in Simcoe County with pathways to careers in the expanding green economy. The project assisted local businesses to access the human resources required to meet the demands of a challenging economy by developing green initiatives and technologies aimed at reducing their operating costs and promoting expansion and job creation.

- ◆ Project delivered in partnership with FedDev Ontario, Centre for Business and Economic Development – A Community Futures Development Corporation, North Simcoe Community Futures Development Corporation, Orillia Area Community Development Corporation
- ◆ 37 information sessions delivered throughout Simcoe County
- ◆ 4 workshops delivered in Simcoe County