

Report to Economic Development Committee
Meeting Date: September 2, 2025
Report Title: EDCO Eastern Conference 2025 – Update

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Position: Economic Development and Cultural
Heritage Coordinator
Report No. ECD 2025-08



RECOMMENDATION:

For information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMMENTS:

Sector #1 – Economic Prosperity. Strategic Initiative #1 – To create an environment where businesses can thrive.

BACKGROUND:

Further to report ECD 2025-02 presented on March 3, Rideau Lakes has been selected to host the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) Eastern Region Professional Development Event on October 2, 2025 in partnership with The Opinicon in Chaffey's Lock.

Hosting EDCO will bring awareness to the benefits of investing in Rideau Lakes, and approximately 50 to 70 delegates will experience the growing community first-hand, strengthening existing business networks.

DISCUSSION:

A sponsorship program was developed for the EDCO Conference Eastern Region Professional Development Event taking place on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at The Opinicon in Chaffey's Lock.

The Township of Rideau Lakes is working with EDCO staff and an event steering committee that includes Jay Amer of Ontario East Economic Development (OEMC) and Alex de Wit with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture (OMAFRA).

Event Sponsors include:

- KEYS Employment & Newcomer Services – Silver Sponsor
- Valley Heartland Community Futures Development Corporation – Silver Sponsor
- ontrac – Bronze Sponsor
- Le Boat - Rideau Canal – In Kind Boat Tours
- Leeds Grenville Economic Development – In Kind Speaker Gifts & Lanyards

Highlights of the agenda include:

- LeBoat mini-tours over the lunch period
- Branded photo booth for group pictures over lunch and afternoon break
- Hand-made ice cream at the 1950's parlour on site
- Optional tour of the Queen's University Biological Station

Informative sessions:

- Canada's Largest Rail Trail Loop Development Project
- Workforce Development Panel
- Agri-Food Panel
- The Border Effect

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

In 2025, \$5,000 is budgeted to host the EDCO Eastern Conference. Cash Sponsorship of \$2,500 has been confirmed.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Digital Event Poster

e- signed

August 25, 2025

Marie White
Economic Development & Cultural Heritage Coordinator

DATE

e- signed

August 26, 2025

Shellee Fournier
CAO

DATE

REGIONAL EVENT

Join us on for the
2025 Eastern
Region
Professional
Development
Event

2025 IN RIDEAU LAKES

OCTOBER 2, 2025

