



MUNICIPALITY OF THE MONTH



July 2016

The Town of Hanover

Contributed By: Susan Votour CPT, ACST

Where is it?

The Town of Hanover is located in southern Grey County, west of Durham and east of Walkerton on Grey/Bruce Road 4. Hanover is between Grey County and Bruce County. The Town, incorporated in 1904, currently has a population of approximately 7,500.



What are the biggest attractions?

Every summer, the Sights & Sounds Festival draws visitors to the Town where they can enjoy a weekend of music, arts and crafts displays, sports, children's activities, food and all-around fun!

All year round, residents and visitors can enjoy the Hanover Community Trail, which is a repurposing of 11 kilometres of old railbeds following the Saugeen River. The trail contains a number of scenic bridges and connects to many of the Town's parks.



This bridge can be found on the Hanover Community Trail, an 11 km refurbished stretch of the former CNR and CP railbeds.

What makes the municipality unique?

Over 160 years ago, in the year 1849, Abraham Buck, the first pioneer in the area, stood on the banks of the Saugeen River and declared "It is good for us to be here". A subsequent influx of pioneers, largely from Germany, helped to open up the area. The same railways that are now used for recreation once were the economic lifeblood of the community, enabling Hanover's factories and tradespeople to ship their wares from coast to coast. At one time, Hanover was referred to as "The Furniture Capital of Canada".

The Town is very proud of its history and heritage and has recently (in 2010) formed the "Hanover Heritage Committee" which is mandated to identify and preserve and protect heritage assets in the community as well as to provide information and education. A fascinating "Windows in Time" flipbook can be found on the Town's website that shows old photographs of some of the Town's properties and buildings, and lists their prior uses.

Hanover has an active vision to revitalize its downtown area. The Downtown Revitalization Committee, comprised of residents and downtown business owners, was appointed in the fall of 2011 and given the task to guide the revitalization planning process on behalf of Hanover Council.

The Town's Facade Incentive Program is the recipient of an Economic Development Council of Ontario Award for Public-Private Partnership. The program encourages utilizing local tradesmen and services to effect visual and structural improvements of downtown properties.



Downtown Hanover is currently enjoying a facelift thanks to a Community Improvement Project facilitated by the municipality

What are the most common issues faced by the Committee of Adjustment?

The Committee of Adjustment for the Town of Hanover is made up of four citizen members and one member of Council. The Committee hears both consent and minor variance applications.

The Committee regularly hears applications for the expansion of legal non-conforming uses and for relief from setback and lot coverage provisions.

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OACA would like to thank Savanna Schaus, Economic Development & Communications Coordinator for the Town of Hanover, for her assistance with this article. More information about the Town of Hanover can be found on the Town's website at www.hanover.ca