

Centre for Sustainable Community Development Information Sheet

The Frontenac Arch Biosphere Network, Parks Canada, the Barbara Heck Foundation, the Thousand Islands Playhouse, and several other organizations with an interest in the promotion of sustainable communities are exploring the benefits and feasibility of creating a Centre for Sustainable Community Development in the region of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere.

Vision

A centre of knowledge and activity that fosters the collaboration of organizations and agencies interested in the sustainable development of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere community and that champions the appreciation and stewardship of the Biosphere's environmental, cultural and social resources, in ways that both respect community values and contribute to the region's economy.

Mission

To establish and manage a viable, creative, energetic hub from which a number of like-minded organizations provide programming and operations that generate and facilitate solutions to sustainable development challenges in the Frontenac Arch Biosphere area while demonstrating and promoting the concepts and benefits of such development on the environment, culture, society and economy of the region.

Objectives

To introduce and interpret the story of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere to residents of and visitors to the region;

To encourage and facilitate exploration and development of the Biosphere and its resources in a sustainable fashion;

To facilitate the participation and partnership of the historian, the artist, the conservationist, and the entrepreneur - and all who contribute to the sustainability of our community;

To encourage synergistic cooperation among the organizations involved with the Centre and with the community at large;

To develop a knowledge base on sustainable community development and to encourage individuals and organizations to apply that knowledge to activities in the Biosphere;

To demonstrate and promote the positive impacts of sustainable economic, cultural, environmental, and social development on the region;

To provide and manage effective public, administrative and special purpose space for offices, exhibitions, events, educational and promotional activities, research, and meetings while meeting the highest standards set today for energy efficiency and ergonomic use.

Benefits

The Centre will contribute significantly to the social, cultural, environmental and economic sustainability of Gananoque and of the Frontenac Arch Biosphere area in two ways; by the actions and interactions of its core partners and by itself being a model of sustainable development.

The Centre will be designed to encourage synergistic cooperation among the organizations involved and with the community at large. It will provide the core partners with new and efficient administrative and special purpose space for offices, exhibitions, educational and promotional activities, research, and meetings. It will encourage and facilitate partnerships among organizations involved with the Centre.

Much as with the agora in ancient Greece, it will provide public space to encourage community activities. Acting not only as an attractive destination in and of itself, it will function as a point of introduction to encourage and facilitate exploration of the Biosphere and its communities. Building on the planning and development activities already underway in the community, it will programme and promote itself as a hub to activities across the Biosphere.

The programming and operations undertaken by the organizations connected to the Centre will demonstrate to people in government, business, and the community the concepts and benefits of sustainable development.

By collaborating and working synergistically with like-minded organizations, the principal partners in the Centre will be able to share present and future audiences and to orient their programming to a regional audience. The Centre will provide an opportunity to demonstrate sustainability to large audiences and to build a critical mass of services and programs. It will facilitate social exchange within the Centre, in the lower town area of Gananoque, and in the Frontenac Arch region, stimulating sustainable tourism and other forms of economic development by providing an inviting introduction and launching point to the Biosphere's many natural attractions and cultural and social activities.

Over and above the activities of its core tenants, the Centre will serve as a model of sustainable architecture and operation. The construction and operation of the Centre will demonstrate what can be accomplished if buildings were built or rehabilitated to be sustainable. It is estimated that over 100 people will be occupied in activities housed in the building. They and countless hundreds of visitors will provide a market for services in the area leading to a revitalization of this unique area at this historic junction of the Gananoque and St. Lawrence Rivers. Most importantly, the Centre will serve as a living example of sustainable technologies and techniques, and will serve as an educational resource with a positive long term impact on planning, living, and working in the region.

The Centre for Sustainable community Development will stimulate the economies of the town and of the region, will advance environmentally responsible building and work spaces, will support and expand the cultural diversity and growth of the area, and will contribute to the social well-being of Gananoque and the Frontenac Arch Biosphere.