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Economic Development eNews | July 8, 2025

Business Profile

Well-Fermented Business Plan Yields Early Success

KEMPTVILLE – “It’s simple and fun here, it’s a come as you are place,” says Jocelyn Major, part-owner of [Kemptville Brewing Company](#).



Five years of planning went into bringing the 5,000-square-foot barn-style brewery to life. Located at the corner of Van Buren Street and Townline Road, the business opened with high anticipation, and has exceeded expectations.



"We wanted to create a place that served as a community hub where businesses could meet too," Jocelyn says. He has positioned KBC (Kemptville Brewing Company) as an inclusive venue equally suited to casual meetups and business functions.

The second level offers two event spaces for meetings and celebrations. The Loft, just off the taproom, is ideal for larger events, while the Silo, a circular room with seating for up to 18, offers a more focused setting. The covered patio seats a large number as well. These spaces have hosted everything from corporate meetings to sausage-making classes, yoga, and art workshops.

Collaboration has been central to the brewery's early success. With a batch size ideal for test runs, KBC is a pilot site for larger brewers experimenting with recipes. The business partners with local makers, selling sauces and more in the retail shop.



Photos: top main, Co-owner Jocelyn Major serves up the taproom's finest. Above, the spacious patio; the 'Silo', perfect for meetings; Jocelyn takes pride in greeting guests; a view from above.

LINKS

[386 Townline Rd, Kemptville](#)

Shortly after launching, 613-713-5226
KBC earned the New
Brewery of the Year title
for Excellence in
Brewing from the
[Canadian Brewers](#)
[Choice Awards](#). "It just
keeps getting better."
Jocelyn says.

The four co-owners are
proud of the building's
construction,
completed by Lockwood
Brothers using as many
local resources as
possible. In the heart of
the kitchen is the
European brick oven
that bakes fresh, made-
from-scratch menu
items, from pizzas to
desserts.

"Honestly, I think people
come because the food
is so good. Chef James
makes the difference,"
Jocelyn says. Pairing
[menu items](#) with a
selection from the
[taproom](#), like their own
lager, pilsner, ale, IPA,

stout, or a cocktail, wine or non-alcoholic option, "takes these delicious meals to another level," he added. Guests can also visit the retail shop to take home KBC beer and branded merchandise.

During festival season, Jocelyn and staff hit the road, selling KBC beverages and merch. This year he's connecting with patrons in Ottawa, Brockville, South Mountain, Winchester, and beyond.

Jocelyn adds, "A lot of people deserve credit for the early success; I'd like to make a shout out to Jon Baldwin, who has helped us tremendously with operations." He also credits the community for its warm welcome, and his fellow business partners Braden Dukelow,

brothers Nathan and Kurtis Devries and family and friends for their support.

News

Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming Tastes the Region

Local officials welcomed the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, the Honourable Stan Cho to the [1000 Islands Rideau Canal Waterways](#) tourism region on July 4th. The tour began at [Windmill Brewery](#) and [King's Lock Craft Distillery](#) followed by [Hall's Apple Market & Cidery](#).

Over a working lunch, officials highlighted the importance of tourism to the region as it continues to be a top sector with nearly 1,000 related businesses.

Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager for the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville highlighted the vision for the region is to become a

“We were pleased to host Minister Cho,” said Counties Warden, Corinna Smith-Gatcke. “We had meaningful conversations regarding tourism, small business supports as well as signage and more. All of these things are vital to our tourism-based businesses as well as our communities who depend on visitors every year. We thank Minister Cho for his sincere interest in our perspectives and challenges so we can face them together to help tourism thrive.”

Leeds-Grenville, Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MPP Steve Clark thanked the Minister Cho for making time to visit some of the region’s outstanding tourism businesses. “It allowed the Minister to experience – and sample –

year-round tourism destination and how the provincially funded [Self-Guided Tourism Adventures](#), is part of its development. With 65 participating businesses and sites in the Tourism Adventures - [Bottle & Barrel](#), [Fresh Baked](#), [Fresh Baked Cafes](#), [Foodie Shops](#), and [Gardens](#), with room to grow in 2026.

our wonderful Eastern Ontario hospitality. It also gave us a chance to showcase how our region is leveraging provincial funding to create unique experiences for visitors and the potential we have to build on these success stories and continue growing our tourism economy.”



Photo, left-right: Edwardsburgh Cardinal Deputy Mayor Stephen Dillabough; United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Warden Corinna Smith-Gatcke; Edwardsburgh Cardinal Mayor Tory Deschamps; King's Lock Distillery Owner Laura Bradley; Minister of Tourism, Culture and Gaming, The Honourable Stan Cho; Leeds-Grenville, Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes MPP Steve Clark; RTO 9 Executive Director Bonnie Ruddock; Leeds Grenville Economic Development Manager Ann Weir; Maison Maitland Owner Cynthia Peters; Windmill Brewery Owner Sean Lucey.



MPP Clark introduces Minister Cho to Sean Lucey, Owner of Windmill Brewery.



Minister Cho, Elizabethtown-Kitley Mayor Brant Burrow, Hall's Apple Market Owner and Manager of Operations Matthew Shapton, Warden Smith-Gatcke, MPP S Clark and Brockville Mayor Matt Wren sample cider at Hall's Cidery.



King's Lock Craft Distillery owner Rob Heuvel (far right) serves samples to Minister Cho, Deputy Mayor Dillabough, MPP Clark, Mayor Deschamps and Warden Smith-Gatcke.

Biz Bytes

Len's Cove Galley Bar Floats New Look

Since 1958, the full-service Len's Cove Marina has been attending to everything customers in the Portland and Rideau Lakes region. While visiting, stop by [The Galley Restaurant's](#) refurbished bar to enjoy some food and drink. Built from an original Dowsett Boat, it pays tribute to Portland's rich boat-



building heritage. Also, visit the Heritage Boat Display at the harbour on July 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



REDI Program Update

As of July 2nd, the Ontario Immigrant Nominee Program (OINP) has launched a new electronic [Employer Portal](#), this shifts the Job Offer streams and all REDI applications to an employer-led application process.



Employers can register their business information in the [Employer Portal](#) and provide employment position information to enable a prospective applicant to register their Expression of Interest (EOI).

Individuals who had a previously submitted EOI through the OINP system have been automatically withdrawn and are encouraged now to work with their employer to submit a new EOI.

Reach out to Counties Economic Development Office at econdev@uclg.on.ca if you require additional support. More information in addition to Ministry updates on the REDI program can be found [here](#).

Small Business

Free Business Consults

Thinking of starting or growing a business? If you are self-driven, determined to succeed, are coachable and have a solid business idea, connect with the professionals at [Leeds Grenville Small Business](#) or the [Small Business Advisory Centre](#). Identify marketplace opportunities, write an effective business plan, clarify government regulations, source licensing information and find financial support. Book a flexible and free 45 minute session today.



Servicing

Athens, Augusta, Brockville
Edwardsburgh Cardinal
Elizabethtown-Kitley (south)
Front of Yonge
Leeds and the Thousand Islands
Gananoque, Prescott, North G



Servicing

Elizabethtown-Kitley (north)
Merrickville-Wolford
Rideau Lakes
Westport

[Book a consult](#)

[Book a consult](#)

Funding

Rural Ontario Development (ROD) Program - Now Open

The ROD program supports economic growth, job creation, and infrastructure development in rural Ontario through two key streams: Business and Community. The program offers new funding opportunities for **small rural businesses**, municipalities, Indigenous communities and non-profits, with \$20 million in provincial funding allocated over two years. Potential applicants are encouraged to [register for an upcoming information session](#) on August 20th and September 10th to learn more.

[Business Stream](#)

Rural brick-and-mortar businesses with 1–20 employees that pay commercial, agricultural, or industrial property tax may be eligible to receive 35% of project costs, up to \$10,000.

Eligible project types include:

- Market or Product Diversification (e.g. developing marketing plans, launching new products)
- Cybersecurity Improvements (e.g. assessments, upgrades to systems and protocols)
- Succession Planning (e.g. developing a formal business transition plan)
- Accessibility Upgrades (e.g. installing ramps or automatic door openers)

Community Stream

Funding is available for:

- Economic Diversification, Competitiveness and Capacity Building
- Up to \$150,000 with 35-50% cost sharing to support local economic development strategies and plans, economic diversification and competitiveness, and capacity building events.
- Workforce Development, Attraction and Retention
- Up to \$150,000 with 50% cost-share for projects focused on attracting and retaining workers.
- Community Infrastructure Enhancements
- Up to \$250,000 with 35% cost-share to upgrade or repurpose community assets vital to the local economy.

Full program guidelines and application details are available at:

ontario.ca/RODprogram

Application Deadline: September 24, 2025 at 5 p.m. ET

[Guidelines & application](#)



[Register for info session](#)



Ontario Trillium Foundation Grants

[The Ontario Trillium Foundation \(OTF\)](#) offers several grant streams ([Seed](#), [Grow](#) and [Capital](#)) to help eligible organizations deliver programming and improve community infrastructure.

Who can apply?

Charities, non-profits, Indigenous communities, small municipalities, collaboratives, and grassroots groups.

Each grant program has different intake periods and deadlines. [Learn more here.](#)



Only One Week Left to Register for the Cross-Ministry Funders Forum

You're invited to the Ontario Cross-Ministry Funders Forum; an in-person event connecting **businesses**, communities, non-profits, and economic developers with provincial funders. Learn about current and upcoming funding opportunities, eligibility, timelines, and how to strengthen regional coordination ahead of the next funding cycle.

Featuring presentations from representatives of:

- Ministry of Rural Affairs (MRA)
- Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade (MEDJCT)

- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness (OMAFRA)
- Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development (MLITSD)

These sessions provide a direct line to funding representatives and programs. It's a chance to:

- Learn about upcoming grant programs and their timelines
- Understand eligibility requirements and evaluation priorities
- Build relationships directly with funders and other regional stakeholders
- Ask questions in a supportive, in-person setting

When: July 15, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Where: Quality Inn & Suites
135 Prescott Centre Drive,
Prescott

[Register
now](#)



Community Futures Grenville Eco-Futures Loan Fund

There's a new funding program for clean-tech and green-tech businesses and projects. The EcoFutures Loan Fund supports new and existing businesses in clean technology sectors, as well as businesses in any sector looking to implement energy efficiency/transition or waste reduction projects. Offering

favourable rates and flexible terms, [this loan program](#) supports both new and existing businesses pursuing emissions-reduction projects, within the Community Futures Grenville area.

Who can apply?

Businesses in the sustainable technology sector or any business undertaking projects that reduce emissions, such as energy efficiency upgrades, zero-emission infrastructure, or nature-based climate solutions. Learn about eligibility and how to apply by contacting Loans Officer Darren Gallacher.

[Email Darren](#)



Real Estate



The

MERRICKVILLE
MERRICKVILLE-WOLFORD
Jewel of the Rideau

Baldachin Inn in picturesque Merrickville, Ontario, offers an historic ambiance.

The property has the following features:

[View listing details](#)

- a stunning ballroom
- family dining
- Harry MacLean's Pub
- the Courtyard Garden Patio
- and overnight accommodations in finely appointed rooms and suites.

The building also features a vintage caramel shop and over 6,000 sq. ft. of shopping with women's fashions, furniture, and antiques.

View [map](#) for 111 St. Lawrence Street, Merrickville.

Workshops, Seminars and Webinar Library

WORKSHOP

REAL STRATEGIES SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Learn how to turn
customer value into
reliable cash flow with
strategies that actually
work in the real world.

Tuesday
July 22,

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Reserve your spot now!

Scan or click link to
register.



Leeds **175**
Grenville YEARS

With Entrepreneur Extraordinaire:
ROBBIE DEEKS



Real Strategies / Sustainable Growth

This isn't just another workshop, it's your chance to learn how to build a business that consistently attracts, delivers, and retains high-value customers.

Robbie will share powerful, hard-earned insights from over a decade of hands-on experience growing companies-from Shopify Plus to ventures with Gary Vaynerchuk. You'll walk away with practical strategies to create your own customer-generating engine and take your business to the next level faster and smarter. The workshop will take place at 25 Central Avenue West in Brockville, the offices of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

[Register](#)

Create Social Media Graphics with Canva's AI

Level up your social media game without spending hours designing. Learn how to use quickly and create professional, eye-catching graphics that grab attention and drive engagement.

Whether you want to promote products, build your brand, or run a campaign, Canva's AI tools like Magic Design, Magic Edit, and Magic Write make it easier to turn ideas into polished posts.

When: July 23, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Where: Online

Cost: Free

The Importance of Paid Digital Advertising

Learn key insights into digital marketing in the online platform advertising world.

You will learn about:

- Google Ads
- Facebook ads and pixel
- Instagram ads
- Targeting audiences
- Which ads to run for your business
- Key terminology in ad platforms

When: July 29, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where: Online

Cost: Free

[Register today](#)

[Register today](#)



Learn more about upcoming [Workshops, Seminars and explore our Webinar Library](#).

Future Events

Bridges to Better Business	October 23	TBD
Leeds Grenville Economic Development Summit	November 21	North Grenville Municipal Centre, Kemptville
International Women's Day Event	March 5, 2026	North Grenville Municipal Centre, Kemptville

United Counties of Leeds Grenville Economic Development Office



[Andrew Stacey](#), Tourism Marketing Support, [Shelbi McFarlane](#), Business Development Officer; [Carol Hardy](#), Small Business Development Officer; [Ann Weir](#), Economic Development Manager; [Cyndy Bolton](#), Economic Development Officer; [Brennan Eland](#), Small Business Program Assistant, [Joanne Poll](#), Administrator & Communications Support.



Business
Directory



Funding



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Workshops &
Seminars

Leeds Grenville eNews deadlines for submitting information:

If you have an upcoming workshop, seminar, or business-related event, please [email](#) it to us in advance.

- Submissions for the July 22nd, 2025 edition should be received by July 14th.
- Submissions for the August 5th, 2025 edition should be received by July 28th.

SPECIAL MESSAGE:

- The Leeds Grenville Economic Development [business directory](#) is in the public web domain. The Economic Development Office does not share or sell the directory to any resellers. Please be aware any email messages suggesting acquisition of the directory is not from the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville Economic Development Office.
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