


Thamesford Business Survey Summary

October 10, 2008

General Business Information

- 1) How long have you been in business?
 - 1) Less than 1 year
 - 2) 1 – 2 years 1
 - 3) 3 – 5 years 1
 - 4) 5-10 years 2
 - 5) 10 or more year 14
- 2) Do you own or rent your building?
 - a) Own 13
 - b) Rent 5
- 3) Is this business a franchise?
 - a) Yes 3
 - b) No 15
- 4) Is the owner (or at least one of the owners) of the business a resident of the community?
 - a) Yes 12
 - b) No 6
- 5) How many employees work at this location?
 - a) 1 – 4 13
 - b) 5 – 9 3
 - c) Greater than 10 2
- 6) Do you provide or have sufficient parking for your customers?
 - a) Yes 17
 - b) No 1
 - c)

Business Climate

- 7) What issues, if resolved would have the greatest impact on the growth of your business?
 - 
 - If we had a grocery store.

- Our business is a regional business and is not exclusive to Thamesford. Not sure of specific issues that would have a great impact.
- Having a doctor in the village or a medical walk-in clinic.

- Working at maximum capacity now.
- Grocery Store
- Remove old cold springs buildings. Rebuild newer less smelly not-seen not visible from subdivisions.
- Completion of sanitary sewers and new housing development
- Find occupants/uses for the three vacant properties
- Attract a high profile retailer to community?
- I've been here 33 years and very happy.
- Wouldn't it be great if downtown Thamesford was more attractive. 12000 cars a day! WOW.
- Population growth would increase book (?) of business
- Slowing down of traffic on Dundas St., easier access for clients
- A more "shop local" attitude.
- More businesses need to be open on Saturdays
- Thamesford does not have an area that is central business core – just drive through.
- New residents, lower taxes, new businesses

- 8) What is your general impression of this community as a place in which to do business?
- | | |
|--------------|---|
| a) Excellent | 7 |
| b) Good | 6 |
| c) Fair | 5 |
| d) Poor | |

Marketing and Sales

- 9) Do you participate in community events?

- | | |
|--------|----|
| a) Yes | 16 |
|--------|----|

If yes, which ones

- Some which are our business only. We used to participate in just about everything but it became too costly with little return on these investments. Now we pick and choose as we see them as worthwhile.
- Calithumpian (Cali) weekend, lawn bowling

- Cali, Thamesford Business Association (TBA). Several employees and associations are active in, and support community events as well.
- TBA, TTAG, Cali, light parade
- I make an effort to attend everything
- Gold sponsor of Cali. McFarland Rowlands donated to 37 requests for funding the community in 2007.
- Sponsor of Cali, member of TBA, supporter of minor sports, school and church activities
- Cali, team sport sponsor
- Cali, TBA
- TBA, sponsorships
- Scouting, Calithumpian, Trojan fish fry, service club events, schools, churches
- Thamesford Lions events, Calithumpian, TBA
- Hockey, baseball, Cali, soccer. etc..
- Cali, Great Ride and Stride

b) No 2

10) Do you have an idea for a downtown/community event?

- No, but to be honest our worst weekend business wise of the year is May 24 (Calithumpian?). Half of the village leaves and those who come or stay don't buy our products as they don't go anywhere. We need people traveling on the highway.
- Fall street fair (kids games, craft tables etc.)
- Calithumpian is great. We think it is difficult to have many different events supported properly – maybe the one bigger one is the right approach.
- Main Street landscaping contest
- Plant swap
- Christmas lights in park – with special night for turning them on.
- From a business standpoint, I do not feel a short term function has anything to offer. Long term benefits are best realized through strategies to fill business vacancies and continued housing developments.
- Horticulture group
- I hope Weinerfest was a success - great way to bring people to town.
- No

- Thamesford weekend – mid summer - come home weekend – all community events
- Snowfest, flower/craft show

Looking Forward

11) With your business in mind, what three additional businesses/services would you like to see available downtown?

Note: The √ indicates other individuals that said the same thing as the first person.

- Grocery store √√√√√√ √√√√√√√√
- Doctor √√√√√√√√
- Car wash √√√
- Hardware/lumber store √√
- Dollar Store
- Laundromat & dry cleaning
- Gym – fitness
- Youth centre- arcade- skateboard park
- Garden Centre
- Ice cream shop
- Piccard's Peanuts – something catchy like that.
- Second bank/credit union
- More retail type stores
- Outdoor rec store
- Family needs store i.e. Stedmans
- R.M.T. (?)
- Outdoor Café
- Bigger drug store
- Barber
- None in particular

12) What do you see as the top three initiatives that could benefit business in this community?

- Affordable housing
- People in numbers create a climate where business will see an opportunity
- Lower business taxes
- Attracting businesses (i.e. grocery) will bring more business.
- Available space-make vacancies more attractive
- Increase downtown parking
- Consumer awareness i.e. through advertising
- Big spray fountain on top of dam – guest passing thru often speak of dam & river, why not beautify even more?
- Increased population base/housing developments
- Small business park
- I don't have an opinion.
- Population increase
- Exactly what TTAG is doing.
- Resolve gravel pit expansion issues
- Finish sewer work
- Occupancy in available commercial building
- Occupancy of vacant buildings
- Small town charm
- Make Dundas St. less of a drive through route
- Development of new subdivision (expansion)
- Advertising
- You need something to attract outsiders to Thamesford

Any Other Constructive Comments

- What about a car pool area – makes our town more of a meeting spot. I know of 2 cars who park at library now to car pool.
- To my knowledge, TTAG is involved in only item #5 of this list (last information page of survey). Bob/TBA handle the balance of activity and should be declared as such.