



MEDIA RELEASE

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Township of Southgate approves 2024 Business Retention and Expansion Project Report and Actions

Dundalk, Ont. (July 5, 2024) – Township of Southgate Council approved a report and action plan that will foster a positive environment for economic development based on the feedback of local businesses. The report was presented to Council by the Township’s Economic Development staff at its July 3rd regular meeting.

The Township launched the 2024 Business Retention and Expansion (BR+E) program to examine how to best retain businesses, while strengthening the Southgate economy and encouraging business expansion. The BR+E program is offered through the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, and has been in operation since the 1990s. It is targeted to small and rural communities.

A total of 73 BR+E surveys were conducted from January to March of this year to help inform the findings of this report. A remarkable 95% of the businesses surveyed were locally owned-and-operated establishments, with strong representation from the personal services, agri-food, and manufacturing sectors, all fast growing sectors in the Southgate community.

The report found that owners and operators were eager to see joint marketing initiatives to attract new customers, streamlined municipal service offerings, and more networking opportunities for area entrepreneurs, amongst other priorities. The BR+E report includes an outline to implement the recommendations, alongside an action plan, demonstrating how the Township aims to meet the objectives prioritized by the business community.

“Our BR+E journey provided a great learning experience for our Township, as well as the many community partners who support our local businesses,” said Mayor Brian Milne. “I would like to take a moment to thank [the businesses], the backbone of our local economy, for choosing Southgate as their business home.”

The Township and its community partners will begin to implement the action plans from the report in the next year, reporting on implementation progress over the next 24 months. After June 2026, the priorities and actions will be reassessed and re-established in consultation with the business community.

Learn more: [Business Retention and Expansion - Township of Southgate](#)

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