ANNUAL BUSINESS REVIEW

Economic Development Highlights & 2023 Year in Review

151



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WANDERERS Always welcome

Messages from the Town of Lincoln



Mayor Sandra Easton

I am pleased to present the Town of Lincoln's 2024 Annual Business Review. The 2024 Annual Business Review showcases the key economic development activities, exciting business stories, and detailed investment witnessed throughout 2023.

In alignment with the 2022-2026 Council Priorities: Strategic Planning for a Future-Fit Lincoln, Council and Staff were able to achieve many goals to remain a Welcoming & Connected, Vibrant & Prosperous, and Responsible & Resilient Community. Lincoln saw tremendous growth in both our manufacturing and tourism sectors, with private sector business investment totaling over \$85 million.

I would like to thank Staff for all the impactful programs, projects, and initiatives implemented throughout 2023. More importantly, I would like to acknowledge all the businesses who continue to invest in our community to make Lincoln the ideal place to invest and grow.



J.D. Pachereva, Chair of Planning and Economic Development

As the Chair of the Planning and Economic Development Committee, I am thrilled to share the tremendous economic development accomplishments made in Lincoln throughout 2023. Private sector investments persisted with Lincoln's tourism and manufacturing sectors, resulting in the creation of new jobs and bolstering Lincoln's industry cluster.

One of the larger developments included the new 62,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility developed by Applied Modern System Integration Inc. (AMSI), on one of Lincoln's last industrial parcels of land. The new development created 75 highly skilled jobs and was a huge boost to Lincoln's advanced manufacturing sector. On behalf of Town Council, I would like to welcome AMSI Inc. to our business community and congratulate them on their investment in Lincoln!





Anna Murre, Vice-Chair of Planning and Economic Development

Lincoln's local economy thrived throughout 2023! All our key economic indicators, including unemployment rate, jobs, businesses, and GDP have surpassed pre-pandemic levels and continue to grow at an unprecedented rate.

The Town of Lincoln's tourism industry continued to be a focal point of growth and development for our local economy in 2023. The development of our new tourism brand, the Niagara Benchlands, in tandem with sustained private sector investment, Lincoln has become a hot spot for tourism throughout Ontario.



Paul Di lanni, Director of Economic Development and Communications

In 2023, Economic Development Staff concluded our 2019-2023 Economic Development Strategy & Action Plan. Over the past five years, we achieved many of our long-term economic goals, while also supporting the business community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

As we look to 2024 and beyond, Economic Development Staff will be redeveloping our existing Economic Development Strategy by actively engaging with local businesses, conducting surveys and on-site visits. These efforts aim to inform the new plan, building upon the solid foundation we've established, while addressing evolving business landscapes and community needs. Staff will continue to support the existing business community through a variety of policies, programs, and initiatives that grow our local economy.





a place to GROW

Youth, aging in place, agriculture – growing crops, farming, greenhouse support, business growth, early childhood development (youth), proper planning and growing smart, growing your family here in Lincoln

a place to **PROSPER**

A place for small/medium businesses to succeed, opportunities, job creation, tourism, destination, local markets, festivals, beautification, industrial parks, prosperity, community vibrancy, innovation

a place to BELONG

Maintain community feeling, connectedness, more local events, support for families, history and heritage, local markets, local and unique festivals, moving around town, one community

Town of Lincoln Corporate Vision and Mandate



Council Priorities

Council priorities include areas of focus for the current term of Council, with pillars that support & achieve Lincoln's community vision of **a place to** grow, a place to prosper, a place to belong. The Economic Development team draws upon Council's Priorities to provide projects, programs, and services that strategically plan for a future-fit Lincoln.



WELCOMING AND CONNECTED

The Town of Lincoln is dedicated to creating a welcoming and connected community that embraces fresh ideas, diverse perspectives, and active engagement of residents and businesses in the social, cultural, and economic life of our town.





VIBRANT AND PROSPEROUS

In our vibrant and prosperous community of neighbours, rooted in a history of agricultural excellence, we celebrate our heritage and are fueled by a creative spirit that embraces the future.





RESPONSIBLE AND RESILIENT

In our pursuit of a responsible and resilient community, the Town of Lincoln is dedicated to intentionally enhancing our community's ability to withstand and adapt to a wide array of future scenarios and challenges.



DM out			
INN ON THE TWENT RESTAURANT & ELEVATOR Red Door			
↑ VINTNER'S CELLAR Red Door		F LINCOLN RAPHICS	
' → WINDOWS ROOM Orange Door	POPULATION (2021 Census) 25,719	TOP SECTORS (Lightcast, 2023) 12.1%	
HALLEY ROOM	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (Statcan 2023) 5.8%	10.7% A CONSTRUCTION	
	Number of BUSINESSES (Statcan 2023) 1,046	9.9% AGRICULTURE 9.7% C	
	JOBS in Lincoln (Lightcast 2023)	HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	
3 mil	16,113	WHOLESALE TRADE	

Economic Overview

Home to more than 25,000 people, the Town of Lincoln is located in the Niagara region on the south shore of Lake Ontario. The QEW, a vital cross-border Canada-US corridor, transects the community's north end. Lincoln has a diverse economy; from exceptionally productive agricultural and horticultural sectors to manufacturing, value-added agricultural businesses, and tourism, Lincoln is on the move.

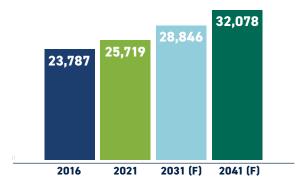
Lincoln is the sixth most populated of Niagara's 12 municipalities, outpacing the Region's growth rate as a whole from 2016 to 2021. Over the past two decades, Lincoln has grown steadily, with a 24.8% increase since 2001.

Lincoln's key economic and employment sectors are agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. Since 2016, Lincoln led both the Niagara region and the entire Golden Horseshoe in gross farm receipts with \$253 Million. Lincoln boasts the highest concentration of greenhouses in Niagara and dominates the greenhouse floriculture production in Ontario.

Lincoln's vision – **a place to grow, a place to prosper, a place to belong** – represents the economic and social advantage to live and do business in Lincoln. Our vibrant and prosperous community prides itself on having policies and procedures in place that help foster growth and development in our entire economy.

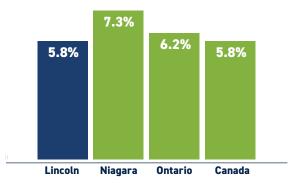
Population Growth

Lincoln is the sixth most populated of Niagara's 12 municipalities, outpacing the region as a whole in growth from 2016-2021. Lincoln is expected to grow to 32,078 by 2041.



Unemployment Rate

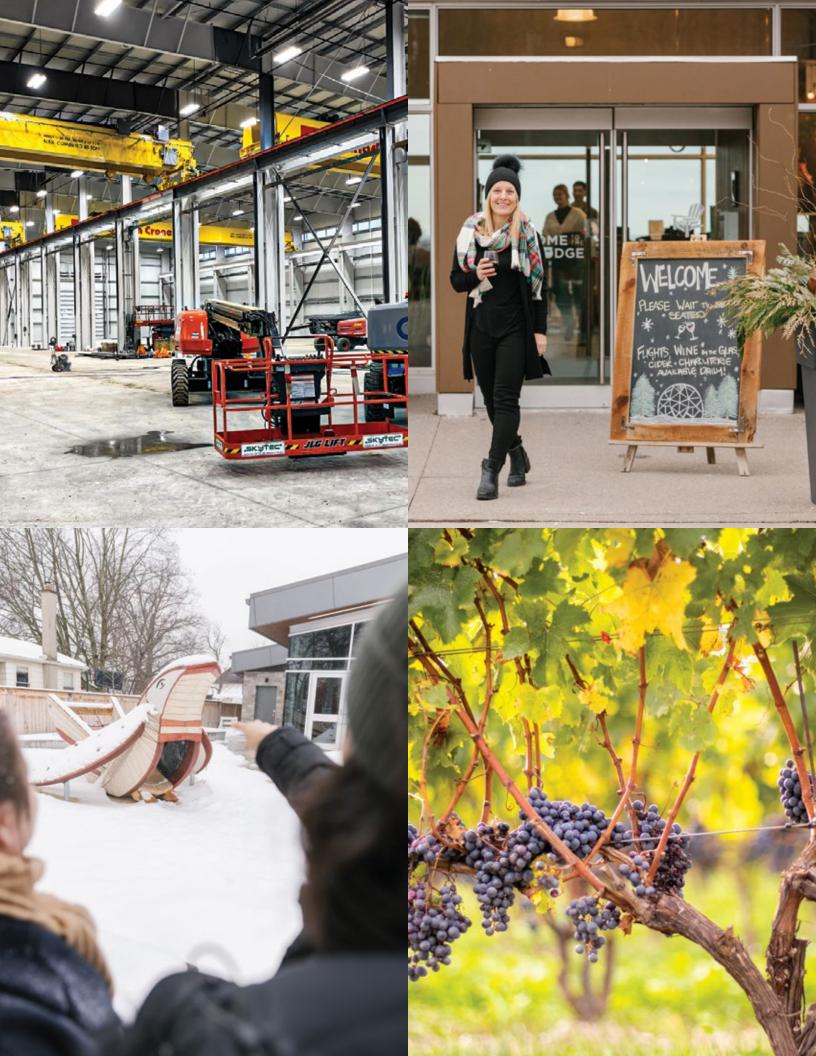
Lincoln's unemployment rate by the end of 2023 was at 5.8% and is equal to or less than the unemployment rate regionally, provincially, and nationally.



Average Household Income

Lincoln residents have a higher average household income than the average residents in the Region, Province and Nation.





What We Deliver

Lincoln's Economic Development and Tourism team is guided by two key strategies to stimulate socioeconomic growth throughout the Town of Lincoln.

Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan

The Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan serves as a roadmap for Lincoln's economic development activities that seek to enhance the quality of life in balance with other community goals. The principle economic development roles and strategies that will drive results include:



Promoting an "Open for Business" message

- Corossi)
- Business retention and expansion

Innovation and entrepreneurship



Attracting new investment



- Talent and workforce development
- Marketing

In 2024, Economic Development staff will be undergoing a comprehensive review of the 2019-2023 Economic Development Strategy. Through stakeholder consultation, staff will be updating and revising the document to better align with the current trends and needs of the community and business environment.

Tourism Strategy and Action Plan

The Tourism Strategy and Action Plan adopted by Council in June 2020 was an offshoot of the previously noted Economic Development Strategy that was approved by Council in Fall 2018. The Economic Development Strategy recognized the importance of the tourism industry to the overall health of the local economy. Tourism and the related value-added agricultural businesses in Lincoln are major drivers of the local economy, evident in the large concentration of local beverage manufacturing jobs compared to the rest of Ontario.

The main objectives for Lincoln's Tourism Strategy are:

- To clearly define the role of the Town in the tourism sector;
- To attract new tourism-related investment;
- To strengthen and grow the local economy, as well as create and sustain more jobs;
- To develop a new tourism brand for the municipality

These objectives have been the overarching roadmap for which Town Staff have activated this plan to-date, and will continue to be incorporated in all our future tourism projects and initiatives.





2023 Key Activities: Economic Development

WORK IN LINCOLN

In 2023, the Town of Lincoln Economic Development Office, in partnership with the Employment Help Centre, launched the Work in Lincoln program to help connect local employers to talented job seekers in the area. The Workinlincoln.ca website allows local employers to create an account and submit job postings at their own leisure, while also allowing job seekers to apply for job postings and join the resume database.

In part of the Work in Lincoln initiative, the Town also hosted two Job Fairs in the Spring and the Fall to further help fill vacancies and careers in the Town of Lincoln's local economy. The Job Fairs were hosted at Great Lakes Christian High School and saw over 900 total attendees connect with 67 local employers throughout the two events. Both job fairs were an overwhelming success with many local employers interviewing and hiring new employees on the spot.

Are you a local business looking to grow your workforce? Visit **WorkInLincoln.ca** to post your job openings today!





BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

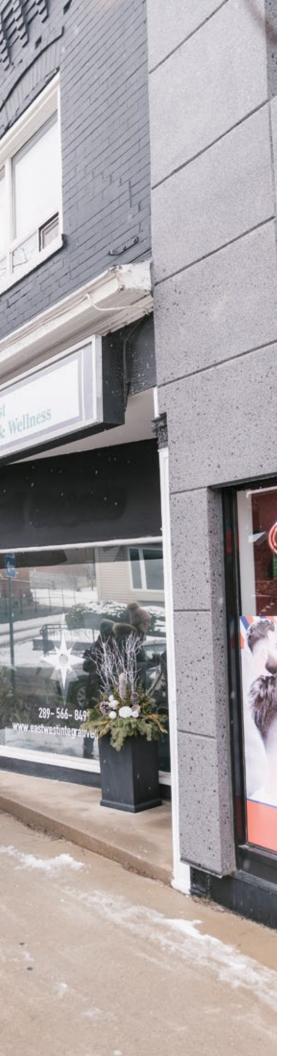
Initiatives to engage with existing businesses to bolster job retention and expansion are an essential priority in economic development. It is said that approximately 70-80 percent of new jobs are generated by existing businesses; however, in Lincoln, staff feel this number is closer to 90%, which is why our top priority has been collaborating with our existing business community.

Throughout 2023 Economic Development Staff continued to engage with our existing businesses to better understand and support their everyday needs and growth potential. Through open lines of communication, and a weekly e-newsletter, staff were able to provide the business community with up-to-date projects and initiatives from all levels of government that support their business. Our business newsletter remains an excellent communication channel for Town Staff and external stakeholders.

If you are a business looking to spread knowledge and information, or you are interested in subscribing to the list, contact the Town of Lincoln's Economic Development Team at **economicdevelopment@lincoln.ca.**







YOUTH SKILLS STUDIO

In partnership with Civiconnect, a local not-for-profit organization, the Town of Lincoln received over \$2M in 2021, \$2.5M in 2022 and an additional \$2.9M in 2023 from the province of Ontario's Skills Development Fund to develop and run the Youth Skills Studio (YSS).

The YSS is a work-integrated learning environment that provides paid employment to youth aged 15-29 to work on technology-based projects for local businesses. The program is designed to support youth retention and talent attraction here in our community, while also supporting our local businesses to grow and enhance their digital presence, all of which are key goals in our Economic Development Strategy.

Funding of \$2.9 million in 2023 will prepare 250 youth in Lincoln and Niagara for careers in technology and tourism and hospitality. It will also connect trained youth with 75 small and medium-sized businesses hiring across sectors including high-tech, manufacturing, hospitality, and tourism.

To-date the Youth Skills Studio has produced the following results:



450 youth participants



Provided 300,000

hours of workintegrated learning with participants



Delivered over **250**

projects to local businesses



DIGITAL MAIN STREET 4.0

In 2023, Digital Main Street celebrated its fifth anniversary of the grant program in Ontario. The Digital Service Squad (DSS) has assisted Lincoln businesses with several crucial activities to increase their online presence and thus improve their bottom line. These include developing a Google My Business profile, enhancing their social media presence, and providing support for a basic website and e-commerce set-up.

Through the \$2,500 Digital Transformation Grant, the Town of Lincoln has secured \$152,500 for Lincoln businesses thanks to a Provincial funding grant through the Digital Main Street program administered by the Ontario Business Improvement Area Association (OBIAA). A total of 61 local Lincoln businesses received the \$2,500 Digital Transformation Grant (DTG) 4.0 since August of 2022. The grant was for brick-and-mortar businesses to help grow their online presence through website enhancements, software development, digital marketing, and more.

Since Lincoln's launch of the DSS in 2019, Town of Lincoln businesses have received 100, \$2,500 DTG's, circulating a total of \$250,000.00 to help our businesses adopt online technologies over the past 5 years.







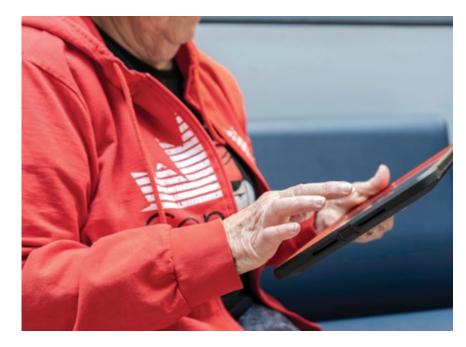
BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

The Town is working with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to expand broadband connectivity across Lincoln. The Town is excited to share the great broadband investments coming to our community.

In March 2023, Bell announced the expansion of pure fibre internet service to homes and businesses in Lincoln. Fully funded by Bell, the expansion program will bring all-fibre broadband access to approximately 7,000 additional locations in the Town of Lincoln by 2024.

On May 2, 2023, Niagara Wireless Internet Company (NWIC) announced the completion of their Next Generation Wireless Network infrastructure investment in Lincoln. The new broadband technology offered by NWIC has the ability to match the speed and performance of fibre-to-the-home services.

As Lincoln's digital economy continues to grow, staff recognize the importance of broadband growth in our community. Economic Development will continue to liaise with ISPs to bring private sector broadband investment to our underserviced areas.



BUSINESS WALKS

In September, Town Council & Staff conducted our 2023 business walks program throughout Downtown Beamsville, Vineland, and Jordan to meet with new business owners and build working relationships with our existing business community. Council & Staff met with over 50 local business owners to discuss our key programs and initiatives in 2023.

The business walks are part of the Town's Economic Development Strategy to support existing businesses, fostering communication and creating a pro-business environment for job creation and economic growth.

Did we miss your business during the business walks? Contact Economic Development at **economicdevelopment@lincoln.ca** to book a meeting with our team!











TOWN OF LINCOLN



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

In 2023, a Town of Lincoln delegation participated in the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) 2023 Conference, and the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) 2023 Conference to meet with provincial ministries to discuss key issues impacting the municipality. Key topics discussed included:

- Growth Related Infrastructure Funding
- Provincial funding to support modernization of services
- Rittenhouse Reimagined Library infrastructure project
- Increased funding for Ontario museums
- Skills Development Fund Round 3 Youth Skills Studio application
- Niagara Irrigation Project
- Niagara Escarpment Crossing
- Funding to support cross municipality shared services
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Application

Council and staff will continue to advocate to upper levels of government to gain support and assistance with Lincoln's corporate objectives of **a place to grow, prosper, and belong.**



2023 Key Activities: Tourism

EMPOWERING TOURISM THROUGH COLLABORATION

Recognizing tourism as a vital economic engine, the Town of Lincoln joined forces with the City of St. Catharines to establish a dynamic Destination Marketing Organization (DMO). With a clear vision to elevate Lincoln's profile and allure, the DMO is dedicated to spotlighting our rich tourism offerings, fueling economic growth, and fostering job creation within our community. To learn more visit, **SpeakUpLincoln.ca**

INVESTING IN LOCAL GEMS

The Niagara Benchlands Destination Development Fund continued its pivotal role in nurturing tourism-based enterprises across Lincoln. A total of \$17,500 was allocated to four outstanding projects, including innovative ventures like pop-up vendor markets, winter wine tours, and unique experiences like e-bike tours. These investments not only enhance visitor experiences but also contribute to the vibrancy of our local economy. To learn more visit, **Lincoln.ca**

DRIVING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

The introduction of the Municipal Accommodation Tax (MAT) signals a strategic move towards sustainable tourism development in Lincoln. By implementing a transient accommodations tax, we're generating revenue to fund crucial tourism initiatives while alleviating financial burdens on our residents. Through stakeholder engagement and proactive support, we're ensuring the smooth adoption and compliance of the MAT program. To learn more visit, **Lincoln.ca/MAT**





EMPOWERING YOUTH FOR SUCCESS

Our Youth Skills Studio (YSS) – Tourism & Hospitality Training Program, in collaboration with Civiconnect, has been instrumental in empowering young talents aged 18 to 29. Through comprehensive training and hands-on experiences, we're equipping our youth to excel in the evolving tourism and hospitality landscape. This initiative not only supports talent retention but also strengthens the competitiveness of our local businesses. To learn more visit, **Lincoln.ca/YSS**

ICONIC LANDMARKS AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

These iconic landmarks function to provide a passive destination exploration for visitors and residents alike, while creating compelling environments to acquire user-generated content and capture memories for all who decide to take a load off and soak in the views. To learn more visit, **Lincoln.ca/BigBenches**





2023 Economic Indicators and Investments

PERMITS AND CONSTRUCTION

Promoting an "Open for Business" message and attracting new investment is an important role that will drive results in terms of economic development for the Town of Lincoln. The success of investment attraction can be measured through residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional construction statistics. Below is a snapshot of investment in Lincoln in 2023.

Type of Permit	Number of Permits in 2022	Estimated Construction Value
Residential	214	\$48,492,833.00
Agricultural	12	\$11,473,500.00
Industrial	5	\$13,140,000.00
Commercial	10	\$1,695,500.00
Institutional	8	\$8,851,059.00
Other	55	\$2,198,315.00
Totals	304	\$85,851,207.00

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Real GDP at Basic Prices (\$M 2012), Estimates for Lincoln, ON										
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (F)	2025 (F)	2026 (F)			
Real GDP (Millions \$ 2012)	1,182.48	1,292.91	1,353.62	1,395.20	1,433.74	1,483.30	1,528.70			
Change	-4.11	110.43	60.70	41.58	38.54	49.56	45.40			
% Change	-0.3%	9.3%	4.7%	2.1%	1.9%	3.5%	3.1%			



New Business and Expansions



LONDON BORN WINE CO.

In July 2023, London Born Wine Co. celebrated the grand opening of their new tasting room facility at 4000 Cherry Ave, Beamsville, ON. The new facility will be a great addition to Lincoln's wine and tourism sector, while providing more jobs and opportunities for our local economy.

🯓 DÖRKEN

DORKEN SYSTEMS INC.

Dorken Systems Inc, located at 4655 Delta Way in Beamsville completed their new 29,000 sq. ft. expansion. This expansion was the second phase of development at Dorken Systems that began back in 2017, growing their facility to a total 110,000 sq. ft. Since the beginning of the multi-year expansion, Dorken has added 29 more full-time positions at their Beamsville facility, with more jobs coming as the company continues to grow.



VINELAND RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE

In June 2023, Vineland Research & Innovation Centre held their official opening of the newly renovated and renamed Jordan Building. The new facility features two state-of-the-art laboratories and a dedicated root washing station. The facility will allow for research focused on soil health, substrates and sustainable horticulture practices.



BOEKESTYN GREENHOUSES

Boekestyn Greenhouses' new 210,000 sq. ft. facility is an excellent addition to Lincoln's greenhouse sector and contributes to Lincoln's overall diverse economy. Boekestyn Greenhouses employs approximately 60 full-time staff throughout the year and over 100 staff during their peak growing seasons.



NIAGARA CUSTOM CRUSH STUDIOS

Transformed from Stoney Ridge Estate Winery, the new Niagara Custom Crush Studio is Ontario's first and only custom crush winemaking facility. With their new expansive production facility, harvest crush pad, and specially sourced winemaking equipment, the facility has now become a space for local winemakers to craft their wines and for wine enthusiasts to enjoy their creations!





TOWN OF LINCOLN





AMSI INC.

In early 2023, AMSI Inc. began the development of a brand new 62,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility on Bartlett Road in Beamsville. The new facility is being developed on an eight-acre parcel of land, just south of Lincoln's Town Hall, and is one of Lincoln's last greenfield sites in our industrial park of this size. With the development now complete, AMSI Inc. brought approximately 75 new highly skilled jobs to Lincoln and is a great addition to our existing industrial park and manufacturing sector.



ARTERRA WINES CANADA

Arterra Wines Canada, Inc. acquired Angels Gate Winery and Kew Vineyards Estate Winery on the coveted Beamsville Bench appellation in late Spring 2023. The acquisition of these two esteemed wineries demonstrates Arterra's commitment to growing premium VQA offerings while leveraging its winemaking excellence. This mirrors Lincoln's strategy of attracting businesses that contribute to the region's economic growth while preserving its unique sense of place and grape-growing prowess.

Angels Gate Winery, known for producing Niagara's finest wines since 2002, boasts 110 acres of vineyards, while Kew Vineyards Estate Winery, established in 1975, holds over 80 acres of some of the region's oldest plantings. These acquisitions not only enhance Lincoln's reputation as a destination for wine enthusiasts but also draw new visitors and support to the region, aligning with our Tourism Strategy's objectives.



Business Sector Highlights

The Town of Lincoln prides itself on an innovative business culture that supports the growth and development of new ideas and techniques to grow our economy. The businesses below have demonstrated dedication and innovation in their respective industries to become leaders in their space, helping put Lincoln's diverse economy on the map.

CosMic Plants

COSMIC PLANTS

Congratulations to Lincoln's own CosMic Plants for becoming the first Canadian Orchid grower with an MPS-A certification! More Profitable Sustainability (MPS) is a monitoring tool that allows companies to push the right buttons to reduce their impact on the environment. CosMic Plants received an A certification for their following suitability efforts:

- 99% chemical free Integrated Pest Management, where chemicals are used as a last resort.
- Use of beneficial insects, nematodes, and BTs to create an environment where plants are strong, and pests and diseases don't thrive.
- Use of natural gas as a heat source for the high-efficiency boilers, and the exhaust CO2 is cooled down by economizers and then used in the greenhouses to enhance growth.

Thank you CosMic Plants your efforts to reduce your carbon footprint while continuing to produce a high-quality product in Lincoln.



ANNUAL BUSINESS REVIEW

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SUNRISE GREENHOUSES

Sunrise Greenhouses was awarded two awards in 2023: Grower of the Year from Greenhouse Canada and Large Business of the Year Award from the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce.

Founded in 1982 and located in the heart of horticulture country in Vineland, Sunrise Greenhouses functions out of over 1 million square feet of growing space. In addition to becoming one of Lincoln's largest greenhouse growers, Sunrise Greenhouses has been a leader in sustainability. The company currently houses two large sets of solar panels which have contributed to taking 500,000 pounds of CO2 out of our breathing air to date. Two large silos are housed on the main Sunrise property catching rainwater and storing it so they can water plants both in the greenhouses and fields without touching the city water system.

Congratulations to Sunrise Greenhouses for receiving the 2023 Grower of the Year from Greenhouse Canada and Large Business of the Year Award at the 2023 Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) hosted by the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce!







BENCH BREWING COMPANY

Congratulations to Bench Brewing Company for winning the Wastewater award at the 2023 Water Canada Awards! These highly esteemed awards recognize the people, projects, and technologies that have made significant contributions to Canada's water industry.

Presented in June 2023 during the 14th annual Water Canada Awards, Bench Brewing Company won the Wastewater Award for their pioneering use of Econse's wastewater recycling system. With Econse's treatment system, Bench has successfully achieved a zerowastewater footprint by recycling 100 per cent of its brewing wastewater. Through this process, upwards of 50,000 litres a day are reused for purposes such as irrigating the brewery's on-site hops field, apple orchard, and providing irrigation for neighbouring farms. Their approach showcased a groundbreaking method of sustainability in water-intensive industries.

Thank you, Bench Brewing Company, for your continued investment in sustainable business practices and for being a leader in sustainability in Lincoln!





TINTERN ROAD + Jack

TINTERN ROAD & JACK STYLE COLLECTIVE

Winner of the Niagara Benchlands' Tourism Award of Excellence at the 2023 OBAA, Tintern Road + Jack Style Collective has established itself as a beacon of style and sophistication in our community, with over 25 years of experience in fashion retail.

Led by owners Jacquelene & Steve Del Col, Tintern Road + Jack Style Collective stands out as a unique boutique offering expertly curated styles for both men and women. The Tintern Road brand brings haute couture elements to everyday fashion, while the Jack brand offers timeless classics for men. Their boutique, renowned for its stylish ambiance, has earned a coveted spot in Flare Magazine's "Top 10 Boutiques" list.

Beyond their exceptional selection of clothing, Tintern Road + Jack Style Collective is defined by its service-oriented approach and commitment to customer satisfaction. Jacquelene and Steve Del Col believe that fashion is a journey, and they strive to inspire, energize, and empower every visitor to their shop. Their dedication to creating memorable experiences extends far beyond the confines of their boutique, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who walks through their doors.

As we celebrate their achievements, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Jacquelene, Steve, and the entire team at Tintern Road + Jack Style Collective. Their passion, creativity, and dedication have undoubtedly enriched our community and contributed to its ongoing success.





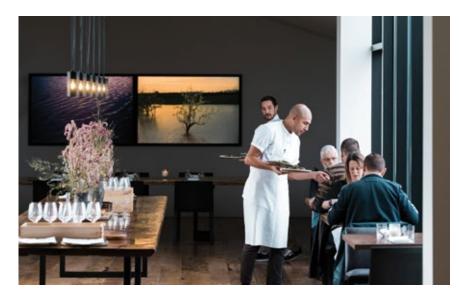
R[^]PM

RESTAURANT PEARL MORRISETTE

Restaurant Pearl Morissette (RPM), nestled in the heart of Jordan Station within the Town of Lincoln, has been honoured with a prestigious position in the highly acclaimed 2024 La Liste of the Top 1000 Restaurants in the World. This recognition not only underscores the culinary excellence of RPM, but also highlights the Niagara Benchlands as a global leader in tourism and gastronomic delight.

La Liste, often referred to as the gastronomic compass of the world, is a renowned guide that annually curates a list of the thousand best restaurants across the globe. The selection process is rigorous, drawing on data from reviews, ratings, and critiques from a multitude of sources, including renowned food critics, industry experts, and prestigious culinary guides. The final list represents a compilation of establishments that epitomize culinary mastery, exceptional service, and an unwavering commitment to providing unforgettable dining experiences.

Congratulations Restaurant Pearl Morissette for achieving a welldeserved position in the 2024 La Liste!



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HIDDEN BENCH ESTATE WINERY

Hidden Bench Estate Winery was named Canadian Winery of the Year at the 2023 National Wine Awards of Canada (NWAC), capturing a total of 12 medals (Two platinum, five gold, and five silver). Hidden Bench also celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023, making it extra special to win the top spot.

Hidden Bench is an artisanal, terroir-focused winery dedicated to crafting premium wines solely from its own organic estate vineyards situated within the Beamsville Bench VQA sub-appellation. Hidden Bench has emerged as the signature property among several highly regarded wineries on Niagara's Beamsville Bench, an area of gently sloping north-facing, limestone-laced sites, and maturing vineyards and wineries. At this year's NWAC, the Beamsville Bench took more platinum and gold medals than any other single sub-appellation in Canada, for Riesling, Chardonnay and Pinot Noir in particular.

Congratulations to Hidden Bench Winery for earning these outstanding achievements!





G cherry lane

CHERRY LANE

Cherry Lane was awarded the Medium Business of the Year Award at the 2023 OBAA. Congratulations on this well-deserved award! Since 1907, Cherry Lane has offered tart cherries, tart cherry juice concentrate, and a variety of other fruit products to consumers. The Smith family has a rich farming legacy spanning 10 generations, with the past 116 years being dedicated to their 400-acre farm in Vineland. Throughout its history, Cherry Lane has focused on cultivating cherries, peaches, and pears, but specifically specializing in Montmorency cherries, which are known for their tart flavor. In the past two decades, Cherry Lane's research has led them to create cherry juice concentrate, which has been proven to have significant health benefits.

CUSTOM SIGN LAB

Custom Sign Lab was awarded the Small Business of the Year Award at the 2023 OBAA). Custom Sign Lab brings brands to life from vehicle wrap to custom decals to the printing and fabrication of large signs and interior fixtures. The team at Custom Sign Lab include highly skilled, expert designers & experienced fabricators with fresh perspectives, on a mission to bring your brand images to life from concept to completion.

Congratulations to Katy and Clayton Letourneau and their team for receiving this significant recognition



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WorkInLincoln.ca

Economic Development Department

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF LINCOLN

4800 South Service Rd., Beamsville ON L3J 1L3 Phone: 905-563-2799

Paul Di Ianni Director of Economic Development and Communications pdiianni@lincoln.ca | ext. 272

Britnie Bazylewski Tourism Development Officer bbazylewski@lincoln.ca | ext. 218

Cameron Rotz Economic Development Officer crotz@lincoln.ca | ext. 518

