



Report Presented To:	Township of Southgate Council Meeting
Meeting Date:	2025-03-19
Report Number	EDO2025-005
Title:	South Grey Chamber of Commerce 2024 MOU Report
Open/Closed Session:	Open Session
Prepared By:	Brenna Carroll Economic Development Officer
Approved By:	Kenneth Melanson, RPP, MCIP Director, Development & Community Services
Approved By:	Jim Ellis Interim Chief Administrative Officer

Executive Summary:

This report is being provided to Council as information as the Township and the South Gey Chamber of Commerce (SGCC) have a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The attached document provides a summary of the SGCC’s activities in 2024 and its engagement with Southgate residents and business owners.

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Staff Report EDO2025-005 be received for information.

Background:

The SGCC is a regional Chamber of Commerce with approximately 200 members located in the municipalities of Grey Highlands and West Grey as well as the Townships of Southgate and Chatsworth. The Township of Southgate became a municipal member of the SGCC under a joint MOU in the calendar year of 2023.

At the September 4, 2024, Council meeting, [Staff Report EDO2024-009](#) was presented to Council regarding the renewal of a modified [MOU](#) between the Township and the SGCC. Both the report and the accompanying MOU by-law were approved as follows:

No. 2024-408

Moved By Councillor Shipston

Seconded By Councillor John

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report EDO2024-009 for information; and

That Council approve the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Grey Chamber of Commerce (SGCC) from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026.

No. 2024-409

Moved By Councillor Ferguson

Seconded By Deputy Mayor Dobreen

Be it resolved that by-law number 2024-108 being a by-law to authorize a memorandum of understanding between the South Grey Chamber of Commerce and the Corporation of the Township of Southgate be read a first, second and third time, finally passed, signed by the Mayor and the Clerk, sealed with the seal of the Corporation and entered into the by-law book.

The attached documents were provided SGCC to make account of their activities and responsibilities as per the MOU for the 2024 calendar year.

Analysis

As per the MOU, the SGCC is required to report on its previous year activities to Southgate Council annually on February 28. The attached documents were received by Township staff on February 26 and 27 respectively, demonstrating the SGCC's fulfilment of this responsibility.

The SGCC also provided three important reporting metrics added to the renewed MOU so that the Township could measure Southgate businesses' impact on and engagement with SGCC activities. See details on page 4 of the attached 2024 year-end report (Attachment 1).

Internal Policy and Legislated Requirements:

This report and attached documents align with [By-law Number 2024-108 – South Grey Chamber of Commerce Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#).

Financial and Resource Implications:

In keeping with the MOU, the Township of Southgate contributes \$10,000 to the SGCC annually. This contribution is matched by the three other municipalities within the SGCC's catchment area. These funds are drawn from the annual economic development budget.

Strategic Priorities:

Priority: A Thriving Economy

Goal: Goal 1: Support the Growth and Development of Existing Businesses in Southgate

Action Item: 1 c). Ensure the Distribution of Technology and Services to Local Businesses by Referring Them to the Correct Supports

Attachments:

2025-005-Attachment 1 South Grey Chamber of Commerce 2024 Year-end Report

2025-005-Attachment 2 Home and Garden Show 2024 Report

2025-005-Attachment 3 Snap and Shop South Grey 2024 Report

2025-005-Attachment 4 Business Awards Event 2024 Report