



# Chatham-Kent Tomorrow: BE THE CHANGE!

A Civic Engagement Opportunity for Community Leaders - A One Day Conference  
in Celebration of World Town Planning Day

Thursday, November 6, 2008 10 am to 6 pm

Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre

University of Guelph - Ridgetown Campus, Ridgetown, Ontario

**MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 11, 2008**

## **Calling Active Citizens and Community Leaders**

Active citizens and community leaders are being invited to take part in a one day conference to enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of Chatham-Kent. Chatham-Kent Tomorrow: BE THE CHANGE! is a project of the Community Strategic Planning Committee (CSPC) of Chatham-Kent Municipal Council and the University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus.

The conference will be held at the Rudy H. Brown Rural Development Centre, Ridgetown Campus, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday November 6 in celebration of World Town Planning Day. It will feature dynamic speakers and workshops on topics such as the knowledge fuelled economy, creative cultural communities and more. The conference will examine community strategic planning, challenges and solutions, and will be informed by new census data that specifically applies to the communities of Chatham-Kent.

“World Town Planning Day is a great opportunity for active citizens to review our community’s accomplishments and challenges, and identify opportunities for the future,” said Ken Tremblay, Chairperson of the Community Strategic Planning Committee. “By seeking and sharing knowledge, and generating creative new ideas through discussion, we can assist Council in creating a renewed and vibrant Chatham-Kent.”

“As educators, we at the Ridgetown Campus value new ideas and the flexibility needed to apply them in ever-changing circumstances,” said Ridgetown Campus Director Dr. Art Schaafsma, adding, “I believe this conference will be a prime example of that creativity.” Schaafsma notes that Dr. Alastair Summerlee, President of the University of Guelph, will be a keynote speaker at the conference.

Attendance at the conference is being limited to 300 people. To cover costs, registration fees apply and pre-registration is needed through the Municipality of Chatham-Kent website at [www.chatham-kent.ca](http://www.chatham-kent.ca). Interested citizens can also e-mail [CKcsp@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:CKcsp@chatham-kent.ca) or telephone the municipality at 519-360-1998.

Community-minded sponsors have made the event possible: United Way of Chatham-Kent, Chatham-Kent Health Alliance, Southwestern Ontario Bioproducts Innovation Network (SOBIN), Chatham-Kent Workforce Development Council (CKWDC), St. Clair College – Thames Campus, University of Guelph – Ridgetown Campus, Community Futures Development Corporation – Chatham-Kent (CFDC-CK), Maizex Seeds Inc., Dillon Consulting Ltd., Storey Samways Planning Ltd., IBI Group (London Office), W.IND RIDE Transportation Services, TekSavvy Solutions Inc., and the Chatham-Kent Women’s Centre.

World Town Planning Day (WTPD) is celebrated in 30 countries on four continents and is a special day to recognize and promote the role of planning in creating liveable communities.

**- END - (EDITORS’ NOTE FOLLOWS...)**

**EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

- *To facilitate on-site news coverage during the conference, media outlets are respectfully requested to arrange prior accreditation with the General Media Contact listed below.*
- *Employees of the media who wish to act as participants in the conference are asked to register as detailed in the above Media Release.*

Thank you.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Deborah Furlan, Coordinator, Community and Corporate Strategic Plans  
Human Resources, Corporate Services  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Civic Centre, 315 King Street West, Chatham ON N7M 5K8  
Tel: (519) 360-1998 x3052 E-mail: [ckcsp@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckcsp@chatham-kent.ca)

**GENERAL MEDIA CONTACT:**

Brian Worrall, Communications Officer - Human Resources, Corporate Services  
Municipality of Chatham-Kent, Civic Centre, 315 King Street West, Chatham ON N7M 5K8  
Tel: (519) 360-1998 x3624 E-mail: [ckcommunications@chatham-kent.ca](mailto:ckcommunications@chatham-kent.ca)



A project of the Community Strategic Planning Committee (CSPC)  
of Chatham-Kent Municipal Council

519.360.1998

[www.chatham-kent.ca](http://www.chatham-kent.ca)

