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Tech Park firing on all cylinders

BY PATRICK UGUCCIONI

A report released Dec. 6 shows Kanata North's economic engine is firing on all cylinders.

The results from the Kanata North Business Association's 2018 Economic Impact Analysis are trending up in every major indicator since a similar report was commissioned in 2015.

In presenting the report to a business audience at the Brookstreet Hotel, Amy McLeod, chair of the association's board of directors, pointed out businesses located in the country's largest tech park contributed \$13 billion to Canada's GDP this past year, up 66 percent from \$7.8 billion in 2015.

According to the report's findings, revenue contributions to governments are up 47 per cent federally, 40 percent provincially and 16 percent municipally.

The businesses in the tech park put \$170.5 million in property taxes into the municipal coffers. It continues to be a major employer in the region with 19,500 people working in the park.

Further, there another 10,000 indirect jobs in Ottawa and across eastern Ontario credited to the success of the tech park.



Anil Jhalli photo

Veronica Farmer, director of operations of the Kanata North Business Association, says results of a recent impact analysis show that Kanata North is an economic and innovation engine.

The association's executive director, Jamie Petten, says in the report "the updated analysis demonstrates Kanata North continues to grow and deliver value."

"The Kanata North Business Association is

fulfilling its mission to advocate for business success by fostering an environment where the best talent in Canada can innovate, create connections, and make an impact," she said.

Veronica Farmer, who

recently joined the association as director of operations, added the impressive results position Kanata North as "an economic and innovation engine for Ottawa, Ontario, Canada and the world."

"As Canada's largest technology park, Kanata North continues to drive growth in jobs, productivity or prosperity at unprecedented rates," she said.

Kanata North Coun. Jenna Sudds, the association's inaugural executive director, pointed to the diversity of businesses operating in the park as an important development in avoiding the historic boom/busts seen in the past.

"To me it is very exciting to see that innovation and evolution," she said.

Moving forward, the councillor said to keep feeding the economic engine, a solution has to be found to alleviate the traffic congestion in the area "that impacts the broader community" not just those in the tech park.

Farmer added the association will continue the conversation already started with all three levels of government to find short, mid and long-term solutions to alleviate congestion.

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Christmas tree sale to benefit local causes

BY JOHN CURRY

Freshly cut balsam fir Christmas trees are now on sale in Stittsville.

The Knights of Columbus of Holy Spirit Parish are once again this holiday season selling these Christmas trees at the church at 1489 Shea Road, just south of Abbott Street. T

The trees will be on sale up until Sunday, Dec. 23. Hours of operation are weekdays 5. to 9 p.m. and weekends 12 noon to 9 p.m.

The trees, ranging in height from six feet to eight feet, are freshly cut from a local supplier. Cost is \$45 per tree.

Proceeds from this Christmas tree sale will go to support local causes

such as the Stittsville Food Bank, the Holy Spirit youth ministry and bursaries for Sacred Heart High School students.

Everyone who purchases a tree will be eligible for a draw for a pizza dinner night compliments of Jojo's Pizza in Stittsville.

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