

# For Immediate Release

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
IN EASTERN ONTARIO GATHERS MOMENTUM;  
bio-industrial developments near Edwardsburgh/Cardinal's Port of Prescott  
and throughout Eastern Ontario are linked to sustainable forest certification

The Eastern Ontario Model Forest (EOMF) is spearheading a dramatic wood science and market driven project that could very well influence the economy of Eastern Ontario in a manner unprecedented since the 1950's when manufacturing (chemical, pulp and paper and electronics) was the dominant economic activity along the Seaway.

Eastern Ontario's significant forest-based economy is changing to a more sustainable, bio-product based, market-driven utilization of Eastern Ontario's unique and substantial mixed wood forests, available industrial lands, transportation links, labour force and quality of life. Drivers of this change are a complex combination of technology, energy issues, sustainability of our forests, creation of long term employment, concern about climate change, internal and international market trends and quality of life for Canadians.

For several years now the Eastern Ontario Model Forest has been working closely with Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal through the township's appointed "Wood Centre Committee" to establish a world scale multi-corporate, value-added wood products processing, marketing and exporting complex within the Township's larger industrial park.

At the same time, certification of Eastern Ontario forests under the Forest Stewardship Council provides accreditation for sustainable forestry and is gaining a firm foothold, thanks to the EOMF. "This is a potent combination in today's marketplace when people are concerned about the economy, the environment, climate change and our quality of life," states Jim McCreedy, President of the Eastern Ontario Model Forest.

The eco-industrial wood centre is expected to include the processing of wood for traditional and engineered products, as well as for developing processes involving refining and chemical extraction from wood. Bio-energy and/or biofuels from wood are also anticipated. Research and pilot project facilities are also being actively sought. The EOMF and the Township are already dealing with enquiries and want to be prepared to act quickly as site selectors and others seek information.

The entire project has taken a significant jump forward with the support of the Eastern Ontario Development Program and the 15 Community Development Corporations. Pre-engineering and architectural concepts that will move this project from a leading edge idea to realization will be completed by the engineering firm of Totten Sims Hubiki who are providing engineering and architectural consulting services to assist with the site planning of an Eco-industrial Park based on a wide variety of wood products and by-products.

TD Graham & Associates will prepare the marketing materials for the team who will visit the many organizations and businesses that have already shown an interest and also introducing the concept to new businesses, suppliers and others.

The advantages of a superior woody-based feedstock, along with rail, sea and trucking transportation all point toward the development of the wood-based Eco-industrial Park within Edwardsburgh/Cardinal's 350 acre industrial park. The development of the concept is progressing well with many partners providing technical assistance and encouragement.

Expertise has been provided by the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) of national, international and provincial prominence who provide insight into economics, science and technology, marketing, wood chemistry, climate change, senior government policy, research, business practices and eco-industrial development. "This is most helpful and is making this project all the more viable" state Mayor Larry Dishaw and Councilor Frank Noccey (chair) of the Wood Centre Committee of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal.