



## Business Resource

### First Elgincentsives Grants Awarded



Elgin County Economic Development is pleased to announce that Laurence Grant of Dutton-Dunwich and Great Lakes Farms of Southwold are the first successful applicants for funding under the new Elgincentsives Community Improvement Plan (CIP).

Mr. Grant has been approved for façade, building improvement, and energy efficiency grants in the amount of \$15,000. These funds will be used for the restoration of the former Iona General Store. The completed project will include a refurbished store, an enhanced façade, and a bed and breakfast.

"The grant from Elgincentsives will facilitate important transformations in this historic Elgin County building," said Mr. Grant. "The repairs will turn an eyesore into a showpiece, make the main floor of the building useable once again as a commercial space, and will make it possible to open a bed and breakfast facility catering to tourists on the old Highway 3 route. In 2016, the old Iona General store will come back from the brink."

Great Lakes Farms was approved for building conversion and Savour Elgin/Elgin Arts Trail supplemental grants in the amount of \$11,500. These funds will be used for the conversion of the Great Lakes Farms barn into a cold storage facility. This conversion will help to extend the retail and tourism seasons for the business.

"The Elgincentsives funding will help Great Lakes Farms provide local food to Southwold and Elgin County residents for a longer period of time throughout the year, as well as provide healthy produce to the school nutrition program," said owner MaryAnne Van De Gevel. "Great Lakes will be able to provide greater local employment and attract more visitors to the County as a result of this investment."

The Elgincentsives CIP offers financial incentives that cover up to 50% of eligible costs to a maximum of \$15,000 per project. Businesses will qualify for Elgincentsives provided that they meet certain criteria and are located in one of the following areas: Downtowns; agricultural areas; and, ports and lakeshore areas.

Grants are available for façade, signage, and property improvements; building improvements/restorations; building conversions/expansions; energy efficiency retrofits; feasibility and design studies; and outdoor art projects. Supplemental grants are available for multiple property owners or tenants looking to implement a coordinated approach to improvement projects and to members of the Savour Elgin and Elgin Arts Trail programs.

Visit the [Elgincentsives website](#) for more information or e-mail [jdias@elgin.ca](mailto:jdias@elgin.ca).

## Business Profile

### 2015 Elgin County Holiday Gift Guide



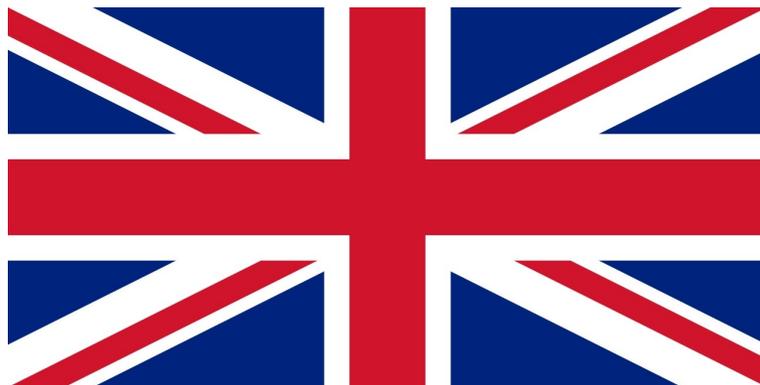
THIS HOLIDAY SEASON #SHOPELGIN



Shop close to home this holiday season and give your gifts a distinctly local flare. Shopping in Elgin County will save you time and give you the opportunity to purchase original, hand-crafted products while supporting small business. The main streets of Elgin County's towns and villages are the perfect places to pick up gifts that are truly one-of-a-kind and are sure to please everyone on your list. Throughout November and December Elgin County will be featuring unique gift ideas on Facebook and Twitter. Follow the **#ShopElgin** hashtag to see what we feature or use it yourself to show us what you have bought!

### Authentic British Treats – A Bit of Brit

Surprise a British expat with a taste of home or introduce a friend to a treat from jolly old England! A Bit of Brit in Sparta, carries authentic British chocolates, candies, teas, crisps, biscuits, and collectible gift items.



## [Gourmet Sea Salt - Pepper Tree Spice Company](#)

Surprise the foodie in your life with a jar of gourmet sea salt from the Pepper Tree Spice Company in Port Stanley. Choose from a variety of exciting flavours including Himalayan Pink Salt, Bonfire Smoked Sea Salt, and Black Lava Salt. While there, check out a wide selection of organic spices and get your purchases beautifully gift-wrapped on-site.



## [Fresh Nicaraguan Coffee – Village Square Coffee House](#)

When you buy Las Chicas Coffee from the Village Square Coffee House in Port Stanley, you are supporting communities in Nicaragua. The coffee is bought directly from farmers and freshly ground each day.

## [Local Artisan Crafts – The Village Collective](#)

Elgin County is home to a multitude of talented artisans and crafters. Step back in time and do your holiday shopping in the historic Village of Sparta. Choose from a selection of handmade soaps and fragrances, works of art from local painters, handmade jewellery, and clothing at the Village Collective, your one-stop shop for all your local Christmas needs.



## Shea Butter Soaps – Butter Me Up Soap Company

Located in downtown Aylmer the Butter Me Up Soap Company sells handmade soaps crafted with the highest quality, moisture rich oils and luxurious Shea Butter to keep your skin soft and supple year round. Choose from unique scents such as Pumpkin, Lemongrass Coconut, White Chocolate Raspberry and more!



## Flavoured Caramels – Century Chocolates

Buy that special someone a box of decadently delicious handmade flavoured caramels from Century Chocolates in West Lorne. Using only the highest quality chocolate and the gooiest caramel these treats are sure to make anyone melt! Chocolates are available by order only or in small quantities from Tasty Sweets Café and Bakery in West Lorne or at Canadale Nursery in St. Thomas every weekend in November.



For more great gift ideas visit the Elgin County Tourism [website](#).



# FESTIVE EVENTS IN elgincounty



## 2015 HOLIDAY PARADES

**Dutton** - Sat Nov 21, 3pm  
**Port Stanley** - Fri Nov 27, 7pm  
**West Lorne** - Fri Nov 27, 7pm  
**Aylmer** - Sat Nov 28, 2pm  
**Springfield** - Sat Dec 5, 1pm

**Rodney** - Sat Dec 5, 5:30pm  
**Port Burwell** - Sat Dec 5, 6pm  
**Fingal** - Sun Dec 6, 2pm  
**Belmont** - Sun Dec 6, 6pm  
**Straffordville** - Sat Dec 12, 10:30am

## OTHER SEASONAL EVENTS

**Canadale Christmas Open Houses** - Sat & Sun from Nov 7 - Nov 29  
**Family Flowers Parade of Poinsettias** - Thurs Nov 19 - Sat Nov 21  
**Arts & Cookery Bank 12 Days of Christmas** - Fri Nov 20 - Thurs Dec 3  
**Western Elgin Home for Christmas Shopping Event** - Fri Nov 20 - Sat Dec 5  
**A Sparta Country Christmas** - Sat Nov 21 & Sun Nov 22  
**Steed & Co. Lavender Christmas** - Sat Nov 28 & Sun Nov 29  
**Seasons Greetings at Longwoods Conservation Area** - Sun Nov 29  
**Christmas Spirit Walk at Springwater Conservation Area** - Sat Dec 5  
**Port Stanley Terminal Rail Santa Treats Train Rides** - Sat & Sun from Dec 5 - Dec 20  
**Home for the Holidays at Backus-Page House** - Mon Dec 7 to Fri Dec 11

Check out our website for events and activities all season long.

**1-877-GO-ELGIN x168**

**[www.elgintourist.com](http://www.elgintourist.com)**





# LOOKING FOR INFORMATION ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR YOUR AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS?

Township of Southwold Economic Development Committee is  
hosting an evening of information!

## PRESENTATIONS BY:

THE ONTARIO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL  
AFFAIRS - Vicki Luke: "Rural Economic Development Program"

&

THE ONTARIO SOIL AND CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION -  
Margaret May: "Growing Forward 2, GLASI, Farmland Health  
Incentive Program & Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program"

&

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION - Sam Zahnd: "Advanced  
Payments Program"

Presentations will be followed by question and answer periods.

JOIN US for an opportunity to be informed of the latest Provincial financial  
assistance programs for agricultural business development!

More information available from

ELGIN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - Justin Dias:  
"Elgincentives"

ELGIN BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTRE - Jeff Sheridan: "Business  
Loans"

at

the SHEDDEN KEYSTONE COMPLEX

Wednesday, DECEMBER 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

NETWORKING

FINANCING OPTIONS

GOVERNMENT  
GRANTS

NAVIGATING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

INTEREST FREE \$\$

Co-Sponsors: The County of Elgin and The Shedden Agricultural Society