



Elgin County
Progressive by Nature

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Business Profile

Aylmer Ethanol Plant Set to Double Production



IGPC Ethanol Inc. is expected to break ground this April on an expansion that once completed will allow it to double the ethanol production at its facility.

Established in 2007, the Aylmer plant is a division of Integrated Grain Processors Co-operative Inc., that was started in 2002 by a group of agribusiness individuals. The primary goals of this facility are to be a profitable agricultural business that gives farmers a greater market for their corn while allowing them to add value

through the co-operative ownership of a processing plant.

These goals are achieved by the processing of ethanol, a renewable, clean-burning fuel that is generated through the fermentation of sugar or converted starch contained in grains and in IGPC's case in corn. This environmentally sustainable fuel is traditionally used as a blending ingredient for gasoline.

According to Jim Grey, CEO, IGPC

Ethanol Inc. began to investigate the potential to expand the facility in mid-2016. They believed that the time was right considering the facility's success and the growing political discussion around climate change both provincially and nationally. This investigation led to the realization that an expansion project was viable. The project is currently in the preliminary engineering and cost estimation phase and IGPC hopes to break ground in April 2017 and be running the expanded facility at some point in the Fall of 2018. Now producing 50 million gallons of ethanol a year, the expansion will allow IGPC to produce 100 million gallons.

This project will cost in excess of \$100 million dollars and the results of an independent economic impact study expect the construction phase to generate \$200 million in economic activity for the area.

"This independent economic impact study also predicts that IGPC Ethanol Inc. will generate \$3.8 billion in economic activity over the next 25 years," says Jim Grey. "This is a very good project for the Town of Aylmer and the Province of Ontario."

In addition to construction jobs, the new expansion will require the hiring of an additional 20-25 permanent employees. When the facility opened for operation in 2008, it employed 35 people. It has since grown and will grow again as a result of the expansion at which point the facility will employ over 80 people and be one of the largest employers in the area.

Concurrent to the planned expansion, IGPC will welcome AirLiquide, a French company that will be building a facility on-site. The AirLiquide facility will capture the carbon dioxide released from the plant and resell it to the greenhouse industry.

IGPC initially chose to locate the ethanol plant in Aylmer because of its location in the heart of Ontario's grain production area and its easy access to major transportation routes; however, it is the relationship developed with the community over the past decade that has prompted IGPC to invest in the community through local employment and community partnerships. IGPC hopes to continue this relationship as the new expansion commences.



Tourism Profile

Winter in Elgin



Lake Erie's waters are frigid at this time of year and its beaches are quiet but there is no reason to suffer from cabin fever with so much to enjoy in Elgin County.

As the cold of winter settles across Ontario, Elgin County becomes a picturesque snow-covered haven for many traditional winter activities like snowshoeing, tobogganing and ice skating. [Trails](#) at many of the area's conservation areas are open year-round so don't be afraid to bundle up and get some much needed exercise.

If you prefer to stay in out of the cold, the main streets of Elgin County's towns and villages are the perfect places to spend a leisurely afternoon exploring the racks and shelves of quaint [boutiques](#). You are sure to find trendy clothing and jewellery pieces, fine local wines, handcrafted home décor pieces, fresh flowers, natural skin care products, hand-made pottery, homemade fudge, sweet local honey, artisan candles and more!

Elgin County is also home to a vibrant and thriving [arts community](#). Artists and performers of all types provide enough inspiration to keep you occupied until summer returns. Live entertainment can be enjoyed throughout the year in the form of musical and theatrical performances at a variety of quaint, intimate venues. Take in a performance by a series

of talented community players who bring their productions to the stages of the Aylmer Community Theatre, the West Elgin Dramatics Society, and the Port Burwell Periscope Playhouse. The Aylmer Performing Arts Council presents a series of live musical performances by Canadian musicians at the Aylmer Old Town Hall Theatre, a venue celebrated for its historic beauty.

Galleries and studios across the County feature original paintings, sculptures, photography, pottery, and hand crafted items. Visit Canada's oldest continuously operating pottery studio, take an interactive art class, or purchase a piece from one of Elgin's charming folk artists.

[Museums and cultural attractions](#) provide an important link to Elgin's rich heritage and keep the stories of our past alive. From pre – 18th century Attawandaron villages to the enigmatic Colonel Thomas Talbot, the railway boom of the 1850s, and the agricultural roots of our community, these museums highlight the development of Elgin County through collections of artifacts, documents, and photographs.

After a day of hiking through the woods or shopping for undiscovered treasures enjoy a bite to eat in one of Elgin's [Restaurants](#), tea rooms or cafés that dot the Elgin County countryside and line the main streets of its scenic towns and villages. Enjoy everything from hearty country fare to fine dining options. Sip a traditional British High Tea, tour a local winery, or sample sweet and decadent treats from a series of family run bakeries.

For all the great ways to keep busy this season visit www.elgintourist.com.

Survey Gives Employers a Voice



Your Workforce. Our Future.

A community-driven business survey will help employers plan their future workforce.

EmployerOne will also help the community address any skills, training, education and labour gaps identified by employers.

The survey will be conducted January 2 to 31 in Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford. All employers are encouraged to fill out the annual survey, which focuses on their workforce and human resource issues, needs and challenges.

“We all want to ensure employers have access to a strong labour supply so they can continue to grow and prosper,” said Debra Mountenay, executive director of the EMO Workforce Planning and Development Board. “EmployerOne gives employers a voice to tell the community about the issues they’re facing and their hiring needs.”

Mountenay added that the survey is a key tool to identify workforce issues that the community can try to respond to. “Hearing directly from employers gives us a chance to address issues before they become big problems.”

EmployerOne is supported by 40 partners including business, employment, education, workforce and economic development organizations. The EMO Workforce Planning and Development Board is the lead organization.

“Employers told us they’re tired of receiving similar

surveys from different organizations,” Mountenay said. “As a community, we’ve listened and have developed a collaborative survey that employers will only be asked to do each January.”

The survey is open to all employers, from small to large in employee size, and across all sectors of the local economy, including non-profit and community organizations with paid staff.

Employers only have to fill EmployerOne in once, even if they receive it from more than one organization. The time needed to complete the survey will depend on the size of the business, anywhere from 15 minutes for small ones to an hour or so for large ones. Employers can save answers as they go along, returning later to complete the survey.

For more information about EmployerOne, contact Martin Withenshaw at the EMO Workforce Planning and Development Board, 519-672-3499 or martin@workforcedevelopment.ca.

Click on the box below to do the survey:

A blue rectangular banner with white text and graphics. At the top is the EmployerOne Survey logo and tagline. Below is the text "Be Part of the Solution" and "Benefits to You:". A list of five benefits is provided, each preceded by a small icon of a checkmark in a square. The text "EMPLOYER ONE . . ." is written in a bold, sans-serif font above the list.

EMPLOYERone
survey

Your Workforce. Our Future.

Be Part of the Solution

Benefits to You:

EMPLOYER ONE . . .

- Is a helpful HR planning tool
- Helps identify skills shortages
- Informs the community about your needs
- Is a confidential, once-a-year survey
- Is for businesses big and small

EMPLOYERONE IS A COLLABORATION
OF WORKFORCE, ECONOMIC, EDUCATION
AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Community Resource

Elgin County Library Goes High-Tech with MyLibrary! App



In 2016 the Elgin County Library launched the MyLibrary! App for [Apple](#) product users. A new release of the MyLibrary! App now offers the same functionality for [Android](#) devices, empowering patrons to manage their

library accounts on-the-go.

“We are thrilled to offer MyLibrary! to our patrons who use an Android device,” said Laura Molnar, Library Coordinator at Elgin County Library. “The app is very popular with our current users, and offering a second platform greatly expands our ability to serve our total user base. Our goal is to provide patrons with the best possible experience, and MyLibrary! helps us bring our resources and services to patrons through their personal devices.”

The MyLibrary! App is free to download and includes four primary features:

- **Scan Book:** using this feature is a great way to see if your library has a copy of a must-read recommended by a friend. Simply scan the barcode on any book’s cover to see if it is available at the library, and in what formats.
- **Search Catalog:** this will link you to the mobile version of the library catalogue. Searching the catalogue and placing holds has never been easier!
- **My Account:** allows the user to see his/her checkouts, holds, and profile information. In addition, the app will scan a library card, making it easy for first-time users to sign-in to the app. You will need your PIN (assigned at library registration) to complete the login. Of note: a digital version of the library card number is available in My Account and is readable by library scanners.
- **Social Media:** provides direct access to Elgin County Library’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram webpages.

Business Resource

Sign Up for the EBRC Employment Training Program



Are you thinking of starting your own business, or would you just like to pick up a few new ideas for your existing business?

The Self-employment training program is a series of workshops presented by the [Elgin Business Resource Centre](#) that will provide clients with a good understanding of the viability of their business idea. Through a series of eight classes they will build a

business concept through self-assessment, goal setting, market research, marketing, operations and financial planning. Upon validation of the concept, business plan development and cash flow will give the client a good start to understanding how to manage their business.

Join the Elgin Business Resource Centre on January 30th from January 30 @ 9:00 am - 11:30 am at its St. Thomas location at 300 South Edgeware Rd. for an introduction to this series of workshops.