



Submission to Huntsville Community Master Plan Committee January 31, 2008

BACKGROUND

Education Huntsville (EH) was formed in 2001 from the Town Strategic Planning Issue team on post-secondary education as Huntsville/Muskoka Educational Society. We are an incorporated, not-for-profit charitable advocacy organization with the mission to ensure that members of our community have access to lifelong learning and educational opportunities within the Huntsville and surrounding area.

Education Huntsville's Mission and Vision are based upon belief that:

1. A well educated and trained population results in the development and retention of a quality workforce, the growth of new business and industry, and a positive, forward-looking community.
2. Education Huntsville partnerships with business, industry, government, educational institutions and community members can facilitate
 1. Identification of education and training needs
 2. Provision of education and training opportunities to meet those needs
3. As regional educational, training, and research opportunities evolve, Huntsville will become known as a 'learning destination' along with our popularity as a tourist mecca. The opportunity to combine learning and leisure will become another of the region's drawing cards.

OUR VISION

As the Town Master Plan process is an exercise in visioning, we'd like to let you know our vision:

Successful achievement of Education Huntsville's Mission will be indicated when:

1. There is access to a wide variety of educational, training, and research opportunities and facilities within the Huntsville and surrounding area.
2. Learning needs in the community are being met.

3. There are procedures in place to identify and respond to educational, training, and research needs.
4. There are partnerships between Education Huntsville and stakeholders representing community members, governments, business, institutions and organizations.
5. All stakeholders are aware of educational opportunities in the area.
6. Individuals and organizations within the Huntsville and surrounding area confirm the value of educational endeavours through involvement and support.
7. The Huntsville area is recognized for its achievements in education, training, and research.

OUR ACTION PLAN

With these principles in mind, Education Huntsville has developed a focused and comprehensive Action Plan for 2007-2008 that includes initiatives to:

1. Support the Town's initiative to bring a post-secondary institution to Huntsville.
2. Work to ensure that educational and training offerings in Huntsville and surrounding area are widely communicated.
3. Promote community and school partnerships that increase learning opportunities for students. These will include but are not limited to:
 - Supporting the high school co-op program
 - Supporting the high school program pathway initiatives
 - Addressing barriers to, and raising awareness of, apprenticeship programs.

OUR POSITION

EH strongly supports Town initiatives to bring post secondary education to Huntsville and urges the Town to proceed to stage 2 of the Feasibility Study to establish a Georgian College – Nipissing University presence in Huntsville.

Further, EH encourages the Town to remain open to and to explore possibilities of partnerships with other post secondary institutions as opportunities and needs arise.

EH encourages the Town to explore creative ways to deliver post secondary education to Huntsville and area residents, such as,

- Subsidized transportation to learning sites (e.g., Bracebridge)
- An e-learning centre where students would have access to broadband internet access for online courses and research

- Post secondary education as a regular Town budget item (capital) to build up a reserve that will allow flexibility to respond quickly to opportunities as they arise

We have no doubt that the presence of a post secondary institution and availability of a range of educational opportunities will benefit Huntsville in any number of ways:

- Stem the exodus of younger people from the Huntsville area
- Provide new employment opportunities and attract an educated workforce
- Assist in developing a more balanced, diverse community
- Help in the continuing transformation of our beleaguered industrial economy to an information/knowledge and service based economy.

Education Huntsville is fully prepared to support Council by all available avenues, in its efforts to enhance educational opportunities in our communities.

Respectfully submitted to the Town of Huntsville Community Master Plan Committee by the Board of Education Huntsville:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Sector/Affiliation</u>
Frank Thiele	Chair	Health, Education
Kath Roberts	Vice Chair	Education
Louise Parrott	Secretary	Health
Marguerite Urban	Treasurer	Community Development
Anne Cool	Past Chair	Education, Industry
Fran Coleman		Council Appointee
Pat Peat		Muskoka Literacy Council
Tanya Fraser		Education
Bob Attfield		Education
Maureen Cubberley		Library