



Mayor Gordon Comments

Press Conference, March 22, 2018

I would like to thank everyone for attending today's Press Conference so we can provide you with additional information concerning the acquisition of the Kemptville Campus and the future of the Education and Community Hub. This is a very exciting day for North Grenville!

This process started in 2014 and has culminated in today's Press Conference. It has been a vision of Council to have the ownership of the College lands remain with the Municipality. I would like to provide you with a timeline of these events.

- March 12, 2014 - The University of Guelph announced that they would be closing their campuses in Kemptville and Alfred, Ontario; were no longer accepting new students; and, would stop teaching at the end of 2015. Nearly all their existing programs would be relocated or replaced at other schools, but the move would still cause at least 112 job losses.
- December 8, 2014 - The Province tasked former Federal Agriculture Minister Lyle Vanclief with putting together a report on the 97-year-old Kemptville College's longer-term future. The report, dated December 8, stated that the Province should consider divesting the property to the Municipality of North Grenville so it can be transformed into a facility that teaches more than just agriculture.
- March 31, 2016 – BDO Canada released their Business Feasibility Assessment of Kemptville College. Their report concluded that a competitive analysis of the agricultural education/hub market demonstrates a significant value proposition for the Kemptville College venture and the educational and community space offerings at Kemptville College would make it the most comprehensive agricultural hub in the Province.

- April 11, 2016 – Council passed a resolution to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to proceed with negotiations on behalf of the Municipality of North Grenville with the Province of Ontario for the acquisition of the Kemptville College lands.
- October 26, 2017 – Council approved an agreement in principle for the purchase of a large portion of the Kemptville Campus after just over 18 months of negotiations with the Province.
- December 22, 2017 – Council approved the agreement of purchase and sale to acquire the Kemptville Campus property from the Agricultural Research Institute of Ontario (ARIO) and subsequent sale to Conseil des écoles Publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (the French Language Public School Board)
- March 28, 2018 – This is the anticipated date that the acquisition process will conclude and the property transferred.

As you can see from this timeline provided to you, it has been just over 4 years since the announcement by the University of Guelph to close this campus to where we stand before you today at this press conference.

I will now ask Brian Carré, Chief Administrative Officer for the Municipality of North Grenville, to provide you with information about the acquisition and next steps.