

Opportunities abound in old industrial sites

Dalip Multani capitalizes on existing services to bring renewal

By MICHAEL-ALLAN MARRON
EXPOSITOR STAFF / BRANTFORD

Spending a couple of hours with rebuilder Dalip Multani and some of his consultants in his sales office on Grey Street is like sitting in on a think tank for the latest development policies of the Dalton McGuinty government.

The office is Multani's nerve centre for many of his building projects that run under the banner of Multani Custom Homes.

Among them are the building and selling of units in Central Square Condominiums, his nearly finished redevelopment of the former Barber Ellis brownfield property in East Ward; the remediation and construction of a housing subdivision on former Solaray industrial site on Grand River Avenue; and an affordable housing apartment building on Harris Avenue.

With him as he talks in depth about these endeavours are Ajay Kaushik, an accounting consultant with acquired expertise in the financing of brownfield redevelopment, and housing consultant Tim Welch, who is assisting Multani with his affordable housing project.

It's clear they are versant about the Liberal government's emerging development policies to handle a movement of four million people into the recently identified Greater Golden Horseshoe over the next three decades, with one million expected for Brantford, Brant County, Cambridge, Guelph and other communities in the Grand River Watershed.

Those policies include the Greenbelt



Businessmen Steve Charest, Gabriel Kirchberger and Dalip Multani have each come to Brantford, spent millions of dollars and taken enormous risks on residential, commercial and industrial developments in brownfields, old downtown buildings and venerable neighbourhoods.

In the process, they are rebuilding a new economy on the tired ground of Brantford's earlier prosperity.

This three-part series takes an intimate look each entrepreneur's work.

Saturday: Steve Charest

Monday: Gabriel Kirchberger

Today: Dalip Multani

Protection Act already introduced in the legislature to protect designated greenspace around the horseshoe, which will likely cause migration to leapfrog into the watershed area; and the pending final report on Places To Grow.

The latter document will target brownfields, old city cores and open spaces in established neighbourhoods as preferred development areas to handle the population influx.

In the new thinking, revitalization and infill projects will be encouraged

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Dalip Multani stands inside a unit at Central Square Condominiums, a complex he's developing in East Ward.

Christopher Smith, Expositor Staff