



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Business Profile
Enns Textile Pg01

Business Resource
Enterprise Elgin
Business Development
Competition Pg02

Tourism Profile
Festival and Event
Partnership Program
Pg03

Business Profile
Whispers of Eden Gift
Shop Pg04

Business Profile
Corner View Café Pg05

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Business Profile

Enns Textile - Bringing Innovation to the Automotive Industry



Francisco Enns was a buyer at Formet Industries in St. Thomas when he conceived the idea for [Enns Textile](#). As part of his position, he traveled and met with many suppliers and as a result realized that a gap existed in the automotive part packaging industry.

Automotive parts are often manufactured and assembled in different locations. This requires parts to be shipped regularly from one location to another without being damaged. This is particularly true for exterior parts and painted parts that must not be scuffed or scratched in transit. Traditional packaging for these parts is made of cardboard and plastic bags which are disposed of after one use. This produces a considerable amount of waste and is costly for automotive suppliers.

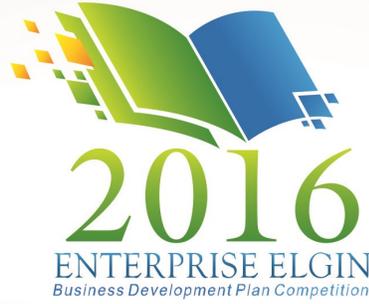
Francisco developed an innovative type of reusable packaging that is designed specifically to fit the parts of a particular model of vehicle. The packaging is made from a soft vinyl-based material sewn into bags or totes. Individual pockets are

labelled with bar codes to sequence parts making it much easier for the manufacturers to assemble the finished product. The packaging is then reused by the supplier for the entire run of a particular model of car, which can be between 3 and 5 years. This reduces both waste and is more cost effective.

Enns Textile opened in 2007 in the basement of Francisco's home in Aylmer, ON. He later moved it into his garage and then to a small shop in the Aylmer Business Park to accommodate growing demand for his product. Demand for Enns Textile's products increased so much that in 2015 they needed to relocate to a 30,000 square foot facility inside the Elgin Innovation Centre. The facility now employs up to 35 people and ships orders to car and motorcycle manufacturers across North America and Mexico.

The Aylmer company continues to grow and has recently reached a significant milestone.

"We have now become the largest customer of this type of soft vinyl-based fabric," says Francisco. "This means we are the largest manufacturer of this type of packaging in the province of Ontario."



ENTERPRISE ELGIN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PLAN COMPETITION TRADE SHOW

**Keystone Complex in Shedden (35921 Talbot Line)
on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm
to coincide with the launch of the
Enterprise Elgin Business Development Plan Competition**

Trade show booth space is provided at no cost if you are an Ontario Registered Business in Elgin County. Booth space is provided on a first come first served basis.

To reserve your space please call or email: Sharen Symondson 519-633-7597 ext. 461, ssymondson@elgincfdc.ca

or
Cindy Hertwig at 519-633-7597 ext.335, chertwig@elgincfdc.ca

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Tourism Profile

Four Local Events Receive Elgin County Funding

Elgin County Economic Development is pleased to announce that the Festival and Event Partnership Program grant recipients for 2016 have been chosen.

Elgin County has granted a total of \$6,000 to local events including Port Stanley Harbour Fest, the Strawberry Fields Kite Festival, the Off the Wall Off the Vine Art Show, and Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys.

“Festivals and events make our community come alive,” said Tourism Services Coordinator Lindsey Duncan. “We are pleased to support events that enhance the quality of life in our County and attract visitors to the area each year.”

Applicants selected best met the program criteria,

which included, but was not limited to attracting visitors to the County; retaining local spending; and enhancing the quality of place by organizing festivals and events within the community.

This is the seventh year that the County of Elgin has encouraged festivals and events by providing contributions to community organizations that take it upon themselves to organize these events.

Elgin County encourages all local festivals and events in the area and hopes to provide the Festival and Event Partnership Program again in 2017.

For more information on all festivals and events in Elgin this summer visit: www.elgintourist.com.



Marcia Pensa, Sharron Russell, Kim Yuhasz, Penny Crichton - Off the Wall, Off the Vine Art Show; Will Faughnan - Harbour Fest; Theresa Vandevenne - Cactus, Cattle and Cowboys; Alan Smith - Elgin County Economic Development; Eric Curtis - Strawberry Fields Kite Festival.

Business Profile

Whispers of Eden Gift Shop – Whimsical in West Lorne

It was Deanna Brown Furlong's time as a psychiatric nurse that ultimately led her to seek out alternative methods of helping people. During a long-term leave, resulting from work related injuries, Deanna decided to follow her dream and open up a small spiritual shop. She had travelled across Canada and the United States doing spiritual readings but wanted a permanent location to offer her services that also included, Reiki, Reflexology, and various spiritual development workshops. At the recommendation of a friend she opened Whispers of Eden in down town West Lorne.

What started as a location for Deanna to provide a variety of spiritual services has blossomed into a must visit location for whimsical local giftware. She really wanted to promote locally made products and through an organic process of networking with a few artisans and crafters, Deanna was able to fill her shop with eclectic, one-of-a-kind items.

Visitors to Whispers of Eden are immediately made to feel welcome with the friendly offer of a free tea or coffee. As they browse the shelves they will find unique items handmade by 32 local artisans and crafters. The store carries crystals, natural soaps and lotions, salt lamps, books, CDs, handmade jewellery, stained glass art, soap stone carvings and more. Deanna is always acquiring new and exciting items in an attempt to keep her selection fresh and exciting for her customers.

Bringing people together has always been Deanna's primary goal. She sees Whispers of Eden not only as a business, but as a place where the community can gather to grow stronger.

"I wanted to create a place where people felt comfortable and could come to talk about their feelings," says Deanna. "Sometimes people come in just to talk, and that's fine with me."

For more information about Whispers of Eden or to inquire about Deanna Brown Furlong's services visit Whispers of Eden at 182 A Main Street West Lorne or like the [Whispers of Eden Facebook Page](#) for regular updates.



Business Profile

The Corner View Café in Port Bruce is “Shore to Please”



Life in the friendly, lake side hamlet of Port Bruce is like being on a permanent vacation. The community's quiet, tranquil atmosphere is perfect for anyone who wants to get away from the hustle and bustle of day to day life and really enjoy every moment. For decades the Port Bruce Pier has been a prime location for anglers to spend an enjoyable afternoon reeling in Lake Erie Perch and Pickerel, and the beach is one of the best spots in the area to take in a stunning sunset. In 2016 Mobility Mats were installed along the beach allowing for greater waterfront access and enjoyment.

For the past six years, from dawn to dusk each day the [Corner View Café](#) has been a staple for Port Bruce residents and visitors alike. Located - at the corner of Colin Street and Imperial Road, just steps from the beach, it offers ample indoor and patio seating and is the perfect place to spend a relaxing couple of hours enjoying a bite to eat.

The restaurant is open for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner and a friendly staff serves up a variety of different options in generous portions. Corner View Café offers a large menu that varies with the seasons. More hearty dishes including shepherd's pie and chicken pot pie are offered in the spring and fall while the summer months are dominated by fresh Perch and Pickerel, house made hamburgers, salads, wraps, french fries, onion

rings, and ice cream! The restaurant even makes a point of sourcing its ice cream locally – at Shaw's Ice Cream in nearby Port Stanley.

“Everything we make is fresh to order,” said owner Nathan Smale. “We want customers to leave with their stomachs full and smiles on their faces.”

Nathan bought the restaurant from a friend six years ago after working as an employee for a year. He participated in the Elgin Business Resource Centre's Self-Employment Benefits Program and was the recipient of the organization's 2012 Small Business Start-up Award. Recently he also received the Elgin Business Resource Centre's Jeffrey Karp Award for successfully reaching the milestone of five years in business. He credits hard-work and the supportive community in Port Bruce for helping his business to grow.

“We all know each other around here,” says Nathan. “We might be a small community but everyone here is treated like family.”

The restaurant is open from March to November each year with hours that vary seasonally. At the height of summer (July to Mid-September) Corner View Café is open seven days a week. For restaurant hours, menu, and more information visit [Corner View Café on Facebook](#) .

