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To: leanne@abnorth.com
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Building Better Communities | February 2019



Message From Doug

We always attribute the New Year as a time for fresh starts and resolutions - but any single day or time is the perfect time to have a fresh start! So in this spirit, here are a few things up and coming for 13 Ways Inc.:

- **An Audiobook** - Yes you heard it here first! An audiobook is in the works for "13 Ways to Kill Your Community".
- **New Tools on our Website** - Take a moment to check out our [brand new blog](#) and the [community assessments tool](#). The community assessment tool is a simple survey that we created to give communities a clear, unbiased picture of its strengths and weaknesses, and to allow for a plan to be devised for a better future.
- **Speaking of the Blog** - Each month I will be sharing thoughts and ideas that I believe will assist communities. These are conversations we hear every day in every community and I'm calling them the "13 Pathways to Success". If you have an area where you feel stuck, reach out and let me know- I would love to help and write about it.
- **Tools to take to work** - The team and I are creating documents that we hope will help you with implementing your strategies for your community. The challenge of growth,

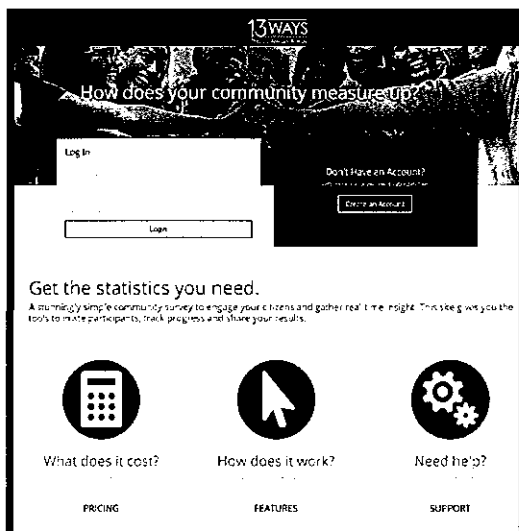
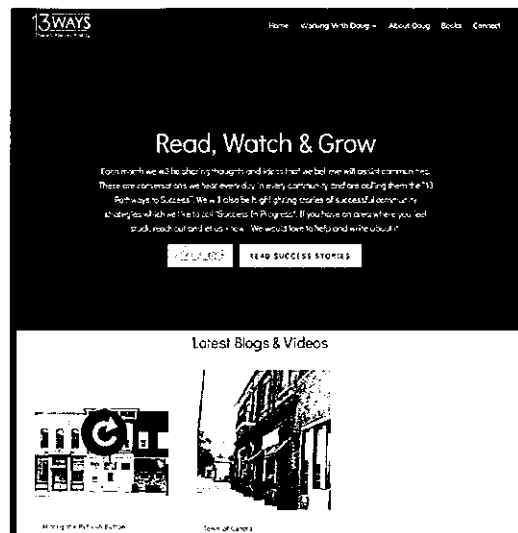
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branding your new ideas, and economic development are just some of the topics we will be covering. We will be sharing these on our website over the next year, so keep your eyes peeled!

With all of this, we felt it appropriate to lead with February's Pathway to Success: **Hitting the Refresh Button**.

New Blog Post: "Hitting the Refresh Button"

Head to our new [blog](#) to read about how you really can have the best of both worlds when it comes to growth and tradition. Your community has the ability to embrace its wonderful roots and soar to new heights in today's economy. With the Calgary Stampede as a strong example, communities can thrive with their age-old traditions in modern society.



The New Community Assessment Tool

The [community assessment tool](#) is a great way to receive a clear picture of who your community is, both strengths and weaknesses, to allow for a plan to be devised for a better future.

Success in Progress

Downtown Refresh: Town of Canora

The Canora Revive Group (CRG) started with a paintbrush and a love for the community; a true grassroots effort to beautify the Town through community-wide partnerships and volunteerism.

Like many rural Saskatchewan towns, Canora was founded over a century ago and portions of the original infrastructure are still in place today. While this infrastructure brings the appeal of the past, it is also in need of consistent upkeep and attention. At the same time, many business owners do not have the time or resources needed to maintain, let alone improve, their storefronts and spaces.

This is where the CRG comes in. The CRG is designed to beautify the downtown commercial district while also involving the community at large through volunteerism to make aesthetic changes to the storefronts of local businesses. While local businesses are required to purchase the necessary equipment, the CRG does all the physical labour through the efforts and work of community groups and individual volunteers.

This project is special because meaningful relationships were formed with local business owners to choose properties, decide on the scope of the work, and to secure funding for the project while active partnerships were also created with a variety of volunteers, including local business owners themselves, youth volunteers from the Canora Composite School, members of the local 4-H club as well as private individuals, to carry out the work.

The CRG was initially created out of necessity to address both the drab appearance of downtown and the complaints from residents and visitors, but it has become so much more. It plays a significant role in the improved appearance and pride seen in Canora's downtown district, its local businesses, and the community as a whole.

Sometimes, a fresh coat of paint can make a world of difference. To read more please visit our blog's "[Success in Progress](#)" section.

We loving hearing about success in progress stories. Please send us yours to heather@13ways.ca.

February 20-21 - Brandon, MB

March 2 - Yellowknife, NT

March 5-6 - Hays, KS

March 27 - Peterborough, ON

April 4-5 - Shawnigan Lake, BC

April 10 - Regina, SK

April 16 - Thompsonville, MI

May 6-7 - Canmore, AB

May 10-12 - Windsor, ON

May 27 - St. John's, NL



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