

5.1. Façade and Signage Improvement and Rear Parking Lot Grant (Mainstreet Revitalization)

The Façade and Signage Improvement Grant Program supports the revitalization and enrichment of commercial business storefronts. The purpose of the grant is to cover a portion of the project costs for exterior improvements to the public-facing facades of existing commercial and industrial buildings.

Agriculture properties which are open to the visiting public, and which represent value-added agriculture activity (i.e. farm retail outlet) are also eligible.

This grant is to be used by property owners and tenants to revitalize, restore and rehabilitate building facades to recommend attractive, enhanced improvements to buildings that are eligible. Improvements must fit with the character of the community and meet heritage requirements, where designated.

The Rear Parking Lot Grant Program supports parking for owners, tenants, and employees in the rear yards of the commercial businesses and residential units within the Historic Core as identified in the Official Plan, as amended. Additional parking spaces and/or the revitalization of existing parking spaces will free up spaces on main street for patrons and visitors.

It is encouraged to submit joint applications to facilitate a connected network of shared parking lots.

The Municipality reserves the right to defer or reject applications where adjacent or nearby property owners choose not to participate in shared use agreements, and this inhibits legal access to the applicant's property.

Eligible Projects

- a) New signage installation and replacement of existing business signs;
- b) Exterior painting, cleaning and/or restoration of existing masonry;
- c) Repairs, replacement or restoration of windows and doors which utilize the same size and shape as the original historic opening;
- d) Replacement of external building features; (awnings, cornices, cupolas, etcetera)
- e) Installation and replacement of exterior lighting (encouraged to upgrade to energy efficient options and must be Darksky compliant);
- f) Landscaping and vegetative beautification efforts (i.e. tree planting, vegetative planters, etcetera);
- g) Rear Parking Lot Improvements
 - o Cost of materials to surface and mark parking areas
 - o Professional fees for engineering or landscaping design, land surveyor or other design consultants, if the construction is completed.
- h) Other similar projects may be approved by South Huron staff;
- i) Permit and/or application fees

Façade and Signage Improvement and Rear Parking Lot Grant Details

The municipality may provide up to a maximum of \$10,000 or 50% of the eligible project costs, whichever is less. A maximum dollar value for the grant will be determined annually given the amount of funding made available for community improvement each year. The grant will be payable following the completion of the work to the satisfaction of municipal staff.

Reference the CIP Application Form for more details regarding application submission.