

# Marriott booking large events as hotel nears completion

By Barb McKay

Management at the new TownePlace Suites Marriott in Kincardine is looking to the local hospitality industry for support to help bring economic opportunities to the community.

The new hotel and conference centre, on track to open mid-December, is already

taking bookings for its facility, but in order to draw large groups for meetings and conventions it will need to work closely with other hotels in the area. The Marriott contains 84 guest suites but a portion of the rooms are set aside for lengthier stays.

Travis Crawford, the hotel's sales and marketing manager, said

the Shriners Club has already booked the Marriott's meeting space for a conference in June but will require 150 hotel rooms.

"We need other hotels to work with us so we can accommodate these types of events," he said.

The Shriners plan to parade down Queen Street during the club's

stay in Kincardine and spouses of members have also arranged an afternoon shopping excursion downtown. Attracting events like this to Kincardine not only generates revenue for the Marriott, but also for many other businesses in the community, Crawford pointed out.

TownePlace Suites general manager Jackie Pawlikowski told *The Independent* on Thursday that the hotel was responding to a Request for Proposals from the Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) by submitting a bid to host the council's spring meeting. The meeting will bring together between 75 and 100 economic development professionals, land developers, government officials, realtors and tourism industry representatives to network and share information.

It is an opportunity to showcase what Kincardine has to offer and perhaps create new opportunities for the municipality.

"We are trying to bring in things we have not been able to host before," said Pawlikowski.

After months of construction, there is finally an end in sight. Walls are framed on the main floor, electrical wiring is installed, washrooms are plumbed and dry-wall is going up. The suites on the four upper floors are well underway with some near completion. All contain kitchenettes.

A large portion of the main floor is made up of meeting space.

The Highland Room is 3,000 square feet with partitions to break the room up into several smaller rooms for more intimate functions. A second conference room, the Huron Room, is 1,000 square feet and can also be partitioned off into three smaller board rooms. The conference facilities are equipped with high-end audio visual equipment, including projector screens around the rooms.

Also on the main level, is a room with a golf simulator and an 11-foot screen that can also be used to watch movies and play video games. Near the conference rooms is a bar that will serve tapas-style food in a lounge area with comfortable seating and a fireplace. The hotel also features an outdoor licensed patio,

fitness room, outdoor mini basketball court and an indoor saltwater pool.

Contrary to rumours, the Marriott will not have a full restaurant, but it will contain two kitchens - one to cook up hot breakfasts and bar fare and the other to be used by caterers brought in for events. At this time, there are no plans to add a restaurant.

The hotel's developers, Legacy Hospitality Management and Development, own several acres of land off of Millennium Way where the Marriott is situated, and there are plans to add retail space that would be leased out and possibly a restaurant. Crawford said the developers have some good leads and something could materialize next year.



TownePlace Suites general manager Jackie Pawlikowski, left, and site supervisor Bill Rothdeutsch of GUPM stand in what will be the main conference facility in the hotel. (Barb McKay photo)

## The Veteran

By  
Anna Marriott Evans,  
Forest

The veteran's hair was sparse and white  
His face was thin and drawn,  
With trembling hand he held salute  
as they pushed his wheelchair along.

While by the cenotaph he quietly sat  
His cheeks became wet with tears,  
For he thought of fallen comrades  
In those battlefields of long past years.

On his coat were pinned his medals,  
And the red poppy he so proudly wore,  
A small token in remembrance of them,  
He prayed never again would be war.

As reverently was played the "Last Post,"  
With bowed head his tears did flow,  
In gratitude for their countries freed,  
All victim comrades, felled by the foe.

In 1918—the 11th hour, 11th day, 11th month  
Freedom was gained from a "zone of hell"  
In those battlefields so far from home,  
Amidst horror happenings too harsh to tell.

As they wheeled him from the cenotaph  
Solemnly he held his hand on his breast,  
Beneath the medals and poppy he wore—  
Praying, "God extol them in Eternal rest."

