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NEWS LOCAL

Readers take a swing at Shoemaker's Amazon pitch



By Brian Kelly, Sault Star
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Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker speaks to members of Strive at Low and Slow on Friday.

Matthew Shoemaker brought his Amazon pitch to a Strive: Young Professionals Group of Sault Ste. Marie on Friday.

The Internet retailer wants to establish a second corporate headquarters in North America. "What we really offer is a lifestyle that nobody else can match," said the Ward 3 city councillor during a Strive meeting at Low and Slow. "That's what really everybody loves about the Sault." He listed a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, boating and snowmobiling, available to residents.

"Whatever you want to do, four seasons, we can do it here in the Sault and that's something that you won't get in Chicago, Toronto, Dallas," said Shoemaker of other cities keen to see Amazon bring up to 50,000 jobs to its second HQ. "You have to go somewhere when you're in those cities to do all these things."

Sault Star readers are weighing in on the city's bid.

"I recently moved back to (Sault Ste. Marie) after being away for 20 years," said Jennifer Francella. "It needs true revitalization and it's going to take a lot of pitches and fails, but if we don't pitch then we don't have a chance to succeed."

"The Sault's role as an economic engine contributing tax dollars to the municipal/provincial/federal coffers are long, long over," said Bernie McGillis. "It is merely a tax drain, and a dying community. The Amazon team will have ZERO interest in Shoemaker and his idiotic waste of time."

"RFP says they need a city of a million people," said John Odonnell on Facebook. "Where would 50,000 employees live? Chances zero."

"I think we will never be successful in attracting this business," said Kevin Murray.

"Although it would be a huge economic boom for us if we were to succeed. Good luck."

THE SAULT STAR HEARD SHOEMAKER'S PITCH. A STORY IS COMING ON SATURDAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE COUNCILLOR'S PITCH TO BRING AMAZON TO THE CITY
Email reporter Brian Kelly at btKelly@postmedia.com

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