



**IT'S TIME TO NAME YOUR
FAVOURITE LOCAL BUSINESS**

125 CATEGORIES • VOTE TODAY!

CLICK HERE FOR SURVEY



**EXCLUSIVE FOR OUR
CANADIAN VETERANS
and ARMED FORCES**

25% OFF
O.R.P.
ALL LA-Z-BOY



**PROMO ENDS
SAT. NOV. 11**

VISIT US

NEWS LOCAL

Shoemaker pleased with Amazon bid submission

By Elaine Della-Mattia, Sault Star

Friday, October 20, 2017 2:49:30 EDT PM



(AFP/Getty Images)

It could be dubbed “Amazon North,” a second headquarters that has “a nice ring to it,” the proposal reads, highlighting the majestic beauty of Northern Ontario, complete with waterways, a rugged terrain and a train.

The 25-page proposal from the Twin Sault's to tout its ability to house a second Amazon headquarters was received Wednesday in the company giant's Seattle office, Ward 3 Coun. Matthew Shoemaker confirms.

A digital copy and link to the website www.amazonnorth.ca accompanies the package and the website allows interested community members to read the highlights of the submitted package at their own convenience, Shoemaker said in an interview.

The exercise, he said, has created a complete package that the EDC and city can use for other applications and ultimately did not take a long time to complete.

"Most of the information was available at our finger tips and we could pull it together very quickly," he said.

Amazon's request for proposal process itself has created a buzz internationally, provincially and even locally.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, in a letter to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, outlines reasons why and how Canada would make the US \$5 billion project dubbed HQ2, a profitable home.

He also highlighted facts about the country's commercial, cultural and social sectors and the government's push on investment in various sectors including training, education and business.

Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne also weighed in with a press release supporting cities who have submitted bids.

Wynne states "some have asked whether Amazon can afford to operate in Ontario. I think time will prove that the more relevant question is whether Amazon can afford not to be here. For two straight years, Ontario has won Site Selection Magazine's Canadian Competitiveness Award for being the best place in Canada to make a new business investment. We continue to attract more foreign direct investment than any other Canadian province. Businesses here pay lower corporate taxes than in U.S. states, and the percentage of adults with a postsecondary education exceeds that of any Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) nation. The talent and skills of Ontario's people are our greatest competitive advantage. Since 2010, we've created more than 77,000 jobs in the ICT sector. That's more than New York and Massachusetts combined. And it explains why the list of global tech giants making big moves in Ontario already includes Google, Uber and Thomson Reuters."

The same flavor of message is laid out in Sault Ste. Marie's bid.

Shoemaker readily admits he trades the polite, modest side of the community into a loud and proud message that explains the bold proposal as an easy one for the Twin Saults.

But while the area does not have a million-person metropolitan area, the positives of the region at large outweigh the hustle and bustle of a large city with a lifestyle that is second to none.

"It is a lifestyle that we believe will contribute to the healthiest, happiest and most productive workforce Amazon could ask for," his opening letter reads.

"What other bidder for HQ2 can boast being within 20 minutes of a fantastic mountain for winter activities like skiing and snowboarding, or mere feet away from a river that would allow their employees to enjoy recreational boating, canoeing and kayaking right at their doorsteps," he states.

A more detailed list of arts and culture and recreation a stone's throw away from the city is explained in the application.

The Canada-US venture would also allow Amazon to pursue access to two federal governments, two municipal governments and respective provincial and state governments and an array of funding programs offered by both.

Educational components, reliable health care, business support, a strong workforce and available and affordable location are all highlighted.

"We ask that you look to us not only as a great place to establish a second headquarters, but as a great place for Amazon to foster the type of workforce and lifestyle that our international communities offer," he concludes.

Shoemaker said the proposal touches upon all the aspects requested in the RFP and sprinkles in even more appealing information.

For instance, the document states that an Amazon North location would situate the retail giant in the heart of the Great Lakes, allowing potential government incentives from two countries. The location also provides a high quality of life to employees and access to nature in a safe, low-cost international community, with very little risk of natural disasters.

Popular Science Magazine has reported that by the year 2100, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. would be the safest, least impacted city in the U.S., seeing only minor temperature increases compared to dramatic surges in natural disasters, wildfires and rising sea levels around the U.S."

Cost competitiveness of the region is also highlighted and explained with examples of how the area is home to large headquarters in various sectors, including research and development and in close proximity to major transportation hubs that include road, rail, air and water.

With Amazon's recent launch of a wind farm and concern for the environment, the Twin Saults submission explains its green energy initiative and notes it's one of the few areas in North America that has created a generation system made up primarily of renewable energy assets and creates two times as much power as it consumes.

"I think this is the sustainability that Amazon wants to see," Shoemaker said. "It shows them that they can rely on our clean and renewable green energy without leaving a carbon footprint for years to come," he said.

The package also includes information on four potential site locations, one which is already serviced vacant land, which meets Amazon's requirements. Explanations suggest the potential for continuing growth could be accommodated in the future.

Most notable to Shoemaker is the talent, skills and workforce section of the RFP which spells out the relationship between the Twin Sault's relationship between post-secondary institutions and business and industry and how the educational system adapts to market needs through developing partnerships.

Shoemaker said now the committee waits to see what happens.

He's hoping that Amazon officials seek out city representatives to learn more about the city, its potential locations identified or any other information it requires.

"I know we're the underdog but I'm hoping they contact us and if we are not successful, not all is lost," Shoemaker said. "We have a marketin project that is very good and something that we can get out quickly" should the need arise again.

Shoemaker said the Twin Sault application comes ahead of many people's expectations and at the very least will highlight Sault Ste. Marie a the area.

"I've already had many people say our views are 'interesting', and that could have others take a closer look," he said.

This Week's Flyers

PRINCESS AUTO

Make It Work

SALE STARTS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

Ending October 20, 2017

120V Spot Welder

Welding Capacity: Up to a combined thickness of 1/8 in. mild steel sheet or two pieces of 20 gauge galvanized steel sheet. (8630196) Reg. 249.99

SAVE UP TO
\$70

SAVE \$100
\$179.99

AUTEL

AutoLink AL439

Autel's #1 Best Value Diagnostic Scanner

SAVE \$100
\$109.99

SPOT ON SAVINGS

120V Spot Welder

Welding Capacity: Up to a combined thickness of 1/8 in. mild steel sheet or two pieces of 20 gauge galvanized steel sheet. (8630196) Reg. 249.99

SAVE UP TO
\$70

PRINCESS AUTO

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-FLYER

HOVER FOR FLYER

PRINCESS AUTO

Johnson & Johnson

SAVINGS EVENT

Save Friday, October 13 - Wednesday, October 25, 2017

LONDON DRUGS

SAVE 30% OFF

FREE

Aveeno Baby Natural Care Lotion 12.7oz

Up to \$1,000 off

on purchases of \$1,000 or more

on Aveeno products

on Aveeno products

Aveeno

positively radiant

moisturizer

lotion

Aveeno

positively radiant

moisturizer

lotion

Aveeno

positively radiant

moisturizer

lotion

HOVER FOR FLYER

LONDON DRUGS

Dufresne

FURNITURE, MATTRESSES, APPLIANCES, HOME

ANNUAL FALL SAVINGS EVENT

60% OFF

25% OFF

24% OFF

HOVER FOR FLYER

Dufresne

