



**28 April 2015**

**RE. Reference for Dan Taylor**

I knew of Dan Taylor for many years before I met him. I'd see him at conferences and mutter to myself – "that's the guy that changed Prince Edward County". Although lovely and picturesque, Prince Edward County had been one of those many rural Ontario places that Torontonians were vaguely familiar with, and would need a map to get there ('there' being Sandbanks).

However, then came Dan Taylor, creatively fresh and unblemished by bureaucracy. In following only his instincts and gathering local intelligence, Dan helped Prince Edward County realize that their agricultural way of life, that their family festivals and traditions, and their scenic landscape are all things to be celebrated far beyond The County itself.

Over the years, I watched The County become ingrained in lifestyle sections of Toronto and national newspapers. Not only did it register on people's maps, but most no longer needed a map. My family too, joined in the annual migration for wine touring, craft-buying and Buddha-Dogging. Dan had put the capital "T" in The County, a feat that few could have accomplished.

Recently, our Economic Development Services department decided to co-host a community lecture series with the local BIA known as Lectures20. Our goal was to bring inspirational speakers to share iconic stories. I wanted the opening lecture to be unforgettable – something that would help our series to become engrained as a monthly destination. We struggled with who could deliver on the promise, and I finally said – "what about that legend, Dan Taylor?"

The rest is history – Dan gave a truly awesome presentation about his experience in Prince Edward County. The audience was stunned and inspired. I have to admit, I was too chicken to make initial contact with 'the legend' myself, but now I know, Dan is an approachable fellow. I believe that he has only begun his career. I think that every community should be inspired by Dan, at least once.

Sincerely,

*David Tuley*

David Tuley, MA. BA.  
Downtown Development Officer  
Economic Development Services  
City of Oshawa; dtuley@oshawa.ca