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**Mr. David Spencer**

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**Mayor Allan Alls**

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Celebrate Erin, April 23, 2016

David Spencer strives to build community. When he and his wife first moved to Erin he pulled together a team of community volunteers that included Mayor Finnie to research and establish a community radio station. His initiatives led to the establishment of Erin Radio currently broadcasting on 88.1 FM and online at www.erinradio.org.

After experiencing a six day winter power blackout from December 22 to 27, 2013, David conducted research in the spring and summer of 2014 to discover the reason for the numerous blackouts in his neighbourhood. He spoke with Town of Erin staff, Hydro One Control Centre and Hydro One Technicians. He shared the issues and plan of action with the newly formed Erin Residents’ Association and gained supporters. His persistent e-mail messages and phone calls resulted in the installation of one of 5 new power transformers on Erin Heights Drive.

Over the summer and into September 2014, David launched the Erin Residents’ Association (ERA). The ERA E-Newsletter now connects 60 residents who agree with the goals of:

* building friendships and connecting neighbours.
* planning and hosting socials.
* building a safe community.
* communicating with local government.
* supporting local businesses and community groups.
* dealing with power blackouts.
* waste management, recycling and septic system maintenance.

Since 2014, David has produced two Erin Residents’ Association event dinners; one at Erin Heights Golf Course and one at David’s Restaurant. He produced three friendly music jams, set up the ERA web site, ERA Twitter feed and he set up the ERA News e-newsletter which currently has 60 subscribers

Since October 2014, David wrote, edited and published 32 e-newsletters which averaged 11 pages in length.

The ERA News built bridges with churches, community groups and sports teams by promoting their community events. The ERA News has also raised community awareness of environmental issues through Transition Erin and introduced residents to the newly formed Welcoming Syrian Refugees group.

In February 2015, David Spencer was accepted as a member of the Town of Erin [Economic Development Committee](http://www.erin.ca/town-hall/economic-development). In this volunteer position, he is sharing his outdoor recreation experience with the trails subcommittee and providing advice for web, social media and e-newsletter communication for the Town of Erin.

In the summer of 2015, David contacted and met with the Night School Coordinator for the Upper Grand District School Board. He was able to negotiate the bringing of Night School back to the Town of Erin. Night school classes were last offered in Erin in the 1980’s. Courses David offered at Erin District High School for the fall of 2015 and is offering for the spring of 2016 include “Connecting With Cloud Computing”, “Linkedin For Job Seekers”, “Twitter For Business Leaders” and “Vinyl Record Roundup”.

David is now planning a Collaboration Discussion to be held in the conference room of the East Wellington Family Health Team at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday April 2, 2016. During this meeting he will bring many community groups, churches, recreation groups, refugee groups and interested citizens to discuss how we can share, partner and collaborate to follow our mission and reach our goals.

On a more personal note, David has been the driving force within his neighborhood for encouraging everyone to be more aware of and to be part of the neighborhood and to be involved in our Town activities.

One perfect example of this is when a new family moved into the house next door, the new neighbours received a package the next day which was a Chelsea bun from the local bakery along with a card welcoming them to the neighborhood.  This card even included David and his wife’s personal phone # in case they needed any help with anything.  For some people it is a small gesture and perhaps an unheard of event nowadays but in today’s society it is very encouraging to know that there are still individuals who are trustworthy and that care about their fellow man/woman/child.  This made the new family very happy to know that they had already made a connection to their new town and already felt a part of it.