

Built For Business



For Southern Comfort Mechanical President Paul Neufeld, the decision to start his business in Niverville was easy.



Born and raised in the community, Neufeld founded his heating and plumbing company with a colleague in 2001.

"This is the only place we could have bought a building with the square footage we needed," Neufeld says. "Our first building was on Main

Street and was very cost-effective to buy."

Niverville's focus on making use of local trades are part of what helped Southern Comfort Mechanical become what it is today — a growing business with over 100 employees.

"We got a lot of opportunities to do larger projects because we were local," Neufeld says. "We were able to take that experience to do things elsewhere. Not all towns do that."

While Niverville has changed since Southern Comfort started, one thing remains constant: the town is built for businesses to succeed. Niverville Business Park is giving start-ups and small B2B enterprises access to high-quality infrastructure and ample space at a reasonable cost just off Highway 311 on the outskirts of town. The project broke ground in 2017 and has seen huge investment from the municipal government.

Niverville's openness to new and big projects is one of its biggest strengths, Neufeld says.

"The town's been very innovative. They're definitely willing to entertain just about anything and be supportive of it," he says. "I've not seen anyone or any new ideas chased out of town. For a small town, the stuff we have here is incredible."

The Community Resource and Recreation Centre, Niverville's new multi-million-dollar facility for fitness, education, and recreation, was built with over \$9 million in contributions from the community — an example of the community's ambitious spirit in action.

"The fact that we got that facility built before a lot of other towns was crucial," Neufeld says. "People often comment, 'How the heck did you guys do that?'"

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Businesses moving to Niverville have access to an active Chamber of Commerce that holds open houses to highlight member businesses, an annual golf tournament for networking, and a variety of educational sessions and forums on topics like financing and appraisals.

Neufeld says he's thankful for what Niverville has offered him and his business.

"We wouldn't change a thing."