

Lowe's Grand Opening Event

June 18th, 10:00 A.M.

[AS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY]

Good morning everyone, it's terrific to be here as we celebrate the official opening of Lowe's in Sault Ste. Marie.

I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome today's special guest, Bryan Baeumler to Sault Ste. Marie. It's great to have you in town Bryan. I happen to have a porch project underway at my house right now, so if you have a few hours to spare you're more than welcome to drop by and lend your expertise!

I'd also like to offer my thanks to the members of the Lowe's senior executive team who have joined us here today. I hope you enjoy your stay here in Sault Ste. Marie, as you celebrate the opening of your newest location.

As the Mayor, it's always exciting to celebrate the opening of new businesses in our community. In this case, it is also great to have a major multi-national firm like Lowe's make the conscious choice to locate in our city. I take it as a vote of confidence in our community, the local economy, and in the business environment that we have to offer as a City.

The opening of the Lowe's location in Sault Ste. Marie represents an investment of approximately seven million dollars in our community. The new store will employ between 120 and 150 people, along with an additional 40 to 50 seasonal positions. This is a significant economic impact and it is very good news for our City.

We are also pleased to have Lowe's in our community because the company has a proven track record of being a caring corporate citizen. Today's donation to Pauline's Place is another example of Lowe's support of worthy community initiatives. This commitment to social responsibility is further exemplified by corporate programs like the Lowe's Heroes Program that supports local community improvement programs each year.

So in closing, I just want to reiterate my thanks to Lowe's for choosing to locate in Sault Ste. Marie and for inviting me to participate in this event today. I think you can sense the enthusiasm in our City for your company and I know that you will be a much-welcomed addition to our business community.

Thank you.