

Laptops starting at \$399.99



Acer Netbook with
1GB RAM and 160GB HDD



The Record.com

<http://news.therecord.com/Business/article/485765>

[\[Close\]](#)

High tech hopes for Lang site

Former tannery complex the likely front-runner for new digital media convergence centre

MICHAEL HAMMOND
RECORD STAFF

KITCHENER

The Lang Tannery complex appears to be the front-runner to be the home of the proposed Digital Media Convergence Centre.

Lana Sherman, managing director of Cadan Inc., the Toronto-based developer of the Lang property, said no site has been selected for the centre, but a number of factors point to the tannery as the location of choice.

"It's kind of been understood that we have space for them and it's understood that they will move toward us," she said. "There's no pressure whatsoever. It will all come together naturally."

The tannery site in downtown Kitchener is in the block bounded by Charles, Francis, Joseph and Victoria streets and is kitty corner to the University of Waterloo's health sciences campus.

Cadan was one of a number of local groups that helped develop a proposal for federal funding for the digital media corridor, which is a joint effort between the region's high-tech industry and the University of Waterloo's Stratford Institute.

Last month, the digital media centre received \$5.35 million in federal funding. The Stratford UW campus received an equal amount.

Cadan refers to the digital media centre on its tannery website and in its latest tannery newsletter.

"The tannery was one of the corporate members that were part of the application," the newsletter says, referring to the federal funding announcement. "We congratulate Communitech on this success and look forward to developing the centre with them at the tannery."

Cadan is converting the collection of industrial buildings, some of which date back more than a century, into a mixed-use complex with space for artisans, offices, restaurants, boutique shops and medical facilities.

Pharmasave will open a store in the complex and the Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre will move there from its current location on Frederick Street, near Market Square. Sherman said a number of doctors' offices also will open in the building.

The digital media corridor's backers aim to open a 30,000-square-foot digital media centre in downtown Kitchener before the end of the year.

Local technology companies have committed \$12 million in cash, equipment and services to equip the facility to do research and commercialization work. The corridor's backers want to create a space where young companies can work on ideas and researchers can begin to commercialize their research projects.

Rod Regier, director of economic development for the City of Kitchener, said no decisions have been made, but he conceded the tannery would be a great fit for the digital media centre.

"Their vision for the tannery is about creating a multi-dimensional and multidisciplinary environment that attracts great minds from a number of disciplines," he said. "That's really completely in keeping with what people are talking about as a vision for the Digital Media Convergence Centre."

Regier said the digital media centre's backers are now planning what the centre will look like. Once that process is complete, a decision on where it will go can proceed.

Kevin Tuer, executive director of the digital media corridor, said he has had discussions with Cadan, but said nothing has been decided.

"The vision and what's going on down there aligns really nicely with what we want to do with the digital media centre," he said.

The goal is still to have the digital media centre operational in some form by the end of the year.

mhammond@therecord.com



Cadan inc.

The Record.com

<http://news.therecord.com/Business/article/485765>



© Copyright 2007 Metroland Media Group Ltd. All rights reserved. The reproduction, modification, distribution, transmission or republication of any material from www.thespec.com is strictly prohibited without the prior written permission of Metroland Media Group Ltd.

