

Welcome to the latest issue of Business & Work in Huron County. Employment counsellors, business advisors, and adult education teachers have expressed the need for information on the local labour market as a resource for their clients. This newsletter is a collaborative effort between The Centre for Employment and Learning of the Avon Maitland District School Board, Service Canada and the Huron Business Development Corporation.



Inside This Issue:

- **Business News and Notes** Page 2
Check out highlights of local businesses and organizations in the news.
- **Employment Services Huron County** Page 4
New case-managed client visits, client case closures, and site caseload numbers tracked on a monthly basis.
- **Huron County Ontario Works** Page 5
The caseload for Ontario Works tracked and documented on a monthly basis.
- **Huron County Advertised Job Vacancies** Page 6
Local newspaper Help Wanted ads tracked and coded monthly.
- **Huron Business Centre Coming Events - March 2010** Page 8

In B&W...

“If you wait until all the lights are “green” before you leave home, you’ll never get started on your trip to the top.”

- Zig Ziglar

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Business News and Notes

Business News and Notes is compiled from a review of articles in Huron County's community newspapers on a monthly basis.

- New chair of the **Goderich BIA**, Michael Strickland, is prepared to focus on economic development by refreshing their strategic plan, developed in 2005. One of the main goals will be checking into the potential theatre build/expansion that is being considered for downtown Goderich. Other projects that will be tackled by the BIA include their banner project, the changing of current by-law development projects, the BIA website, the development and enhancement of festivals and markets, and WiFi in the downtown.
- At the request of **Greenfield Ethanol**, a public meeting was held to explain what is happening with plans for the ethanol plant in Hensall. According to Ken Field, Greenfield Chairman, the global financial crisis which has stopped Canadian banks from giving out large business loans has been cited as the reason for the new plant not being built yet. In late 2008, Greenfield was called to Bay Street and told they would not be getting the \$150 loan to build the plant. There are still plans to build the plant but as to when it will happen, Field was not able to answer that question from the group.
- After recovering from a fire that destroyed the **Salvation Army Thrift Store** and home of the Salvation Army's Clinton Branch Family Services in Clinton, the family services and food bank have re-opened in a temporary spot - 43 Albert Street. Located in the former My Fair Lady location, volunteer staff are now able to serve its 1,500 strong client base. Now that these services are up and running again, the task of finding a new location for the Thrift Store is on the agenda.
- **Paralegal Heather Cassidy** will now share office space with William R. Kennedy Law Office in Grand Bend. After a car accident that left Cassidy with health issues requiring a change of career, she studied to become a paralegal. Paralegals provide legal expertise and impartial legal advice at affordable rates.
- On January 18, 2010 MPP Carol Mitchell was appointed as Ontario's new **Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs** in a wide-ranging cabinet shuffle by the McGuinty Government. Mitchell succeeds outgoing Agriculture Minister Leona Dombrowsky. Mitchell has also chaired the Ontario Liberal Caucus and was a parliamentary assistant to various Ministers.
- On February 5, 2010 the first **Annual Huron Cultural Awards** were presented at the Blyth Memorial Hall. The Cultural Event/Organization award went to the Huron Pioneer Thresher and Hobby Association. The Individual Artist award went to Robert Tetu, a well known potter. The Community Contribution Award went to Pamela Stanley in recognition for her support and promotion of heritage and culture in Huron. The Heritage Individual/Organization Award went to Ken Cardno for his work in preserving the Cardno Music Hall in Seaforth. All winners were presented a framed original oil painting by Elizabeth Van Den Broeck of Elizabeth's Art Gallery in Goderich, along with their award.
- Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh could see another 100-150 wind turbines erected if Capital Power's **Kingsbridge II Project** becomes a reality. Now under the banner Capital Power, the project is taking shape as public consultations are set to place in March. For more information call 519.524.2760.

The Service Ontario office in Goderich has expanded its hours and is now open from Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Goderich and area residents now receive service for their health cards, driver's licences, and vehicle identification plates. The Goderich office is located at 38 North Street.

Business News and Notes *Continued from Page 2...*

- Anil, Sushil and Ajai Nakhwal has taken over ownership and operation of the **Hensall Shell Gas Bar and Restaurant**. The Nakhwal brothers took over the business in December 2009 from the Erb family. They previously operated a gas station business in Ailsa Craig for 12 years and one in Arkona for 8 years. The brothers are hoping to eventually rename the restaurant “AJ Restaurant”.
- April Armstrong has opened **Armstrong’s Alliance Mortgage Group** on the Main Street of Exeter. Armstrong is a licenced mortgage broker who will work with lending insitutions to secure the best mortgage solutions for her customers. Her services are free to customers with the lending institution providing a fee once a mortgage is secured. Armstrong also offers financial planning assistance.
- A revised edition of **Hensall’s draft Community Improvement Plan** has been presented to Bluewater Council. The revised document includes a vast array of projects that could be spearheaded on both private and public lands. Part of the proposal, as noted by consultant Glenn Tunnock, is for the municipality to offer a wide array of funding programs including grants or loans to jump start projects. A second public meeting will be held in the future before a final draft of the Community Improvement Plan rolls out.
- The **Sifto Salt Mine** in Goderich has temporarily laid off 80 workers. The lay off comes about as salt storage is at capacity around the Great Lakes region, along with a January warm spell. The 80 employees, representing approximately 20% of the mine’s employees were issued the temporary notices, but the company expects employment levels to return to normal in the second quarter of the operation.
- In January an **Iceculture team** of 7 returned from India where they spent 12 days installing the first ice lounge in the country in a shopping complex in New Delhi. Josh Hummel, Adam Steffler, and Gerald Mason played a pivotal role in getting the ice to where it needed to be. Ice Lounge New Delhi as it is known, opened on February 5, 2010 and is expected to be the first of several lounges to be built around the country - the next stop is Mumbai.
- The initial stages of the **Brussels Business Retention and Expansion Project** are underway with the first round of interviews with businesses in and around Brussels taking place. Huron East Economic Development Officer Jan Hawley hopes to have over 50 interviews done in the coming months. Nancy Ross, retired economic development specialist will be helping Hawley with the interviews and as a result, have the beginnings of a solid strategic plan for the spring. For more information on this project call Hawley at 519.527.0160.
- A recent Rural Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$150,000 will give **Exeter’s downtown core** a big financial boost. The funding will be used for downtown economic revitalization activities such as the hiring of a co-ordinator/developer to look at existing concerns from the business community and look at new opportunities for Exeter. This process has already begun as a branding project, a customer origin survey, and the Business Retention and Expansion Study are all well underway.

An information session on an upcoming **Food Services Worker Course** will be held on March 4, 2010 at the Huron East Health Centre (32B Centennial Drive) starting at 6:30pm. For more information, or to register for this session, contact Barb Carriere, Georgian College, Owen Sound Campus - 519.376.0840, ext. 2021, or bcarriere@georgianc.on.ca

Employment Services Huron County

- The Employment Services Huron County statistics below are tracked on a monthly basis and are contributed by The Centre For Employment & Learning and HBDC Employment Services.
- In chart 1, the number of new clients case managed across the five sites increased by 6% when comparing month-over-month. Conversely, the number of client case closures due to clients finding employment decreased by 11% during the same time period, while the number of client case closures due to other reasons remained the same - 14. When comparing year-over-year, the number of new clients case managed and client case closures due to clients finding employment, both decreased - 54% and 11% respectively. The number of client case closures due to other reasons increased by 17%.
- In chart 2, we see increases in the total number of in-person client visits across the five sites increase, when comparing both month-over-month and year-over-year - 15% and 27% respectively.

Chart 1

Employment Services Huron County - New Clients Case-Managed

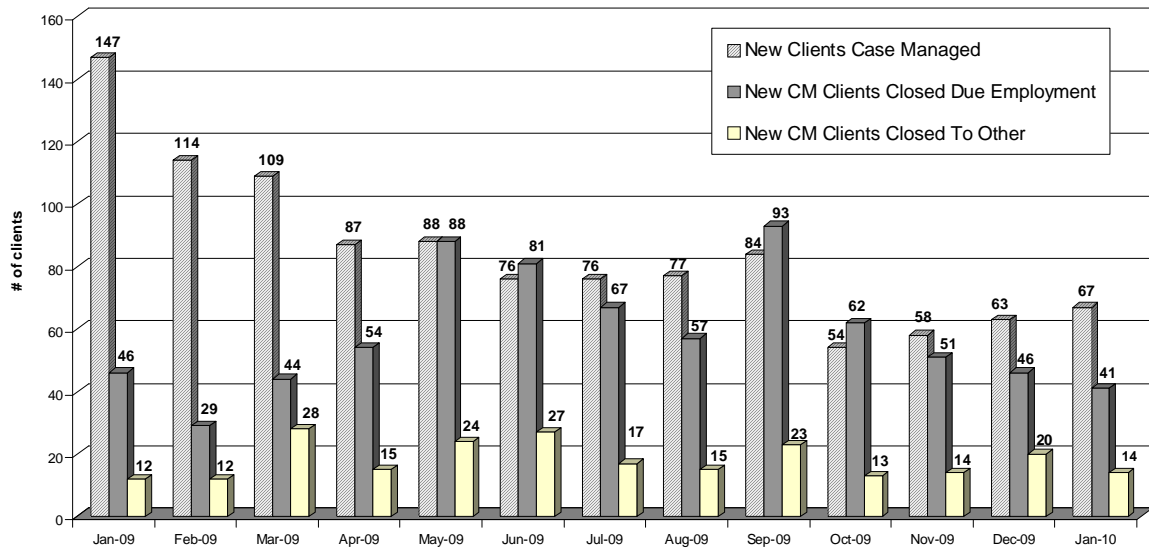
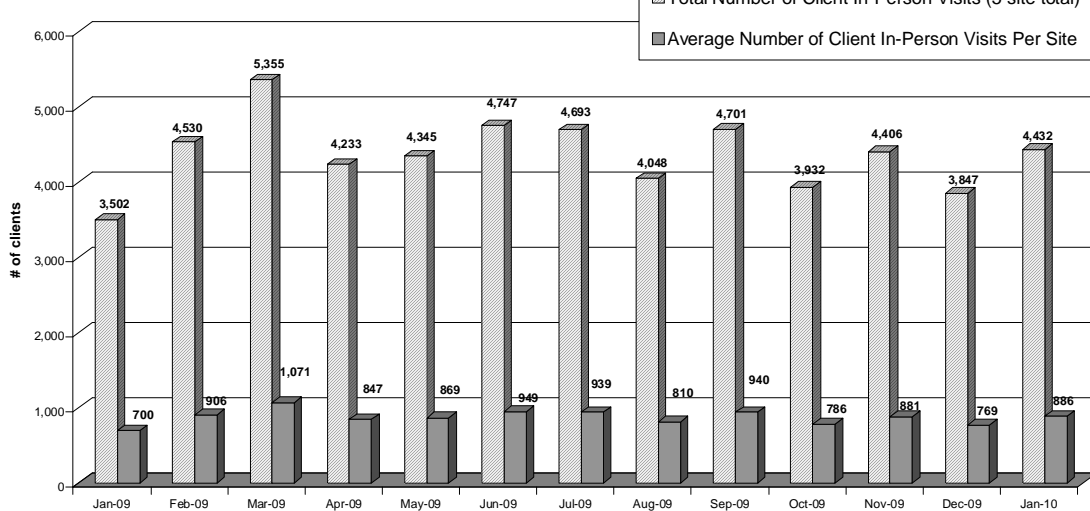


Chart 2

Employment Services Huron County - Client In-Person Visits

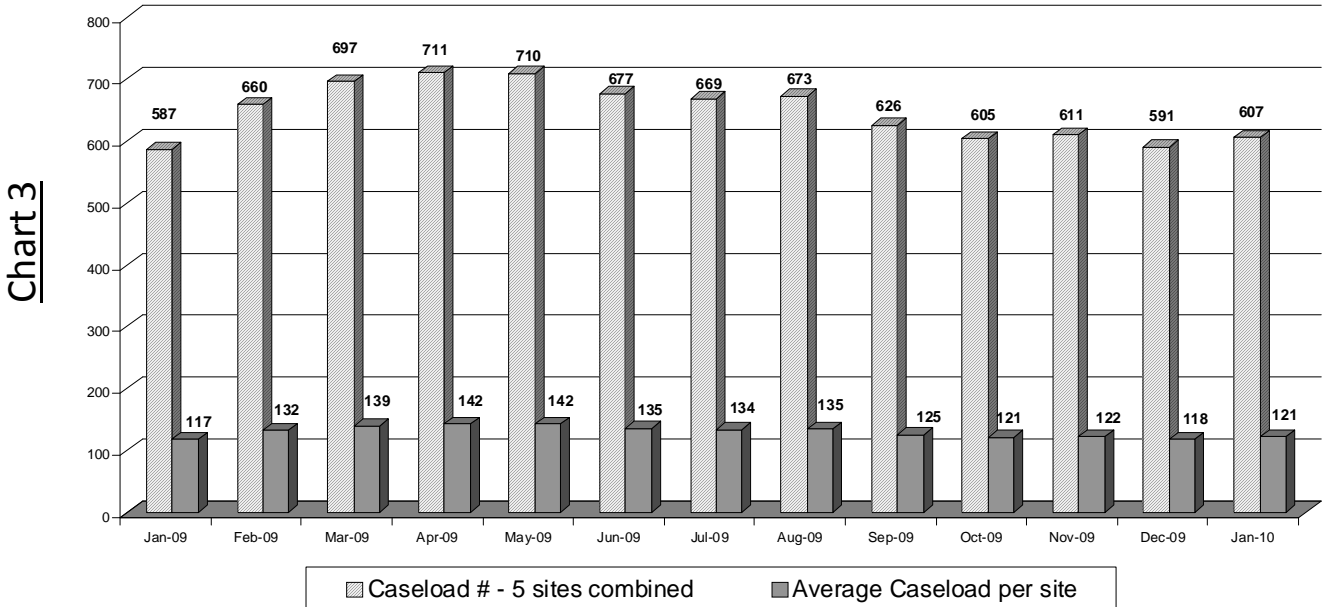


(Information contributed by: Wendy Cornish, Exeter Centre For Employment & Learning & Deb Williamson, HBDC Employment Services Assistant.)

Employment Services Huron County *Continued from Page 4...*

- In chart 3, we see an increase in total caseload numbers across the five sites when comparing both year-over-year and month-over-month - 20 or 3%, and 16 or 3% respectively.

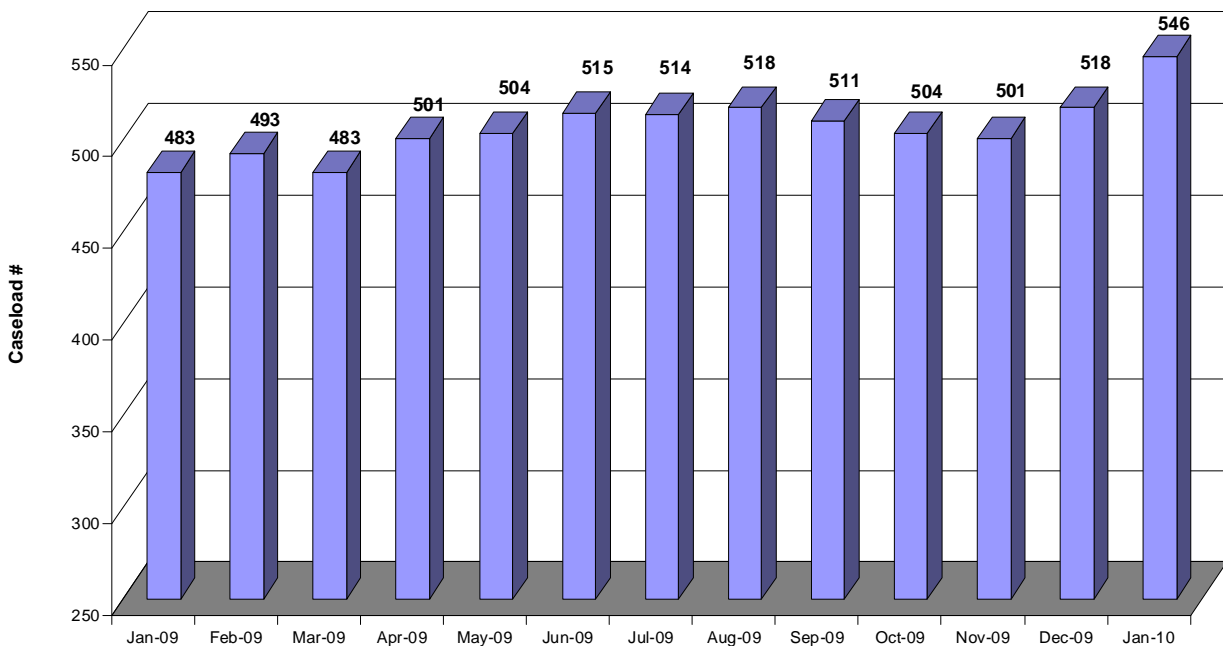
Employment Services Huron County - Combined Caseload Number - 5 Sites



Huron County Ontario Works

- The total Ontario Works caseload number for January 2010 was 546. This is a 5% increase from the month of December (518).
- When comparing year-over-year we see an increase of 63 or 13%.

Huron County Ontario Works Caseload



(Information contributed by: Janet Priebe, Huron County Ontario Works.)

Huron County Advertised Job Vacancies - January 2010

- In Chart 1, when comparing month-over-month, we see increases in four of the occupational categories, three with decreases, and three remaining the same. The most notable increase took place in the Sales and Service category - 9 or 113%.
- In Chart 2, when comparing year-over-year, we see increases in four of the occupational categories again, while six saw decreases. The most notable increase took place in the Education/Gov't/Social Science category - 4 or 400%.

Chart 1

Advertised Job Vacancies in Huron County - December 2009 to January 2010

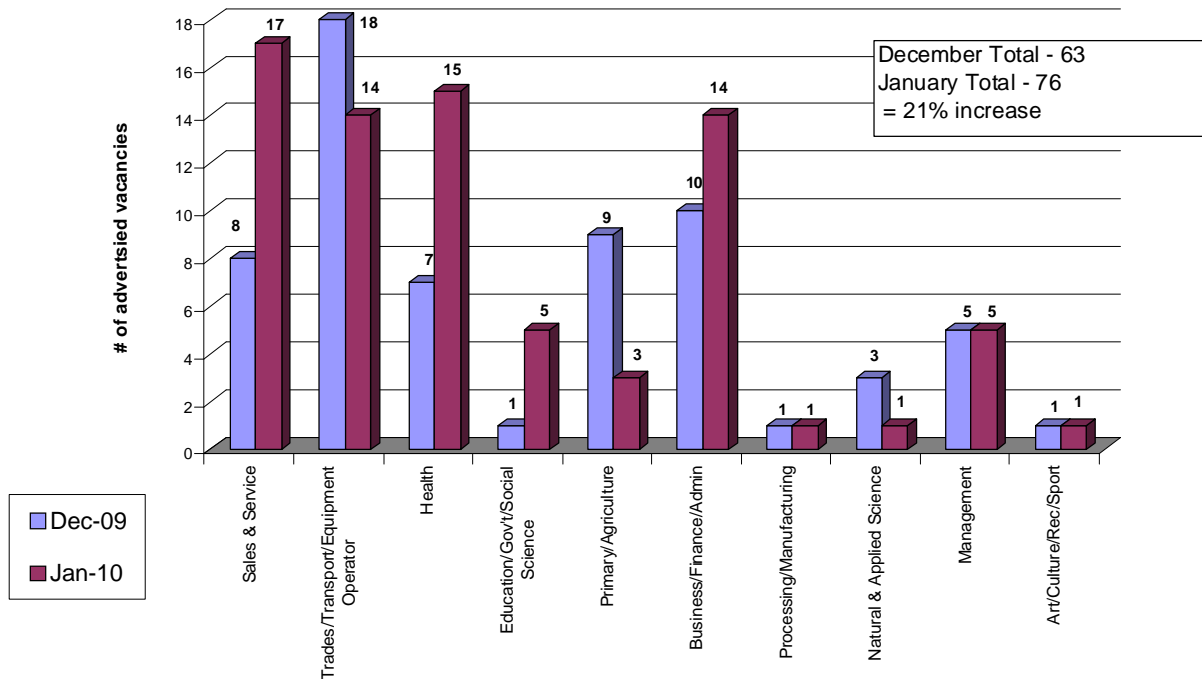
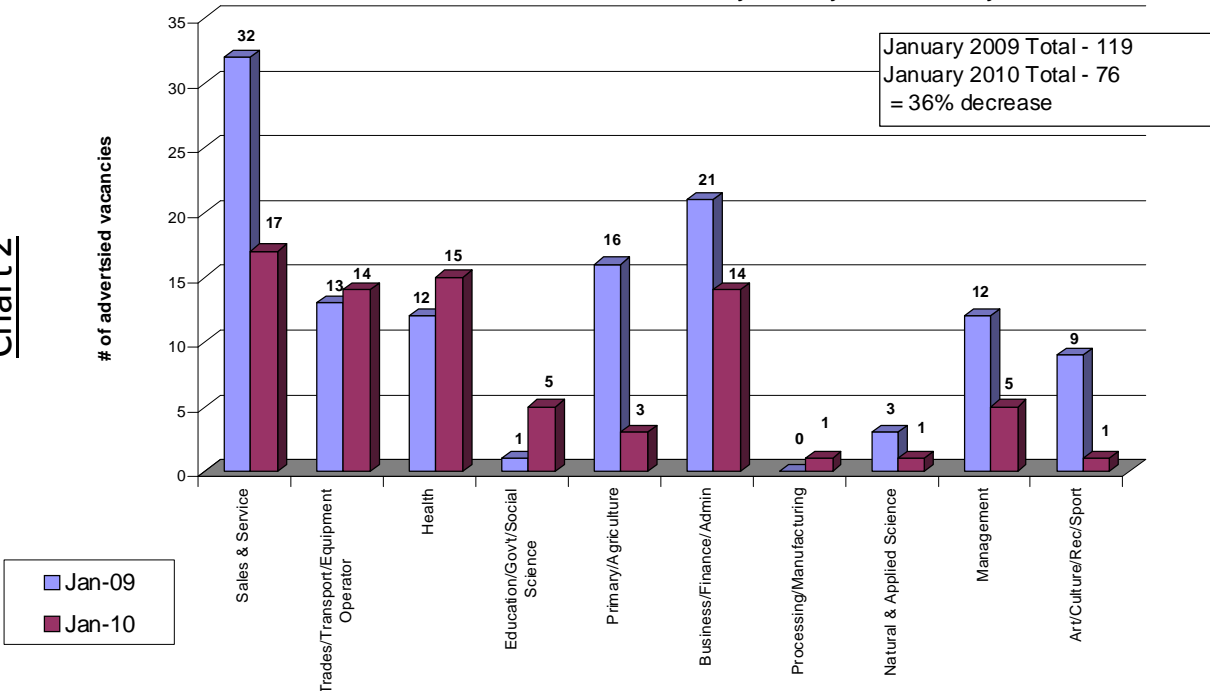


Chart 2

Advertised Job Vacancies in Huron County - January 2009 to January 2010



Business News and Notes *Continued from Page 3...*

- Bed and Breakfast owners of the MacGougan Manor in Seaforth, Jamie Rogers and John MacGougan are the new dealer/operators of the **Mac's Milk** store. Rogers and MacGougan are busy operating both businesses and are focusing on their customer service aspect. Catering is also offered through MacGougan Manor.
- The former Darling's Grocery Store in Exeter will be the site for the new **Dollarma Store** in the spring of this year. Renovations are taking place which include new flooring, ceiling tiles, paint and lighting, followed by exterior work such as paving the parking lot and making the outside of the building look like a Dollarama. This discount retailer is headquartered in Montreal and has 600 stores across Canada.
- **HealthKick** and its associates have many 2010 programs that are well underway. The Rural Healthcare Work Experience Program has 18 jobs available in various healthcare areas. A Food Services Worker Program is being planned to start April 14, 2010. An information session for the Registered Pharmacy Technician Program was held February 18, 2010. The MedQuest Camp is gearing up for 2010 – this will be the fourth year running for this program. For more information on any of these programs visit www.healthkickhuron.ca
- **Partners Paint and Paper**, a Benjamin Moore paint supplier and decorating supply retailer has opened its doors in Clinton. Located on the Main Street, Partners also has locations in Exeter, Seaforth and St. Marys. Partners offers free in-home colour consultations as well.
- The Goderich and District Chamber of Commerce 2010 **Spirit of Success Awards** brought about 175 people out to the Goderich Legion on January 29, 2010. Business of the Year and the Huronia Retail Award went to Edward Fuels. Accountant Ryan Shelton was awarded the Richard Lehnen Young Entrepreneur Award. Stephanie Ormeno took home the HSBEC New Business Award and 104.9 The Beach, based out of Goderich, received the Capital Power Community Spirit Award. For more information on the awards or other Chamber programs visit www.goderichchamber.ca
- **The Taste of Huron Culinary event** held in August 2009, was recently awarded the top honour in the Best New Event of 2009 category at the Ontario Economic Development Awards. Taste of Huron was one of over 103 entries for this particular category. Taste of Huron has also been nominated for the Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence which has a grand prize of \$50,000 and 55 regional prizes of \$5,000. For more information on last year's and this year's upcoming Taste of Huron event visit www.tasteofhuron.ca
- Blyth native Erin Bolger recently made a successful pitch on CBC's The Dragon's Den that will allow her to travel across Canada in order to promote her self-published book **The Happy Baker: A Date's Guide to Emotional Eating**. Bolger's book has also earned her the Gourmand Dessert Cookbook World Award – English Edition. Dragon Arlene Dickinson has agreed to turn over \$25,000 worth of promotion time, \$20,000 in Air Miles points, and \$5,000 cash so Bolger can attempt to make her dream of selling 300,000 books come true.
- At the Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME) "Roadmap to Recovery" Summit in Ottawa on February 1, 2010 Hensall's **Iceculture Inc.** was awarded the EDC Canadian Innovation Award – Global Business of the Year title. Iceculture Founder Julian Bayley credits the Iceculture team/staff in playing a pivotal role in achieving this recognition.
- For the second year in a row, **Sparling's Propane** of Blyth has been named one of the Top 50 Best Small and Medium Employers in Canada. Sparling's has been ranked thirty-fifth, the same ranking as last year. It is the second largest propane company in Ontario and provides propane and guaranteed customer services from regional facilities in southern and central Ontario.

Continued on Page 8...

Business News and Notes *Continued from Page 7...*

- Goderich's Mayor Deb Shewfelt spoke of doctor recruitment, the expanding of Goderich's port, and trying to foster entrepreneurial spirit at his recent **View to the Future Mayoral Address** on February 10, 2010. With regards to doctor recruitment, Goderich will continue to seek out health professionals and tackle the orphan patient list. The expanding of Goderich's port is an estimated \$48 million project that would see the replacement of the breakwall and piers in addition to the reclamation.
- A new marketing campaign encouraging Huron County residents to "think local first" will be using the tag line "**My History, My Future, My Huron**". The campaign will include a \$10 Walton-made canvas bag which will provide discounts when shoppers bring it to participating businesses and municipal offices. Huron County businesses who pay \$50 will receive a shopping bag, a "think local first" window cling, gift tags, thank you cards, stickers, posters, and fact sheets to hand out to customers and promote the campaign. For more information on this program call 519.524.8394, ext. 3.
- **ContinuIT** is a new company in Huron County that offers networking, computer repairs and troubleshooting. Formed on the remains of CB Data Systems of Benmiller, ContinuIT brings together three experienced IT professionals – Adam Ross Hill, Chris Baxter, and Scott Armstrong. The business is currently located out of Benmiller on Falls Reserve Line, but is looking for a new potential location.

Huron Business Centre Coming Events - March 2010

Title of Seminar/Workshop	Date and Time	Place
Resume Workshop	March 03, 2010 9:00am - 4:00pm	Huron Business Centre
Interview Workshop	March 10, 2010 9:00am - 4:00pm	Huron Business Centre
Starting Point	March 11, 2010 9:30am - 1:00pm	Huron Business Centre
HBDC's "Business By Design" Workshop	March 26, 2010 10:00am – 3:30pm	Clinton Centre for Employment & Learning (60 Mary Street)

For more local coming events/workshops visit:

www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca/employment/calendar.html
www.huroncounty.ca/eventcal/

Questions or comments? Please contact us:

Lisa Harper

Project Administrator

Huron Business Development Corp.

Phone: 519.527.0305, ext. 25

Email: lharper@smallbusinesshuron.ca