

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.



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## In B&W...

### **Canada Summer Jobs 2010**

applications are now available on-line at [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/csj2010](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/csj2010). This initiative helps employers create summer job opportunities for students and is designed to focus on local priorities, while achieving tangible results for both students and their communities. Applications are also available at your local Service Canada Centre.

## Newsletter Sponsors



## **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.

- Christina M. Ramsey, C.A. has changed her business name to **Christina Feeney, Chartered Account.** Still located in Auburn, she is looking forward to seeing all existing and new clients this tax season.
- In December of last year, community support agencies across Huron and Perth Counties joined forces to make access to transportation more convenient for local seniors and people facing mobility challenges. The **Easy Ride Door-to-Door** service is a collaboration of eight agencies including Clinton and Goderich-based Midwestern Adult Day Services and Town and Country Support Services.
- Two new employees with the **Gateway Rural Health Research Institute** will be focusing on securing sustainable funding that will allow research to proceed into the health of rural residents. Sam Kooshesh has been hired as a Grant Proposal Writer to find funding from both private and government sources. Shelly Pearson has been hired as the Administrator Gateway.
- According to the **Huron Tourism Association's annual tourism report**, Huron County saw approximately 500,000 visitors come and go to various destinations and events in 2009. The H1N1 outbreak and increasing border requirements may have added to a slight decrease at some events and venues. In 2010 the county will have to adapt to the trends that have been seen, which include a significant decline in American visitors and Canadians travelling closer to home. Increased web presence for the County has helped to increase numbers over the years.
- Roughly \$772,000 in federal funding was announced Monday to aid in the development of a new herbicide intended to dry crops for faster, easier harvesting. Half of the research for the new herbicide will take place at the **Huron Research Station** near Huron Park, with one quarter taking place in Manitoba and another quarter in Alberta. Research is underway, with a completion date scheduled for March 2013.
- Despite a difficult economic climate that affected attendance in 2009, **the Blyth Festival** has a \$69,000 surplus. At a recent North Huron Council meeting, the surplus was noted, as was the resignation of Karen Stewart, the Marketing and Development Director. The Blyth Festival has also received \$32,000 in funding from Trillium that will go towards the replacement of windows, the repairing of masonry, and the installation of power door openers.
- Huron County's **Heritage and Culture Partnership** has received a Trillium grant in the amount of \$30,000. Funding will used to hire a Cultural Advisor which will result in the creation of a website and magazine.

**Rural Healthcare Work Placements** are being offered again through Healthkick for students who are interested in a career in the medical field. Interested students from Bruce, Huron and Perth Counties can visit [www.healthkickhuron.ca](http://www.healthkickhuron.ca) to view available placements. For additional information, contact Healthkick Co-ordinator Laura Overholt at 519.600.2273, ext. 261, or [loverholt@smallbusinesshuron.ca](mailto:loverholt@smallbusinesshuron.ca)

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

- The last of the **Volvo** graders were rolled out of the Goderich plant on December 15, 2009 and shipped to Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, before going to their final destination in Egypt. With many of the industrial park buildings now vacated, or sold, the company is winding down its operation in Goderich. Volvo has announced it will close its Asheville, North Carolina, facility by March 31, 2010, a move that will affect 228 employees.
- Michael Ibrahim has recently been recognized through the Commitment to Care and Service Awards as Rookie of the Year for his ingenuity and initiative in opening, maintaining and increasing business at his pharmacy in Bayfield, **Michael's Pharmasave**. Since opening in July 2007, Michaels's Pharmasave has experienced steady growth in customers and sales.
- Angela Ventura recently opened **Earth Angel** on the Main Street of Wingham. The downtown store carries environmentally friendly products and giftware including unique gemstone jewellery, earthy furniture pieces, and natural beauty and cleaning products.
- Through a federal and provincial government partnership, the **Blue Water Rest Home** will receive a \$1 million investment that will create uses for areas of the rest home vacated when long-term residents are moved to their new home in the facility next year. Two-thirds of the funding will go towards renovating the east wing in to a day care, and facility for other community services, while the rest of the funds will go towards renovations of the main entrance and lobby, as well as a new roof and larger parking lot.
- The **Habitat for Humanity ReStore** in Goderich experienced sales just short of \$100,000 during the Christmas season, and is planning to move ahead with the new building on Parsons Court in 2010. According to Executive Director Kevin Morrison, there has been great response for the position of store manager as well.
- **Kulpepper's** in Goderich, which sells kitchen utensils, coffee, tea, hot drinks, seasonings, and many appliances, was recently featured in Homestyle Magazine's December 2009 issue for the unique shopping opportunity offered there. Owner Steve Rock is pleased with the overwhelming response that the article has received. Kulpepper's is located on the Square.
- Mary Brown has taken over ownership of the **Bayfield Village Bookshop** from Mary Wolfe. Despite the new face at the helm, Brown assures her customers that it will be business as usual at the store with popular events such as the annual Writer's Festival and the Summer Music Series. Brown is currently teaching part-time at the Nippising Faculty of Education in Brantford and is looking forward to working at the store full time when her time at Nippising wraps up.
- **The Huron Expositor**, in Seaforth, is moving to a new office across the street from its current location. The newspaper office will now be located at 8 Main Street. Phone and fax numbers will remain the same, as will current services.

*There are still spots available in the  
**2-Day Quest for New Farm Value Workshop**  
 happening February 24 and March 3, 2010 at the Clinton  
 OMAFRA Office (100 Don Street). If you thinking of a value-  
 added business idea for your farm, but are not sure how to  
 make it a reality, then this workshop is for you! The cost is \$75  
 per person (includes lunch both days). For more information,  
 or to register, call 519.527.0305, ext. 32.*

## 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, when comparing month-over-month across the five sites, the number of new clients case managed increased by 9%, while the number of client case closures due to clients finding employment decreased by 10%. The number of client case closures due to other reasons saw a more substantial increase of 43%. Year-over-year the number of new clients case managed decreased by 37%, while the number of client case closures due to clients finding employment, and client case closures due to other reasons increased - 35% and 33% respectively.
- In chart 2, the number of in-person client visits across the five sites decreased by 13% when comparing month-over-month. Conversely, when comparing year-over-year, the number of visits increased by 40%.

Chart 1

Employment Services Huron County - New Clients Case-Managed

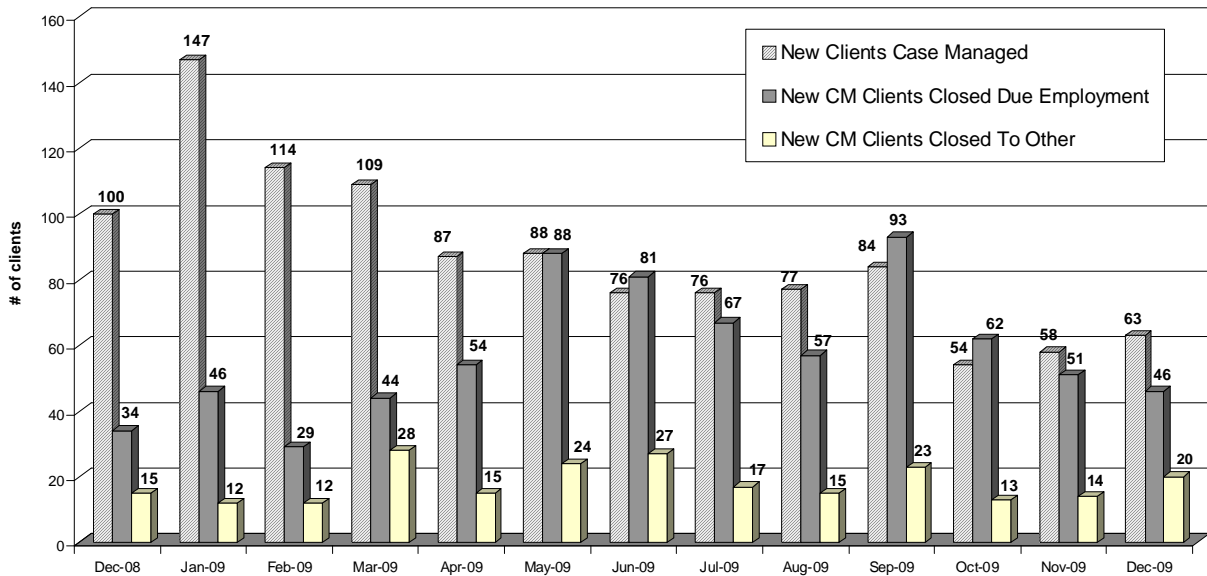
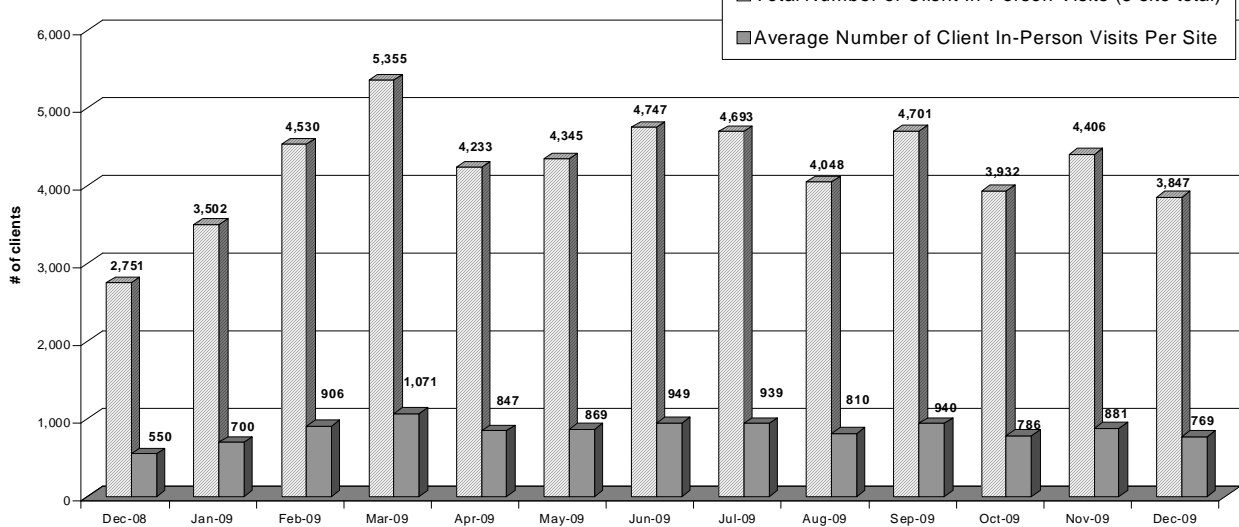


Chart 2

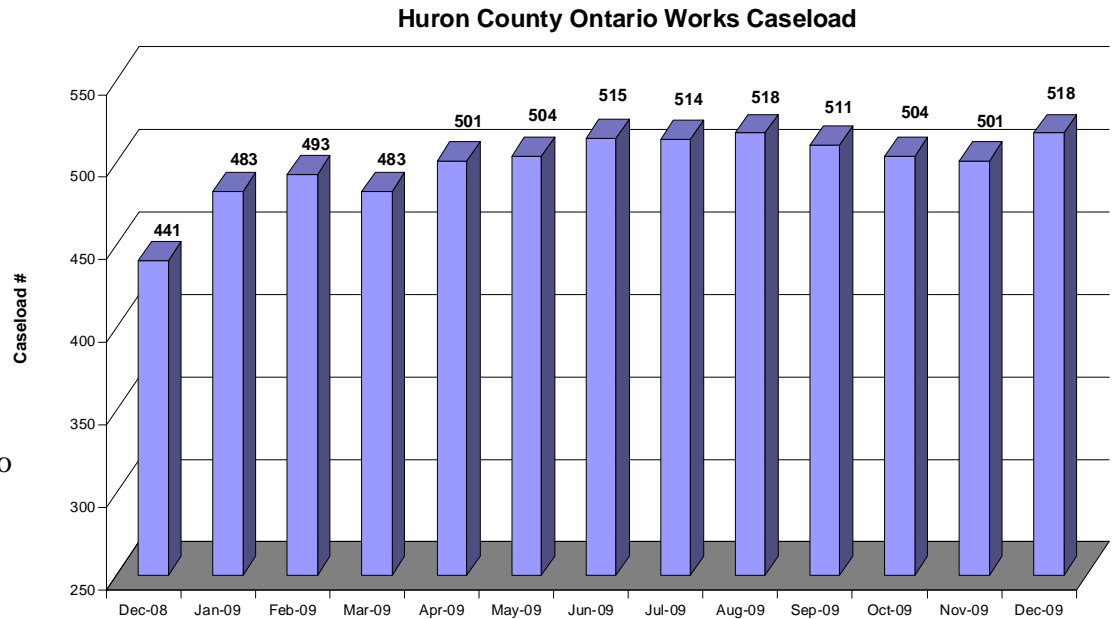
Employment Services Huron County - Client In-Person Visits



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

## Huron County Ontario Works

- The total Ontario Works caseload number for December 2009 was 518. This is a 3% increase from the month of November (501).
- When comparing year-over-year (December 2008 to December 2009) we see an increase of 77, or 17%.



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

## Huron Business Centre Coming Events - February 2010

Title of Seminar/Workshop	Date and Time	Place
Resume Workshop	February 03, 2010 9:00am - 4:00pm	Huron Business Centre
Starting Point	February 10, 2010 9:30am - 1:00pm	Huron Business Centre
Interview Workshop	February 11, 2010 9:00am - 4:00pm	Huron Business Centre
Entrepreneurial Skills Workshop	Day I – February 19, 2010 9:30am – 4:00pm Day II – February 23, 2010 9:30am – 4:00pm Day III – February 24, 2010 9:30am – 4:00pm Day IV – February 25, 2010 9:30am – 4:00pm	Huron Business Centre
HBDC's "Business By Design" Workshop	February 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](http://www.thecentreforemploymentandlearning.ca/employment/calendar.html)  
[www.huroncounty.ca/eventcal/](http://www.huroncounty.ca/eventcal/)

## Huron County Advertised Job Vacancies - Demceber 2009

- In Chart 1, when comparing month-over-month we see decreases in five job vacancy categories, increases in two categories, while three remained the same . The most notable increase happened in the Health category - 250%.
- In Chart 2, when comparing year-over-year, we see a decrease in six job vacancy categories, and increases in four. The most notable increase happened in the Art/Culture/Rec/Sport category - 100%.

Chart 1

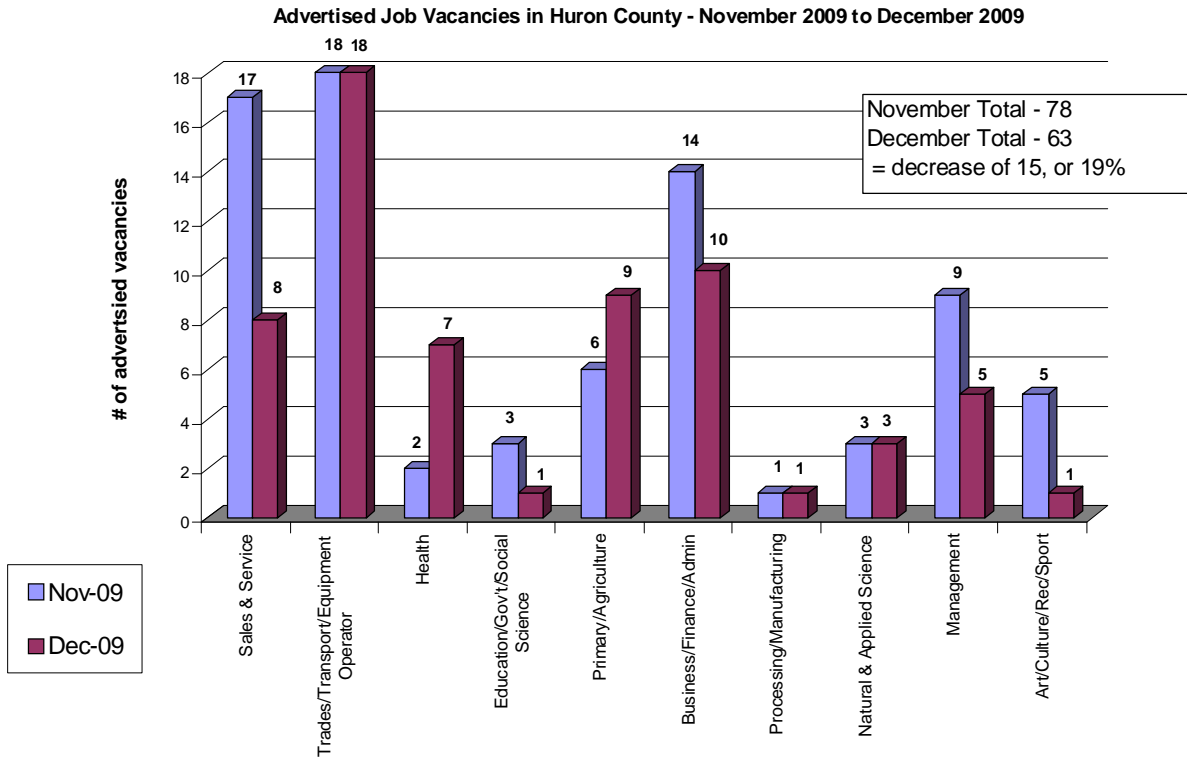
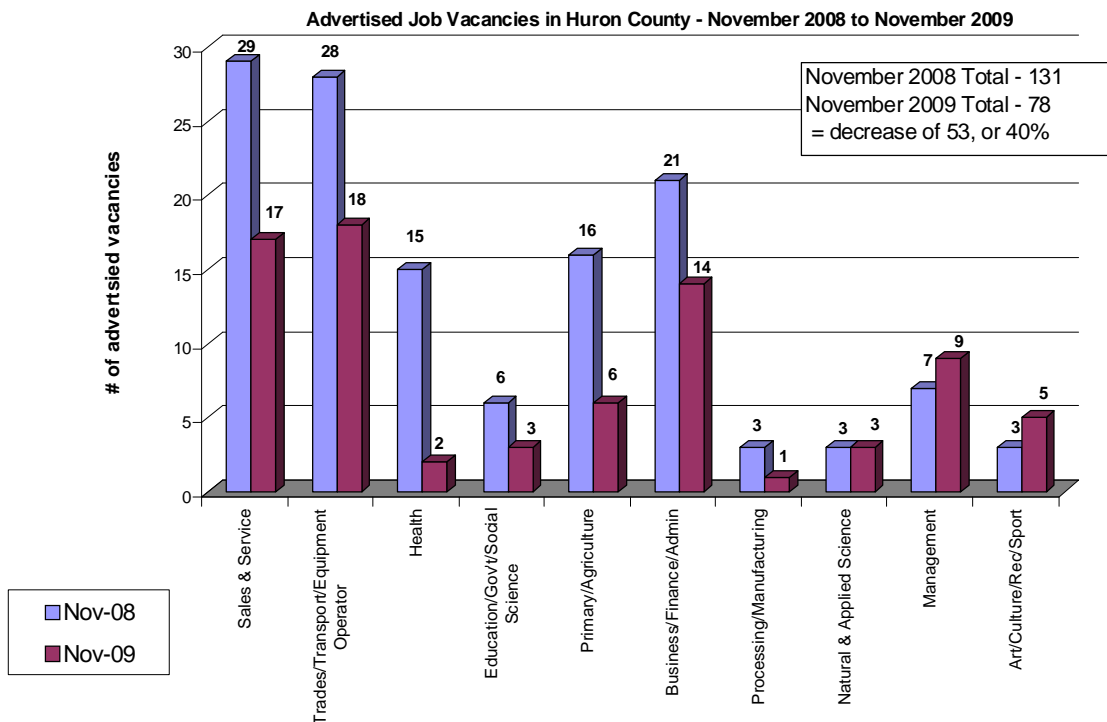


Chart 2



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

- The town of Wingham will soon be participating in a **Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) project**. Wingham businesses will soon receive a letter outlining the process and an informal information day will be held when Connie Goodall, Community Development Coordinator and Janet Snider, BR&E Co-ordinator can supply further information on the project. A BR&E survey will then be handed out to business owners and operators. BR&E is a community-based economic development program with a focus on taking care of, nurturing and supporting businesses already existing in the community.
  - Under the Government of Canada's "New Horizons for Seniors" Program, the **Lake Huron Learning Collaborative (LHLC)** will receive \$9,740 for its project entitled "Enhancing Aging Learning Opportunities". This project will allow seniors to participate in educational sessions and document each seminar through photos and/or video for use as a technology tool and as a showcase for other seniors/learning groups. John Smallwood, President of the LHLC is pleased that they will be able to offer a series of information sessions directed to the 50-plus age group.
  - Roxanne McCart is the new owner of the **Wingham Laundromat**, located on Josephine Street. A grand opening of the new facility was held in this month. The laundromat is open 24 hours and features large capacity washers and dryers.
  - The Saltford Valley Hall, which has been purchased by Hugh and Kim Burgsma, will soon be transformed into **Samuels Hotel Inc.**, a quaint and contemporary boutique hotel. A new outer facade will replace the trademark green shell, and rooms will be upgraded to include private terraces and jacuzzi tubs. The Burgsmas are hoping to have the hotel open for business this summer.
  - The new \$3 million addition to the **Goderich municipal offices** on West Street officially opened to public on January 25, 2010. The new construction has added new office space and made the facility wheelchair accessible. Veolia, the company that takes care of the town's water purification and sewage treatment facilities, will locate its offices in the former hydro building on West Street.

*A **two-day equine reproduction course** is being offered at the REACH Centre in Clinton on February 20 and 21, 2010. This course, offered by REACH, Masterfeeds and ITSI, will provide hands-on experience for anyone who is interested in learning how to prepare mares for breeding, select a stallion and breeding techniques. For more information, or to register, visit [www.ReachHuron.ca](http://www.ReachHuron.ca).*
  - Herb Marshall, restaurateur and owner of the Park House in Goderich, is hoping to breathe new life in to **CPR station at the Goderich waterfront**. Conceptual drawings has been created that show how the unique building would be preserved and incorporated in to a 200-seat restaurant with outdoor seating as well. Goderich Council has endorsed Marshall's proposal, and the next steps of determining any environmental contamination concerns with the parking lot will proceed. Marshall's proposal came about following a request for proposals in 2009.
  - The rooftop of 197 Toronto Boulevard in Vanastra could become the site of a **solar photovoltaic project**. The potential 50kW solar project could make \$42,000 a year for the municipality. Solar power companies KW Power Logic and DeCloet have both toured the facility. Deputy Clerk Brad Knight stated that 20-year contracts are available for such projects and that one company estimated that this particular project would cost \$350,000 to install, but would have a payback of 8.3 years with close to 11.5 years remaining on the contract.
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## **Huron Cultural Awards - Winners to be Announced February 5, 2010**

Heritage and Culture Partnership has created the award program to raise the profile of our dynamic cultural community and provide local individuals and organizations with well deserved recognition. Nominees can be recognized for contributions in 2009 in one of four categories: Cultural Event/Organization, Individual Artist, Cultural Patron/Volunteer or Heritage Individual/Organization.

### **Award Categories and Eligibility Criteria:**

- Organizations or individuals must have a significant connection to Huron County, that is, they should live in, is a student, work in or have spent a significant portion of their time in Huron County.
- Recognition is for achievements within the 2009 calendar year.
- An individual, business or organization cannot win in more than one category in the same year.

### ***Cultural Event/Organization***

Recognizes a cultural organization, event, festival or business (private or not-for-profit) that has made a contribution to the enhancement and vitality of the County's cultural sector.

### ***Individual Artist***

Recognizes an individual artist within any arts discipline who through their work has contributed to the reputation of Huron County as a producer of artistic excellence.

### ***Community Contribution***

Recognizes a patron, supporter or volunteer who through their efforts and dedication has made a significant impact on the cultural community of Huron County

### ***Heritage Individual/Organization***

Recognizes an individual or organization that has made a contribution to either the promotion or preservation of Huron County's unique heritage.

### **Nomination Process:**

- A completed Awards Nomination Form must be completed for each nominee for a submission to be considered eligible.
- Nomination Form must be accompanied by a separate page (maximum one page only please) detailing how and why the nominee has met the criteria for the category they are being nominated in.
- Nominations may be made by any Huron County resident or organization
- An individual or organization may only nominate one business, organization or individual per category.
- Nominations must arrive before the deadline for nominations, January 30, 2010 at 5:00 PM.

### **Selection Process and Presentation:**

- Winners will be chosen from eligible nominations through a jury selection process. Winners will be announced at the EPIC Shift Youth Festival Gala Opening at the Blyth Festival on February 5, 2010 at 7:30 PM.
- The winners in each category will be presented with an original piece of art by Huron County artist Elizabeth Van Den Broeck in recognition of their achievement and have a featured profile on the Heritage and Culture Partnership website [www.heritageandculture.on.ca](http://www.heritageandculture.on.ca). Winners are required to provide a photo and text for website profile.

For your nomination form, or more information, contact Rick Sickinger, Coordinator, Heritage and Culture Partnership, 519-482-5457 ext. 8, or email: [rsickinger@huroncounty.ca](mailto:rsickinger@huroncounty.ca)

**Questions or comments? Please contact us:**

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