

Our partners/sponsors:

- Ministry of Economic Development & Trade
- County of Huron
- Self Employment Benefits program
- Huron Business Development Corporation
- Huron Manufacturing Association, and
- Sponsors of our various activities

We're located in the **Huron Business Centre** - your one-stop shopping centre for business and employment related programs.



Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre

Services include:

- *Confidential consultations*
- *Assistance in getting started developing a **Business plan***
- *“**Better Business Basics**” evening workshop series*
- *SEB business planning workshops monthly*
- *Huron “**Bridges to Better Business**” Event, during “Salute to Small Business” month (October)*
- *Summer Company program, encouraging in-school youth to try their hand at self-employment*
- *Business Plan competition for secondary school students*
- *SEB (Self Employment Benefits) program*
- *Business Resource library, with extensive holdings of books, videos, and reference documents on business related topics.*



Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre

138 Main Street South
Box 1120
Seaforth, N0K 1W0

(519) 527-0305

www.smallbusinesshuron.ca



Did You Know?

- Almost half of the new jobs in Ontario are created by small business.
- Ontario firms with less than 50 employees account for 93% of all firms in the province.
- **The rate of self-employment in Huron is much higher than that of the province as a whole**, and the majority of local businesses (88%) are classified as micro businesses (employing fewer than 5 people).

Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre

The population of Huron County is one of the most “rural” in Ontario. The County’s 2001 population stands at 59,701 people, and approximately 55% of county residents live in non-urban areas. There is no “city” in Huron County, and the largest of the five small towns has a population of 7,500 (Goderich).

Our Resource Centre

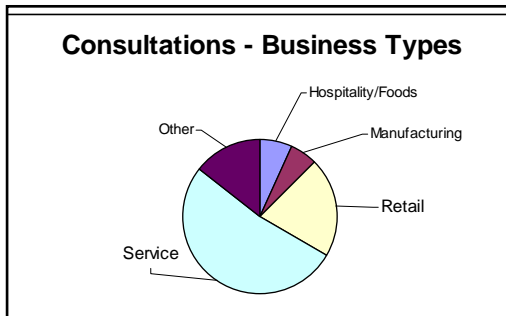
Huron County is home to approximately 5,800 business enterprises, including 2,880 farms. According to a recent publication put out by the Huron Business Development Corporation, *The State of the Huron County Economy, Jan 2005*, “Farming continues to drive the local economy, despite ongoing restructuring and consolidation in the agricultural sector. Next to farming, the service sector is the next largest sector by business numbers, followed by the wholesale and retail trade sector.”

“Huron continues to be a leader in entrepreneurial activity; **with nearly 20% of the workforce self-employed**, compared to 11% provincially. The vast majority of these are very small, with a staff of 1-4 employees. “

“Huron’s manufacturing sector has grown dramatically in the past decade. Manufacturing shipments now exceed the value of gross farm receipts. ... Tourism is the third major pillar of the local economy.”

Our Services

The Planning and Development Department operates the Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development & Trade (MEDT). The Huron SBEC is located in the Huron Business Centre in Seaforth and provides free business information to those contemplating or already operating a small business. Alison Lobb, Business Consultant, and Carol Leeming, Planner and SEB Program Coordinator, staff the office.



Our office is committed to providing excellent, timely service to all business clients. We assist small business operators with their business planning process and establish strategies that enable them to improve their chances of business start-up success and thus increase their long-term viability potential. This, in turn, supports employment and self-employment opportunities in the area; promotes initiatives that retain opportunities for adults and youth within Huron County; and stimulates economic development and growth.

The office also offers the Self Employment Benefit Program on behalf of Human Resources & Skills Development Canada and works with or coordinates several other community development projects such as The Network—“a networking partnership to encourage employability”, the Huron Manufacturing Association (HMA) and the Huron Perth Connects Team.

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Statistics

In 2004, we had 2,755 total **inquiries**, compared to 2,480 in 2003 and 2,050 for the same time period in 2002 ; 1,915 in 2001. The majority of these are service related micro-businesses.

Since the inception in 2001 of the **Summer Company** program, we have had 23 successful student participants, who received funding from MEDT, and mentoring supports from the Enterprise Centre, to operate a business during the summer months.

Partnering with the Huron Business Development Corporation and the Self Employment Benefits program, we hosted a ‘Building a Better Business’ **seminar series**, offering 15 evening workshops during 2004 and 16 during 2003. Check our website for this year’s upcoming schedule!

Nearly 200 entrepreneurs have started their own businesses in Huron County on the Self Employment Benefit (**SEB**) Program—a Human Resources & Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) program. These new entrepreneurs were provided with business coaching, training and financial assistance through the SEB Program.



Huron Small Business Enterprise Centre



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