

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 Centres for Employment and Learning of the Avon Maitland District School Board, Service Canada and the Huron Business Development Corporation.

July 2006

# Business & Work in Huron County

Understanding the Changing Nature of the Huron Economy

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The "Better Business" Seminar Series will resume on  
September 14, 2006 with a  
"Time Management" workshop being held at the Clinton  
OMAFRA Office. To register, or for more information, visit:  
[www.smallbusinesshuron.ca](http://www.smallbusinesshuron.ca)

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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.

- Myrna Thomas, SEB Program Participant, has opened **From The Pantry Shelf** in Dashwood. Thomas will be specializing in soy candle manufacturing for the wholesale and retail market.
- SEB Program Participant Laverne Johnston has opened **Family Crafts and Treasures** at 196 Victoria Street in Goderich. Johnston will be making home-made crafts and garden art for retail at flea markets, craft shows, fairs and craft stores.
- **Re-Read Bookstore** has opened in Exeter. Owner and SEB Program Participant Barb Rosser will be selling used books of all types. Rosser encourages anyone wanting to get rid of their used books to drop them off at her store.
- Leanne Metcalf, SEB Program Participant, has opened **The Cellar** in Clinton. The Cellar will carry vintage clothing and accessories, home decor, and will have an art gallery highlighting local artist's works.
- **Successables Inc.**, a Seaforth based company that specializes in making rain gear for golfers, was recently featured in Sports Illustrated Magazine. Owner, Carolanne Doig, is pleased with the response from the feature - sales have increased as a result. Currently, 87% of the PGA Tour uses the Seaforth rain hood. Successables Inc. has been in operation for 14 years and continues to expand its product line.
- Elimville resident Chad Swance has been picked by Global Vision to be a part of their **Junior Team Canada** Economic Mission in August. Swance will represent southwestern Ontario and will be promoting agriculture and rural affairs. Swance has been on a couple of mission trips before, including one in China.
- **The Corner Store** has opened on Mill Road in Varna. Offerings at The Corner Store include full meals, refreshments and baked goods, as well as gift ideas, and a book nook. A grand opening was held on July 1, 2006.
- Aaron Masse and Mike Mero have joined forces to offer a specialized type of rescue training through their Huron County based business **Huron Confined Space Training Services (HCSTS)**. With more than 6 years experience between both owners, HCSTS training offers firefighters with the skills necessary to handle a wide range of calls from confined space situations to situations involving deadly silo gas. Costs for training provided by HCSTS is approximately \$200 per firefighter for 40 hours of specific training.
- **Stephen Printing**, of Exeter, has closed its doors after 30 years in business. The closure has occurred as a result of owner retirement. Stephen Printing offered both commercial and business printing services.
- The Hensall District Co-op has recently won an award as the **Safest Large Private Fleet in Canada**. This is the second time that the HDC has won this award, as they received it in 2004 as well. The award goes to the applying company that has had the least number of accident/incidents throughout the year, as well as having shown that proper safety procedures and regulations have been followed.
- On Tuesday, July 4, 2006, a fifth location of **The Shipping Store** opened in Bayfield. Other locations include Exeter, Clinton, Goderich and Hanover. The Shipping Store, a division of ShipCo international, offers shipping services both locally and world-wide as well as assorted gift items.

*Continued on Page 3....*

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

- Gwen Devereaux is the newest employee at the **Alexander General Marine Hospital** in Goderich. Devereaux's primary role involves the recruitment of doctor's to the Huron County area. Her time for this function is split between the Goderich hospital and the Huron-Perth Health Care Alliance, which includes hospitals in Clinton, Seaforth, St. Marys and Stratford. Plans are in the works to hold another doctor recruitment mini-gala in Goderich next spring.
- SEB Program Participant Nancy Degans has opened **Tasty Treats and Treasures** at 15 Victoria Street in Clinton. Degans will be offering custom made gift baskets which will include speciality coffees and teas, loose and boxed chocolates, bath and body products, gift ware and quality crafts.
- Lianti Muller, owner of **Huron Solutions**, a business consulting company located in Goderich, has spent recent months in Mozambique redesigning an entire railway operating system. The creation of a 90-page operational manual will play a key part in improving the over-all system. Muller has been locally involved in the past as the President of the Goderich Chamber of Commerce and also serves as a director on the board of the Huron Manufacturing Association.
- **The Goderich Marine Heritage Committee** is finalizing approvals to sink a 35-foot boat to the bottom of Lake Huron in late August or early September, just off of Black's Point. Plans for the artificial dive site have been in the works for many months. The economic spin-offs from the new underwater tourist attraction will be numerous for Goderich and the surrounding area. For more information, contact Jan Hawley by calling 519.527.0305, ext. 32.
- The official opening of the new **Blyth library branch** was held on July 6. The former location, the north wing of the Memorial Hall, did not meet current requirements. Don and Linda Stewart renovated their building to accommodate the new branch and bring it up to the required standards. Friends of the Blyth Library and the Blyth Lawn Bowling Club both played a key role in the relocation process.
- **Dr. Sandford Clare**, general practitioner in Wingham, has retired. With Dr. Clare's retirement, there are only 6 general practitioners in the area - an area that requires at least nine doctors. A replacement has not been hired at this point. On a positive note, dentist Dr. Liu is Wingham's newest dentist. Dr. Liu is the newest addition to the partnership of Dr. Magee, and Dr. Bateman. Having recently moved from Toronto, Dr. Liu is looking forward to offering implant dentistry in the near future.
- In a \$1.7 billion dollar takeover, **BellGlobe Media now owns CHUM Limited**, A-Channel's parent company. There will not be any noticeable on-air changes or layoffs at the Wingham location, however there will be changes at A-Channel London where 32 people have been laid off.
- After being closed for two years, **The Parkside Drive-In in Zurich** has reopened its doors. The Freele family, Morgan, Thania, Robert and Elizabeth, will be offering a simple menu at this point - hot dogs, hamburgers, fries etc., with plans to add wraps, subs and salads in the future. Business hours are still being decided at this point.
- Clinton resident Derek Ingram has recently started two home-based businesses. **Ingram and Associates** is a conference and event management company - an area in which Ingram has many years experience. Ingram is also a travel consultant for **Travel Source Network (TSN)**, a home based travel agency that has about 400 home-based consultants across Canada.

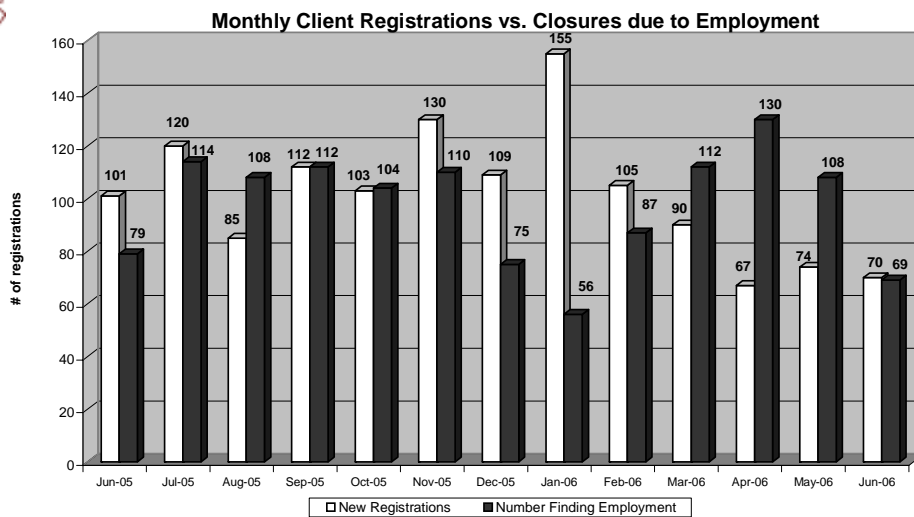
*Continued on Page 7...*

## Huron Employment Resource Centres & Huron County Ontario Works

- The Huron Employment Resource Centres, located in Clinton and Seaforth, as well as The Centres for Employment and Learning in Exeter, Goderich and Wingham, track new registrations on a monthly basis and also monitor the success of their clients in finding employment. Numbers below are based on a five-site total.
- In Chart 1, the number of new HERC client registrations declined when comparing month-over-month (May 2006 to June 2006) by 4, or 5%. When comparing year-over-year (June 2005 to June 2006) the number also declined - 31, or 31%. Case closures due to clients finding employment decreased as well - month-over-month by 39, or 36%, and year-over-year by 10, or 13%.
- In Chart 2, when comparing the Ontario Works caseload number month-over-month (May 2006 to June 2006), we see a decrease of 1%, or a total of 5 cases. When comparing year-over-year (June 2005 to June 2006), we see a 9% (32) increase in the total number of cases.

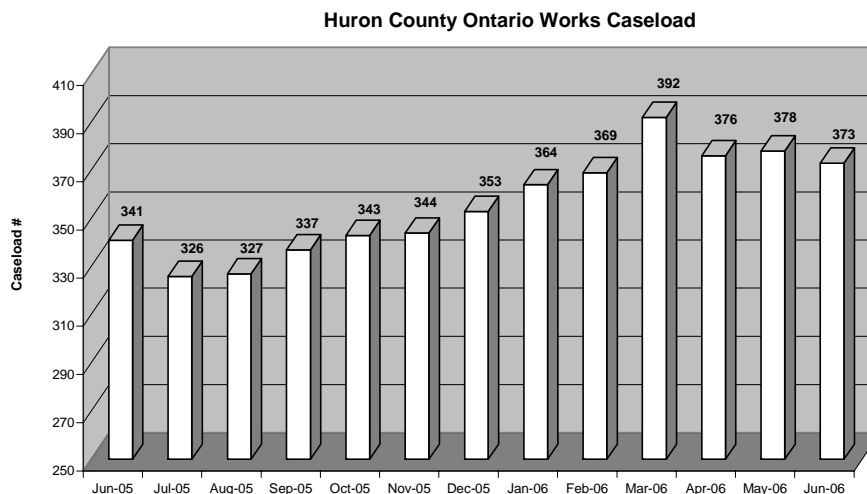


**Chart 1: Huron Employment Resource Centres**



*(Information contributed by: Wendy Cornish, The Centre for Employment & Learning in Exeter)*

**Chart 2: Huron County Ontario Works**

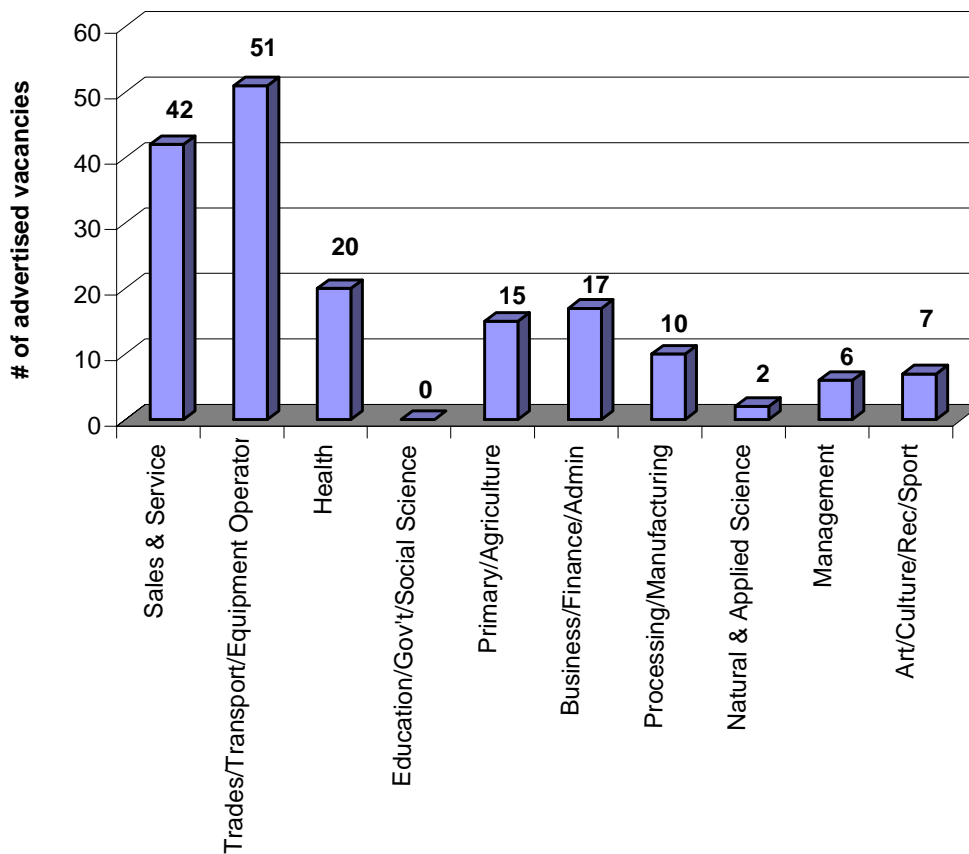


*(Information contributed by: Janet Priebe, Huron County Ontario Works)*

## Huron County Advertised Job Vacancies - June 2006

- There were a total of 170 job vacancies advertised in the month of June within 7 local Huron County newspapers. This is a 20% increase from the month of May (142).
- 77% of the total vacancies were comprised of the following occupations: Trades/Transport/Equipment Operators (30%), Sales and Service (25%), Health (12%), and Business/Finance/Administration (10%).
- When comparing month-over-month (May 2006 to June 2006), Sales and Service vacancies dropped by 5%, while Trades/Transport/Equipment Operator vacancies increased by 8%.
- When comparing year-over-year (June 2005 - 183 to June 2006 - 170), the total number of vacancies dropped by 7% or 13.

Advertised Vacancies in Huron County - June 2006



*“The Work Placement Program was a great opportunity to learn “what’s out there” for opportunities for healthcare students. I’ve learned a lot and have had lots of learning opportunities I will not find within my program.”*

**- Kendra Kiemstra**

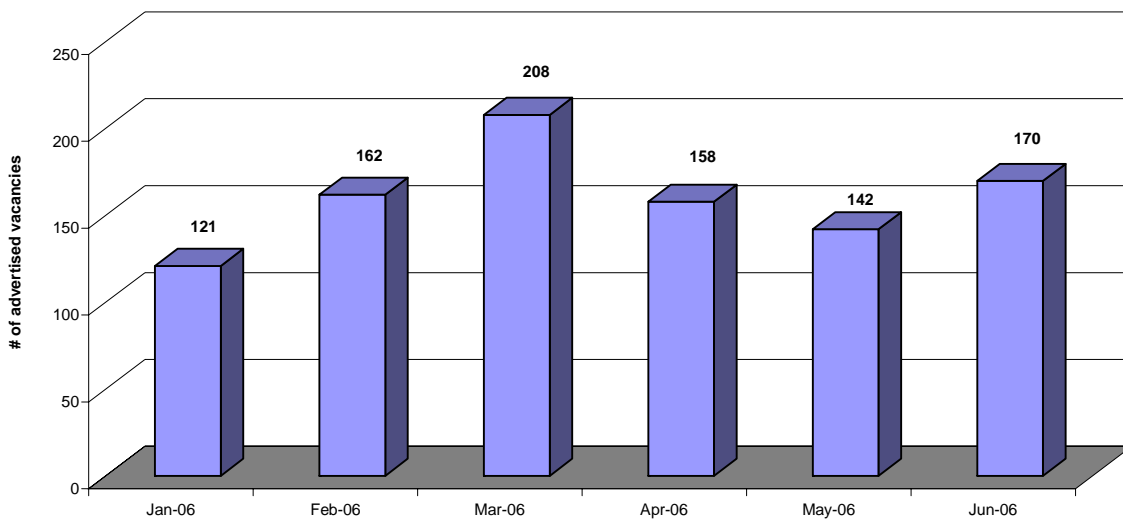
**To learn more about the Rural Healthcare Work Placement Program (through Healthkick Huron), visit:**

**[www.healthkickhuron.ca](http://www.healthkickhuron.ca)**

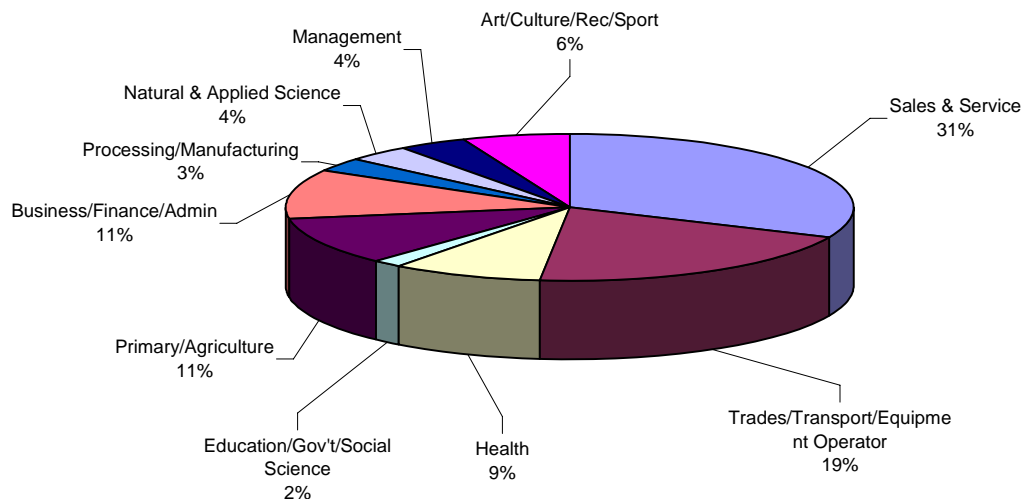
## Huron County Advertised Job Vacancies - 6 Month Comparison

- From January 2006 to June 2006 the total number of advertised job vacancies increased by 49 or 40%.
- A peak number of vacancies occurred during the month of March - 208.
- The average monthly number of advertised job vacancies during this 6 month period was 160.
- Sales and Service (31%) and Trades/Transportation/Equipment Operators (19%) comprised 50% of the overall vacancies from January to June.
- Education/Gov't/Social Science (2%), Processing/Manufacturing (3%), Natural and Applied Science (4%), and Management (4%) comprised 13% of the total 961 vacancies advertised.

Total Number of Advertised Vacancies - January 2006 to June 2006



Advertised Job Vacancies January to June 2006



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

- **McGavin's Farm Equipment** of Walton has been serving local farmers for 70 years. At a recent celebration, local farmers/customers were offered a look into the day to day operations of McGavin's. The business retails a wide range of farm equipment as well as offering repair and maintenance services. The McGavin's have kept up with trends over the years - recently there has been a move towards purchasing of small equipment.
- A vision of Seaforth as a centre for excellence for the care of seniors is an idea that is currently being considered by the **Huron-Perth Health Care Alliance (HPHCA)**. The Bridges of Seaforth, a housing development geared to seniors/retirees is just one aspect of this undertaking. Ralph Laviolette, EDO for Huron East, says a study is currently being done to look at a subdivision behind the hospital, medical clinic, and CCAC to determine which population might suit the area. Presentations made by Huron East and the HPHCA have been garnering attention across the province.

*(Additional information contributed by: Carol Leeming, SEB Program Co-ordinator)*

## **Goderich Marine Heritage Name the Shipwreck Contest**

"Calling all Hands on Deck."


The Goderich Marine Heritage Committee invites you to join in the hunt to name an Artificial Reef about to take shape off Black's Point.....

The mandate of the committee is to enhance this community's rich maritime heritage and develop a scuba diving industry along Ontario's West Coast. The sinking of this 35' vessel will provide a great recreational and educational site for divers throughout these parts and beyond.

Enter your choice for a 'Shipwreck Name' by August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2006 and be eligible to win the honour of christening the vessel, then accompanying it to its final resting place. See adjacent advertisement for details. The winner will be announced the end of August.

*Good Luck & Happy Hunting!*

*(Information courtesy of Jan Hawley, Huron Community Matters)*



**NAME.**  
**SHIPWRECK**  
the

Here's your chance to name  
Goderich's Newest Shipwreck  
The winner will christen the vessel and accompany  
the boat to the site where it will be sunk.

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES**  
**Friday, August 11, 2006**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHIPWRECK NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Drop off your  
ballot at Goderich  
Tourist Centre,  
Libraries in  
Goderich, Bayfield,  
Seaforth & Blyth or  
email to  
tourism@goderich.ca  
1 ENTRY PER PERSON

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## **ShipCo International Wins OACFDC Award!**

ShipCo International was recognized last month for demonstrating entrepreneurial excellence during the Ontario Association of CFDCs' 13th Annual Community Futures Gala Awards Night, in Cornwall, Ontario. The awards were sponsored by FedNor. "We at ShipCo International are very pleased and excited to receive this award," said Ruthann O'Connell. "With the help of the Huron Business Development Corporation we have become a staple in the export business expanding well beyond the boundaries of our region."

The company began in 1996 as a rural-based fulfillment, distribution and warehousing company. In 10 years, the company has grown its annual sales to over \$1 million, doubled its warehouse space due to demand, and established five retail locations for consumer shipping services. Large U.S. based multinational companies seek out the expertise of ShipCo's proprietor based on glowing referrals and a reputation for business excellence. Establishing itself in a small rural community, ShipCo has nonetheless created and nurtured broad international appeal and attention. The creation of this warehousing and fulfillment centre has the potential of being an incredible resource for the local manufacturing sector's (200+ businesses) export activities. In the long term, ShipCo will be able to help local businesses significantly expand their marketability beyond Huron's, Ontario's, and Canada's borders.

ShipCo International received the Entrepreneur of the Year Award along with a cash prize of \$350 and was selected from among nominations submitted by a network of 61 Ontario Community Futures Development Corporations. The Awards Gala took place during the OACFDC's 2006 Conference, 'Navigating the Future Together,' which occurred on June 24-27 at the NavCanada Centre in Cornwall, Ontario. The conference attracted a cross-section of nearly 300 participants including CFDC volunteers and staff, as well as representatives from municipal, provincial and federal governments.

## **Successful MedQuest Camp Held in Seaforth!**

The MedQUEST camp (July 10-14) was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. The 25 campers from across Huron and Perth Counties provided very positive feedback on their experiences.

Highlights included the job shadows in the hospitals and healthcare settings in Seaforth, Clinton, Exeter, Goderich, Wingham and Listowel. Guest speakers from a wide variety of healthcare professions offered insightful and fun activities for the campers. Some of these included Dr. Carolin Shepherd who acted as our Physician Champion and welcomed them to the camp. She also co-presented a session on the family physician role in patient care during pregnancy and worked with a volunteer patient who was pregnant to demonstrate pregnancy testing, calculation of estimated date of birth and listening to a real fetal heart beat. Dr. Julia Moore an obstetrician from Goderich provided a wonderful demonstration using our Noelle birthing simulator mannequin. Other sessions included Brain Gym by Faye Murray, Nutrition and Diabetes education with Lorraine Devereaux and Diane Wood, X-ray session with Joanne Bowen and physiotherapy with Craig Irwin. Bob Fisher offered his real life experiences in dealing with a visual impairment.

On Thursday July 13<sup>th</sup>, Minister Smitherman and our local MPP Carol Mitchell joined our casting session at the Seaforth Lion's Park. The Minister and MPP both took the time to speak to the campers and organizers. On Friday July 14 a mock disaster was staged that involved the cooperation of the Huron County Emergency Management Committee. Over 100 people



*Continued on Page 9...*

## **Successful MedQuest Camp Held in Seaforth!** *Continued from Page 8...*

participated in this exercise either at the crash site or at municipal sites. A team of 11 volunteers made up the victims (25 campers + the Noelle simulator). Players included OPP, EMS, Fire, St. John's Ambulance, Victim Services and all Huron municipalities. Alexandra Marine and General Hospital, South Huron Hospital both activated their internal fan out plans as a result of inputs from the scene. This exercise will offer participating organizations the opportunity to meet their exercise requirements.

The graduation ceremony at the Seaforth Lion's park on July 14<sup>th</sup> was well attended by campers and their parents. Gwen Devereaux and Dr. Shepherd addressed the group and offered congratulation to the campers on their successful week. Gwen offered recognition to Mary Lapaine for her contribution to the community and healthcare profession. Our three camper awards were presented by Dr. Shepherd to Kendra Levy of St. Mary's (Director's Award), Tymen Deweerd of Seaforth (Counsellor's Award) and Jillian Anderson of Londesborough (Peer Award). Over all the camp was a tremendous success.

*(Information and picture courtesy of Healthkick Huron)*

## **Tech Camp Held at St. Anne's in Clinton!**

St. Anne's Secondary Catholic School recently hosted a Science and Tech camp for elementary school students in Huron County. The camp, provided for the second year under the Skilled Training Educational Partnership (STEP) umbrella gave students from area Catholic schools hand-on on science and technical knowledge.

Twenty-five Students from Grades 5 to 8 participated in the week-long camp. The week included a clock-making course on Monday, the creation of a TV projector on Tuesday, a tour of Royal Homes in Wingham on Wednesday, hands on manufacturing and welding experience on Thursday, and small engine repairs in Friday.

The STEP program is made possible through the partnerships of The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board, St. Anne's Catholic District Secondary School, the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program, the Huron Manufacturing Association, the Huron Business Development Corporation, and the Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Georgian Triangle Training Board.



*(Picture courtesy of The Clinton News Record)*

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

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