

Coop Student contributes

Youth Skill Development is a key priority in Perth County. The Coop Student placement program through the Avon-Maitland District School Board is a tremendous program that allows local stu-

dents to participate with local businesses in a hands-on learning experience.

Perth County is pleased to welcome Jaimie Eaton this term. Jaimie has an

interest in Journalism and will be contributing to our communication efforts. Watch for her articles in our monthly newsletter.

Youth Skill Development is a High Priority

With the decline in the economy and everyone working towards a brighter future, now is as important as ever to focus on the leaders of tomorrow, our youth. As a community it is imperative to strive to enforce "Youth Skill Development" by providing our youth with relevant, up-to-date training as to ensure they excel in any chosen field of work. It is as well vital to support the concept of "Youth Retention" by helping create connections to local employers and opportunities. Today, a lot is being done to ensure the future of our community's workforce. "Statistics show that these students that get connected to employment upon leaving school do better in their careers," states Mark Roth, whom of which works in connection with many youth related projects and apprenticeships.

"We try to showcase and highlight local examples of students with similar backgrounds and encourage students to use them as role models," remarks Roth on the important concept of youth retention.

Mark Roth sits on the board of the technical training group and is as well a tech and Co-op teacher at Stratford North-

western Secondary School. The Technical Training Group is a non-for-profit organization that has a 12 member volunteer board of directors. The TTG's main focus is to aid Stratford and its surrounding area in gaining the skills necessary to a meaningful profession in the trades. One of its goals relevant to youth skill development is "to support opportunities for youth to explore career options in the skilled trades/" The TTG works in partnership with Stratford Northwestern Secondary School, and St. Michaels Catholic School. In fact, the TTG in partnership with Northwestern Secondary School is home to the provinces first welding apprentice program. The welding Apprentice Program allows youth, skilled in tech, to showcase their talent in a field of work they enjoy and excel in. This utilizes the concept of the importance of developing skills in youth prior to exiting the formal education system. The welding Program employs seven highly competent welding faculties including, Certified Engineering Technologist, Welding Technologist, a C of Q Welder, and an Industrial Maintenance Mechanic Millwright.

"It is a highly successful program and the model has been endorsed by levels of the government; it provides our local community with post-secondary training as a training delivery agent for the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities," comments Roth who is instrumental to the success of the program.

Roth partakes in other activities in cooperation with the Perth County Economic Development Office, ensuring the development of skills in our youth. He coordinates certification on training for local needs such as St. Johns Ambulance First Aid, WHMIS, forklift training, overhead crane, fall arrest, elevated platform training, etc. He is also actively involved in other TTG youth initiatives like FUNTECH and STEP. He strives to encourage students to be linked with their community hours related to employer groups for future networking.

"My focus is simple, I want as many graduating students as possible to be working and paying taxes when they exit the school system," says Roth, "it is the return on the investment so to speak that society should expect from our government supported education system."

Bulk Tech relocates to Perth County

Shakespeare—Perth County is pleased to welcome Bulk Tech to our business community.

Bulk Tech is now located 4440 Perth Road 107, just north of Shakespeare.

Bulk Tech Inc is a company that specializes in building welded steel tanks and welded steel hopper bottoms for grain bins for agricultural or commercial use. Bulk Tech tanks and hoppers are stand blasted and uniquely painted to provide the best protection possible against the elements.

All Bulk Tech hoppers and tanks are built to exceed engineering specifications.

According to owner, Neil Scholton, they lo-

cated in Perth County because of the strong labour force. “Finding skilled labour in other communities is a challenge, but once they put the word out, they had no trouble finding skilled welders”, said Scholton.

Bulk Tech sells direct to agricultural clients, which also makes this location ideal. Perth County is home to thousands of farms and agricultural businesses.

Since locating in the 15,000 sq ft facility, Bulk Tech has also started a customized Powder coating business, which has already been popular.

For more information, visit www.bulktech.ca



Bulk Tech specializes in welded steel tanks and grain bins.

Business Export Program

Stratford—Perth County is pleased to present our Business Export Program. If you have ever considered exporting to Spanish Speaking Countries, now is the time to take action.

We have had a tremendous response to this program, to date. Local businesses have met with our Export Consultant, Maria Garcia, to identify, design, and implement strategies for accessing

export markets in Spanish speaking countries.

Ms. Garcia has extensive experience in exporting to Latin America, Central America, and Spain. She has numerous political contacts in these countries, which facilitates entry into foreign business markets. Ms. Garcia’s command of the Spanish language, culture, and currency is a tremendous asset to local businesses.



Listowel has recently installed gateway signage to welcome visitors to the community.

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PerthCoEcDev



Perth County-Economic

Improved Signage

Listowel—The Listowel BIA is proud to present their new entrance signage.

David Hicks, Chair of the Listowel BIA told us that the BIA has felt for some time that the town needed to be properly represented. Improving the signage has been a priority for a number of years, however a lack of funding has been a major obstacle.

Last summer, the BIA tendered for a design for the signs, and selected a local design from Raynbow Signs.

Feedback so far, has been very complimentary.

Funding for the signs was provided in part, through the Rural Economic Development (RED) program.

Job Creation is one of our highest priorities in Perth County. If you are looking to hiring part-time, full-time or seasonal staff, let us know, and we can help you find the workers that best suit your business.

North Perth Arts Council presents local workshops

North Perth Arts Council presents...

Listowel—The North Perth Arts and Culture Council will present a two-day watercolour workshop featuring visual artist Linda Bester.

Both days will include demonstrations of watercolour painting techniques in Linda's unique style. Her clear and concise teaching methods make this workshop appealing to both the novice watercolourist as well as the more advanced painter.

This workshop will be held on

May 1-2, 2010 at the Listowel Golf and Country Club, which is located at 8380 Fairlaine Road in Listowel. The workshop begins at 9:30am and will wrap up each day at 4:30pm.

Registration is \$175 per person, which includes lunch on each day. Artists are responsible for their own supplies. A list of suggested supplies will be provided upon registration.

To join in on this fascinating opportunity, please call 519-291-4167 for more informa-

tion. A registration form can be downloaded off the council's website, which found at www.northpertharts.ca

On this website, you can also find out about the Arts Council's amateur photo competition. This FUN-draising event is a showcase and performance of local talent and will be held at the Elma Memorial Community Centre in Atwood on the evening of October 2, 2010.

The County of Perth serves a population of 74,000 people. We invite you to visit www.perthcounty.ca for more information on our communities.

Reasons to Visit Perth County

Nestled here in the fertile soil of southwestern Ontario, with lakes to the west and south and east, Perth County is sitting pretty in a number of ways. Criss-crossed by rivers, with rolling hills, deciduous forests and rugged areas, the land is perfect for touring, whether by car, or bicycle, or motorcycle or with a walking

stick and sturdy shoes. We have mapped, self-directed tours for any way you'd like to go. There's even an Artisan Studio Tour in April.

As you travel, be sure to taste. Many farms engage in farm-gate marketing, with stands that offer up fresh fruit and vegetables, sausage, pies, and breads. You can pick your own

fruit at many farms.

Kilometers of trails and parkland offer innumerable places to stop and enjoy a meal or just a snack.

Whatever your interest, your speed and your age, Perth County promised you a visit you'll always remember, and want to repeat!

Shopping

In spring, garden centres brim with glorious blooms. In summer, artists gather in the parks, crafters and farmers spread out their wares at local markets, and unexpected bargains appear at garage sales and antique auctions.

Whatever the season, whatever

the reason for your visit, don't forget to check out some of the wonder specialty shops that abound in the communities of Perth County—from marvelous chocolates, vintage and custom clothing, fuzzy friends for the wee ones, or collectibles and specialty food items.

Come and find something for everyone, while shopping in Perth County



Road Closure Notice

Stratford—Throughout the year, there are emergency road closures through Perth County. These closures can be the result of severe weather, floods, construction, or motor vehicle accidents.

There may be businesses throughout this region that are effected by these closures. The Emergency Management Office and the Economic Development Office at Perth County would like to include you in our emergency road closure email notification when such instances

occur.

If you are in the transportation, distribution, or logistics sector, you may benefit by these notices. Knowing about closures will allow you and your team to plan alternate routes, and remain competitive in your industry.

If you would like to begin receiving these email alerts, please contact Bernia Wheaton at the Economic Development Office. bwheaton@perthcounty.ca

Up to date weather and road conditions can also be found on Twitter.

The Perth County Public Works Department posts emergency information on their twitter page. They can be found at PerthCoRoads.

Join us, and stay informed.



Stay informed of emergency road closures.

Municipal Elections 2010

Perth County Council representation will undergo a significant turnover in October of 2010.

The County is governed by a Warden and a council. Municipalities are created by provincial legislation. They exist to provide local government to communities throughout the province.

Municipal elections are held every four years on the fourth Monday of October. This year, voters will go to the polls on October 25, 2010.

Anyone can vote in a municipal election who, on the day of the election is:

- 18 years of age or older
- A Canadian citizen; and
- Either a resident of the municipality or a property owner in the municipality during a specified time just before the election.

To be able to vote, your name must be on the list of eligible voters.

Perth County Councillors are elected at the local level, and then are appointed to represent their municipality at the County seat. The Municipalities of North Perth and Perth East each appoint 3 representatives to County Council. The Townships of Perth South and West Perth each appoint 2 representatives to County Council, making up a total of 10 Council members.

As of March 31, 2010, several members of the existing council have indicated that they are retiring from municipal politics, and will not be running in the 2010 election. This list includes John Van Bakel (West Perth), Bob McTavish (Perth East), and Ron McKay, (Perth South). Councillor Gerry Kehl (West Perth) has also indicated that he will not seek the position of Mayor or Deputy Mayor of West Perth, and therefore will not be returning to the County Council after October 2010.

According to the Mitchell Advocate, Kehl has said, "The position of

mayor or deputy mayor requires one to not only attend all municipal council meetings but also all county council meetings and all of the committee requirements associated with either position. The time commitment coupled with the length of a four-year term takes a great deal of personal time."

Perth County Councillors are paid an honorarium for their responsibilities of attending regular council sessions. The honorarium for 2010 is set at \$7,661.30. Councillors are also reimbursed for their mileage.

If you are interested in running for council in your local municipality, you must declare your intentions by the September 10, 2010 nomination deadline. Appropriate nomination forms can be picked up at your local municipal office.

"If you are interested in running for Council, you must declare your intentions by September 10th."