

Economy and Downtowns

Goal: The Huron County economy will continue to provide economic security and opportunity for its residents through diversification, business retention, local provision, education and training opportunities.

Strategy: Assist with the Retention and Expansion of Local Businesses (EC4)

Goal: The downtowns in Huron County will be active and healthy centres of commerce, government and culture, capitalizing on historic character, locally-owned businesses, and people-friendly spaces.

Strategy: Develop a County-Wide Downtown Strategy that Builds on Current Initiatives and Can be Adapted and Implemented by all Municipalities in Towns and Villages (DT1)

PRIORITY PROJECT: Continue to encourage Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) programs and implement effective strategies; and share best practices among towns and villages to ensure progress and development.

Description

Ensuring that our businesses stay strong and prosperous is a huge part of our economic development in Huron County. A number of BR&E initiatives are already occurring in Huron County towns and villages. Sharing best practices and building on successes will help ensure sustainability for businesses in Huron County. Results from this action will support strategies in the following theme areas:

- Economy (Economic Security Pillar)
- Downtowns (Economic Security Pillar)
- Population (Community and Social Well Being Pillar)
- Community Needs (Community and Social Well Being Pillar)

Activities will include

- Identify more ways to become business friendly
- Review by-laws of downtown buildings (i.e. multi-use)
- All downtowns need to complete BR&E
- Need to provide funding to implement strategies
- Create economic development marketing tools

- Host a bus tour for Municipal staff and Council that would illustrate best practices in Huron County.
- Conduct “Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats” analysis as part of current BR&E programs.

Lead

- Huron Economic Development Partnership (County – HBDC – OMAFRA)

Resources

- The Huron Business Development Corporation (HBDC)
- Huron County Planning and Development Department
- Rural Economic Development Program

Collaborators

- Municipalities
- Chamber(s) of Commerce
- Business Improvement Associations (BIAs)
- Local employers or businesses in Huron County

Measures of Success

- Number of BR&E studies underway
- Funding received

Timeline

All interested towns and villages will complete a BR&E study by the end of 2014, followed by implementation.



Robyn Doig, Youth Contest Entry