

Acknowledgements

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Sustainable Huron Steering Committee

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Warden Neil Vincent (2011) Councillor Paul Klopp (2011) Councillor David Riach (2011)	County Council	Roger Watt Phil Mennill	Lakeshore
Warden Bert Dykstra (2010) Councillor John Bezaire (2010) Councillor Jim Fergusson (2010)		Dave Overboe Michele Gaynor	Social Services
		Michael Di Lullo Gary Long Kevin McIlwain	Clerk-Administrators
Wayne Black Jack Kroes	Agriculture	Kate Monk Phil Beard	Conservation Authority
Meighan Wark Rick Sickinger	Culture	Brittney Fry Lisa Hood	Youth
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Rick Hundey Paul Nichol	Huron Business Development Corporation	Mike Pullen	Economic Development
John Feeney	Manufacturing	Susanna Reid Scott Tousaw	Planning and Development
Joan Van Der Meer David Blaney	Energy	Sherri Preszcator Janice Dunbar Kimberly Ross-Jones	Health Unit

Community

Almost 2000 people who helped in the development of Take Action for a Sustainable Huron.

Huron County Project Staff

- Scott Tousaw, Director of Planning and Development Department, Huron County
- Rebecca Rathwell, Planning and Development Department, Huron County
- Nina Reynolds, Planning and Development Department, Huron County

Lura Consulting Team

- Liz Nield, Project Director
- Susan Hall, Project Co-Director
- David Dilks and Sally Leppard, Project Advisors
- Jim Faught, Facilitator
- Lindsey Goodchild, Project Co-ordinator
- Alissa Golden, Project Support
- Dr. Harvey Shear, Indicator Development
- Dr. Sandra Znajda, Writer



Foundation for a Sustainable Future

Take Action for Sustainable Huron

Throughout 2007 and 2008, municipal leaders engaged the Huron County community to create a common vision for a sustainable future. More than 1700 residents, community groups and organizations took part in these conversations. This collective voice is captured in *Take Action for Sustainable Huron (2009)* – a living document of community goals and actions to reach them; one which will evolve as the community’s goals and needs change over time.

The *Take Action* report, and the community effort that went into its creation, is the foundation and momentum for the Huron County Sustainability Plan. The vision, goals, and actions for a sustainable Huron in *Take Action* were the starting point – the Huron County Sustainability Plan provides the pathway to reach our community vision for the future.



Foreword

Welcome to the future of Huron County.

You are about to *Take Action for a Sustainable Huron*. Within this document lies a broad, but connected range of visions, ideas and aspirations for what our communities will be like in 2030 – the types of places we wish to live in, work in, recreate and serve in.

Each of these strategies works together to achieve a number of fundamental goals: the desire to maintain a certain level of material comfort; the ability to keep the best of what we have now while generating new possibilities; and finally, a desire to meet the needs of the present without compromising the future.

Take Action for a Sustainable Huron has been put together by hundreds of Huron County residents, organizations, networks and community leaders. In that sense, this future vision belongs to no one individually, but to everyone collectively. It is a *community* document, made *by* the community and *for* the community. And like any good long-term strategy, it is a reflection of what the people of Huron County aspire to; what we value most and what we wish to pass on to our children.

But most importantly, *Take Action for a Sustainable Huron* reflects a spirit of self-reliance and an assertion that communities are not formed by what happens *to us* – but by what *we make happen*. Huron County's future sustainability hinges on the combined efforts of local governments, community organizations and people like you.

I encourage you to read on and take the first step towards making something happen.

Paul Nichol

Huron Business Development Corporation
Member, Sustainable Huron Steering Committee

Whether we measure our history here in years or in generations

, we all care about our community and its future. It doesn't matter whether we are in school, working, or retired, or whether we are part of a town, village, hamlet, rural, or lakefront community. We all want to improve our community and our quality of life in it. There are aspects we want to preserve, and aspects we want to change.

This Plan consolidates concerns and ideas gathered from almost 2000 people. It addresses a wide range of strategies and actions spanning the promotion of agricultural, business, tourism, cultural, and residential growth and development, the protection and wise use of our natural resources for

both economic and recreational purposes, and the provision of a healthy-living environment for year-round and seasonal residents and visitors.

This is not the endpoint; it is only the beginning. Prioritizing, developing, and pursuing the actions listed in the Plan will require the enthusiastic participation of volunteers from all sectors of the Huron community. We invite you to identify the aspects of the Plan that mean the most to you, and become involved in shaping the social, economic, and environmental well-being of Huron County.

Roger Watt

Huron Sands, Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh Township
Member, Sustainable Huron Steering Committee

“A set, definite objective must be established if we are to accomplish anything in a big way.”

– John McDonald (1787 – 1860), Legislative Council of Upper Canada

All great endeavours are formed from the birth of an idea and this document is the birth of a more sustainable Huron County. It is the collective voice of Huron County’s men and women; thousands demanding a say in their future. *Take Action for a Sustainable Huron* is our ‘definite objective’ for the future of Huron County and includes the first steps toward a more sustainable future.

Over the course of almost two years, members and representatives of Huron’s population, whether it be demographic, business, recreational interest or other, met to discuss and collaborate on the future of their home. What about this community is important now? What is it about Huron County that interests the youth of the area that they may return and carry on in prosperity? What does Huron County hold that our grandchildren may inherit? This document attempts to answer and expound on questions like these.

Within this document the thoughts and visions of a community ready for change are demonstrated through strategic outreach programs and constructive ideas geared toward strengthening and enhancing the economic, cultural, agricultural and societal pillars of our community.

Here is our first step. These pages can help to build and define a new future – one in which a community learns to look forward and to contribute to an inheritance. Let the ideas inspire and the actions motivate you. Our future is up to us, so let us finally take the reins.

Lisa Justine Hood

General Manager, The Livery Theatre
Community Outreach Co-ordinator, Blyth Festival
Member, Sustainable Huron Steering Committee