

1 Huron Street
Stratford, Ontario
N5A 5S4
Bernia Wheaton,
Economic Development Officer
t. 519-274-4651
e. bwheaton@perthcounty.ca

Economic Development

PERTH COUNTY

MARCH 2010

Renewed Hope for our Local Economy

Opportunity is alive again the County of Perth. Listowel regains hope for lost jobs with the anticipated opening of a poultry processing plant. It is said that when one door closes another one always opens. This inspirational statement could not be truer for Listowel, as this month it was announced by John Wilkinson, MPP, Perth-Wellington that the provincial government is helping turn what used to be Listowel's operating Campbell's soup factory into a division of Erie Meats products with a provincial investment of \$3 million.

Listowel's Campbell Soup factory, which had been operating in the area since 1960, closed last spring rendering 500 jobs lost. The factory accounted for a third of Campbell's Canadian workforce and was the largest employer in the area. To most it was the only work they ever knew as it employed many generations of families at an \$18 an hour pay rate. Families were devastated when its production was shifted to other contracts in North America, and while many worried about their pension, some employees were given early retirement offers. However, most

were forced to find work elsewhere putting close to 500 people out of work and on unemployment. This had a devastating effect on the community as a whole, as well as damaging effects on the local economy.

These new plans for the factory as well as the government funding are precisely what this struggling community had kept hope alive for over the last year of recession and economic devastation.



Julie Behrns, Perth County Warden ; John Wilkinson, MPP Perth Wellington; Hon. Carol Mitchell, OMAFRA; Simon Rosen, President Erie Meats; Bernia Wheaton, Economic Development Officer , Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario

It was stated by John Wilkinson, that "The anecdote for a lost job is a new job ... Our government is proud

to support partnerships aimed at strengthening our local rural economy."

Gratitude was collectively expressed by Listowel's citizens as well as local politicians as the burden of a damaged economy is slowly lifted from their shoulders. Workers breathed a collective sigh of relief as Premier Dalton McGuinty appeared in Listowel to announce the good news. An even larger exhale of relief was expressed at the mention of Erie meats' plans to hire and train 500 workers over the next three years.

The new owners understand the magnitude of the factory's reopening as well as the incredible investment opportunity it provides. They expect to sell four tones of wieners a day, and hope to be fully operational come December.

For more information in these recent developments including the March 11th News Release visit us at www.perthcounty.ca

Summer Positions Available for Dedicated Students

2009's economic downturn has got the best of us down. While many have become plagued with the effects of the recession unable to find work, it's the students that have had to become particularly competitive to acquire employment. Experience. You need it to get it. Fortunate enough we're seeing a small and welcome recovery here in a brighter 2010. Companies have begun to hire new employees, student positions are becoming more available, and the stress of affording college tuition is becoming slightly less intense for our high school students. Being no exception the County of Perth is pleased to announce new employment opportunities for students over the summer of 2010. If you are a student currently pursuing post-secondary education, you could gain valuable career experience by applying for a summer student position at the Perth County Courthouse. A number of different departments are looking for a number of differently skilled students to provide assistance and general support. These positions offer a wonderful opportunity to expand students' horizons and sharpen their skills; they are as well an excellent opportunity to make some tuition money.

If you're Interested in business and economic revitalization the Economic Development Office has two available positions both in exciting field's of work. The anticipated start dates for these positions is May 10 2010, you must be either a high school student or a post secondary returning stu-

dent to qualify. Open positions include: Business Liaison Summer Student and Youth Liaison Summer student. Both offer valuable economic experience that could be utilized in future related careers

Summer Student positions in Economic Development, Public Works, Planning, and with the Deputy Clerk

and post secondary education. If you or someone you know are interested in retail engagement, business studies, or youth skill development and have a flare for communication, consider applying.

For those students interested in geography and are enrolled in a planning degree program or related discipline such as geography, or are enrolled in a GIS degree at a college or university level, Planning and Development has two open sixteen week job positions. Open positions include: Planning Student Position and Geographic Information System. A position in planning would require students to be interested in population statistics and comfortable using surveys to acquire research used for future development needs. The GIS position requires students to be comfortable with technology with sufficient computer skills. Both positions provide excellent experience in their individual fields of work and prepare students for a full-time position in planning completion of their university/ community college programs

If you're more of a "hands on" person, Public Works is also looking to fill two positions. Anticipated start dates are May 3, 2010, and you must have a valid class "G" driver's licence as well as be a post secondary returning student. Public Works is looking for Students to do road work. If hired you would provide general support and assistance to the PW coordinator and foreman, in the area of traffic maintenance, installation and control. This is a great job for those who prefer to take a "hands on" approach to your work and enjoy the outdoors.

The Perth County Summer Student Positions offers knowledge, skills, and experience valuable to post secondary studies as well as future full time work in any of their specific fields. Times are tough but searching for a summer position that fits your specific skills doesn't have to be, so if you or someone you know is a student perusing post secondary education or in the case of the Economic Development Office, a high school student with a strong desire to learn it would benefit you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to sharpen your skills and prepare yourselves for a future in your desired area of work. Check out the County of Perth's website for details on how to apply and any other information on any of the job postings. Here's to hopes of a very successful summer!

www.perthcounty.ca Is your destination for information on Business in Perth County, Visiting Perth County, Living in Perth County, and Municipal Government. You can find current News, and information on community and Municipal events.

You can also follow us on your favourite Social Media venue. We can be found at

 facebook

Perth County Economic Development

 twitter

PerthCoEcDev


Perth County
Cultivating Opportunity