

# SUSTAINABLE HURON

Your Guide to Sustainability in Huron County!

Issue 2

May 2011

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## Sustainable Huron Survey

Have you taken the Sustainable Huron Survey?

We would appreciate your thoughts on what matters most to you in Huron, and what the future should look like. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete.

*Have your voice heard - fill out the online survey today!*

Find it through the Sustainable Huron website at:

<http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron>

Or through the Sustainable Huron blog!

## Project Update

The Sustainable Huron Project Team has been working closely with the Steering Committee to identify a long-term vision for the project, along with goals and indicators to track progress. The identification of measurable and effective indicators will ensure project accountability and allow the Sustainable Huron Project Team to adjust implementation actions based on results and by continually evolving priorities.

For background information on Take Action for Sustainable Huron and the Huron County Sustainability Plan and process, visit the Huron County website at [www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron](http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron), or our blog at <http://sustainablehuron.wordpress.com>.

## Out and About

The Sustainable Huron project team has been busy talking to different people in Huron about the Sustainability Plan.

**Huron County's Community Super Conference**, held on March 22, 2011 at Bluewater Shores, brought together municipal councilors and staff, BIA and chamber members, local food advocates, industry organizations, community project partners and steering committee members. The conference, led by Huron County's Planning and Development department and its partners, allowed stakeholders and decision makers to share information and raise awareness of their initiatives. Dr. Wayne Caldwell's presentation on trends impacting our rural world kicked-off the conference and got everyone thinking about the possible impact of: climate change, peak oil, population growth and food security, no growth scenarios (i.e. decrease in fossil fuels), loss of biodiversity, the global economy and political instability, and, demographic change.

Our project team presented the sustainability planning process and facilitated group discussions with the participants on the challenges and opportunities for a sustainable future in Huron County. Participants identified the priorities they would like to see addressed in the Sustainability Plan. Thanks to all who attended and helped make the event a success.

The annual **Huron County Municipal Officers Association** meeting was held on Friday, April 15, 2011 at the Stanley Township Complex in Bluewater. The meeting included presentations on local health, climate change and source water protection. Of particular interest was the presentation by The Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptive Resources (OCCAR). The OCCAR discussed the concept of adaptation, which involves taking action to minimize the risks, take advantages of opportunities and ultimately increase resilience to the negative impacts associated with climate change. Visit their website at [www.climateontario.ca](http://www.climateontario.ca) for helpful resources and for more information on this exciting initiative.

**A Conversation with David Suzuki** took place at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School on Tuesday, April 12, 2011. All 52 schools in the Avon Maitland District School board were represented by almost 700 secondary and elementary students. Dr. Suzuki screened his new documentary "Force of Nature" to the students and answered their questions. Students were given the opportunity to listen to Dr. Suzuki talk about sustainability and discuss pro-active measures that students can take to be environmentally responsible.

*Is there an upcoming event we should be at? Let us know! Contact us by e-mail at [takeaction@huroncounty.ca](mailto:takeaction@huroncounty.ca) or by phone at (519) 524-8394 ext. 3.*

## Upcoming Events

Looking for something to do this summer? Check out these exciting events in Huron County!

For full event listings, visit Ontario's West Coast website at [www.ontarioswestcoast.ca](http://www.ontarioswestcoast.ca)

### May 2011

- \* Lucknow Town Wide Yard Sale, Sat, May 14, 2011
- \* 2nd Annual South Huron Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament, Tue, May 17, 2011
- \* Blyth's 14th Annual Barn Dance Jamboree / Campout, Thu, May 26,- Sun, May 29, 2011
- \* Perth Huron Forbidden Ride, Fri, May 27 - Sat, May 28, 2011

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### June 2011

- \* Bayfield Festival of Song, Fri, June 3,- Sun, June 12, 2011
- \* Clinton Spring Fair, Fri, June 3 - Sat, June 4, 2011
- \* Wingham Musical Muskrat Festival, Fri, June 10 - Sun, June 12, 2011
- \* 143rd Annual Hensall Spring Fair, Fri, June 10- Sat, June 11, 2011
- \* Dungannon Truck & Tractor Pull and Dance, Fri, June 17 - Sat, June 18, 2011
- \* Sail & Canvas (Bayfield), Sat, June 18, 2011 - Sun, June 19, 2011
- \* Lucknow Strawberry Summerfest, Fri, June 24, 2011 - Sun, June 26, 2011
- \* 10th Annual Goderich Children's Festival, Sat, June 25, 2011
- \* Bayfield Writer's Festival, Sat, June 25, 2011
- \* Goderich Canada Day Celebrations and Fireworks, Thu, June 30 - Sun, July 3, 2011

## Early Win Project Updates

The Sustainable Huron campaign has launched three early pilot projects for the County of Huron's Sustainability Plan. As a part of the Plan's comprehensive strategy, the County of Huron and its partners are implementing a series of pilot projects to build momentum, foster sustainable initiatives, and lead by example.



### The Manufacturing Efficiencies Project

Sustainable Huron is pleased to announce that KUZUKA has been selected as the professional sustainability consultants for the Manufacturing Efficiencies Project. KUZUKA is an Exeter-based consulting firm that helps organizations in both the public and private sector deal with issues of carbon management and sustainability. The application period is ongoing and businesses who want to participate in this free initiative that will help them identify and integrate opportunities related to efficiencies and saving money within their business are encouraged to contact Steve Boles [sboles@kuzuka.com](mailto:sboles@kuzuka.com) as soon as possible.

We are hoping to have the businesses that will participate in the pilot project selected by the end of April. The project will include the development of a Sustainable Manufacturing best practice report and toolkit. The toolkit will provide a framework and checklist to guide manufacturers in Huron County in their pursuit of becoming more sustainable.

*This pilot project has been developed in partnership with the HMA and the Midwestern Green Jobs Strategy, who have hired a Rural Development Officer to help with the initiative. For more information on KUZUKA, visit their website at [www.kuzuka.com](http://www.kuzuka.com).*



### The Schoolyard Planting Project

Professional landscape architect *Jane Eligh-Feryn* has been selected to collaborate with three grade six classes in Huron County to develop stimulating landscape designs for their schools. *Seaforth, Brookside* and *Lady of Mount Carmel* Public Schools have been chosen to participate in this inspiring project.

The project will be supported with in-class workshops, delivered by the local conservation authorities, that will teach students about naturalized and indigenous landscapes, the process of tree planting, and the benefits of taking action for ecological sustainability in their own backyard.

The Schoolyard Planting Project has the potential to benefit the community by improving the quality of existing natural areas, providing shade and wind protection, fostering natural environment and ecological awareness, providing erosion control, engaging youth and culture building. Over the upcoming weeks, the winning schools will begin coordinating their local conservation authorities to work out the design, education and planting schedules. Planting is slated for September 2011.

*This pilot project has been developed in partnership with the Maitland Valley and Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authorities. For more information on the Schoolyard Planting Project, stay tuned to the Sustainable Huron blog.*



## The Local Food Project

The Sustainable Huron Project team attended the recent local food Opportunities Project update meeting on April 4th 2011 at Brodhagen Hall. The Opportunities Project will help build capacity for local food and lead Huron towards a sustainable future. The meeting, titled "Building Local Food Capacity for a Sustainable Future" brought together local farmers, service providers, community stakeholders and ... to explore opportunities for marketing local food. Among the presentations was an outline of local food trends by Dr. Campbell, a Research Scientist, Horticulture Economics, working with the Consumer Insights and Product Innovation Team. Dr. Campbell is establishing the economics program at Vineland with a focus on adding value to the horticulture industry through consumer research. The Opportunities Project team provided an update on the past year of initiatives and plans for the 2011/2012 season, including the Bruce-Huron Produce Auction. (*The Bruce-Huron Produce Auction is slated for late May/early June. Stay tuned for more information.*)

The Sustainable Huron Project Team was pleased to provide an overview of our community-based initiative, the strategy to developing a sustainability plan, and the three spheres of sustainability: the environment, society & culture and the economy. Finally, Angela Leach of Plan Insight spoke to the difficulties of attracting new customers to the farm gate (or any business). Ms. Leach, who is a marketing and sales specialist who has worked in the agricultural industry for over 14 years, identified strategies to help participants focus their efforts and kick-start the planning process for attracting more customers. Overall, the meeting was a great success. Thanks to all who attended and offered up their time for this valuable initiative.

*The Opportunities Project is sponsored by the Huron Perth Farm to Table Network and Sustainable Huron through the Early Win initiative for the Sustainable Huron Plan. For more information on Huron Perth Farm to Table and the Opportunities Project, visit their website at <http://huronperthfarmtotable.ca>.*

**Questions regarding the pilot projects or the County of Huron's Sustainability Plan can be directed to [takeaction@huroncounty.ca](mailto:takeaction@huroncounty.ca) or by phone to (519) 524-8394 ext. 3.**

## Supporting Slow Food



*Photo submitted by: Angelo Zembashi, Central Huron Secondary School for the Sustainable Huron's Youth Art Contest.*

## Upcoming Events

### July 2011

- \* Canada Day Celebrations in Exeter and Wingham, , Fri, July 1, 2011
- \* Goderich Festival of Arts & Crafts, Fri, July 8 - Sun, July 10, 2011
- \* Kinsmen Summerfest Weekend, Thu, July 14 - Sat, July 16, 2011
- \* 4th Annual South Huron Children Festival, Sat, July 16, 2011
- \* Annual Scottish Bag Pipe Competition in The Square Goderich, Sat, July 16, 2011
- \* Brussels Funfest, Fri, July 22 - Sun, July 24, 2011
- \* Zurich Fair, Fri, July 22 - Sun, July 24, 2011
- \* 20th Annual Car and Motorcycle Show (Clinton), Sun, July 31, 2011

### August 2011

- \* 26th Annual Bayfield Antiques Show & Sale, Fri, August 5 - Sun, August 7, 2011
- \* Grand Bend Aquafest, Fri, August 5, 2011
- \* Goderich Celtic Roots Festival, Fri, August 5 - Sun, August 7, 2011
- \* South Huron Trail Run, Sun, August 7, 2011
- \* Goderich Triathlon, Sun, August 14, 2011
- \* Clinton Horticultural Society Annual Flower Show, Fri, August 19, 2011
- \* Bayfield Fall Fair, Fri, August 19 - Sun, August 21, 2011
- \* Zurich Bean Festival, Fri, August 26 - Sat, August 27, 2011
- \* Taste of Huron, Mon, August 29 - Sat, September 10, 2011

## Contact Us

By e-mail:  
takeaction@huroncounty.ca

By phone:  
(519) 524-8394 ext. 3

For more information, visit:  
<http://www.huroncounty.ca/sustainablehuron>

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# Youth ART CONTEST

for **SUSTAINABLE HURON**

Huron County proudly presented the Youth Art Contest for Sustainable Huron, a creative art contest to promote sustainability in Huron County. High school students were asked to create art that reflects the ideas of sustainability in their community and were encouraged to be as creative as possible with their submissions. Visit the Sustainable Huron Blog to view the contest winners.

### First Place (\$250 cash prize)

*Preserving the Little Things in Life*

Submitted by Jasmine DeBoer, Central Huron Secondary School, Grade 12



### Second Place (\$125 cash prize)

*Sustainability Begins with a Seed*

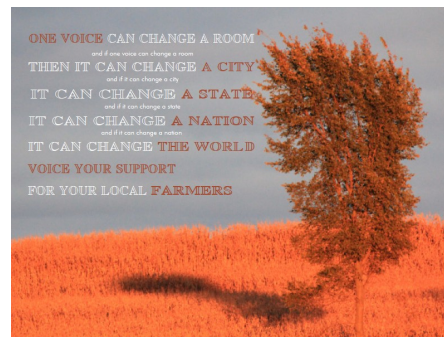
Submitted by Robyn Doig, Grade 12



### Third Place (\$125 cash prize)

*Farming*

Submitted by Ronnie Vercruyssen, Grade 10



## What's Next for Sustainable Huron?

In the next few months we will be reaching out to Huron County's 9 lower-tier municipalities to understand their goals and priorities, and what roles they will have moving forward with the Sustainable Huron Plan.

Look for us at upcoming events this summer in Huron County!