

2012 Summer Company Participants are Open for Business!

With summer jobs for youth increasingly difficult to find, five young entrepreneurs from Huron County between the ages of 15 to 29, have taken matters into their own hands and are operating their own businesses this season. The students will receive financial assistance from the Summer Company, a provincial youth-entrepreneurship program funded by the Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation.

Vanessa Armstrong (Gorrie, 519.335.3824) will be operating “Armstrong Painting and Property Maintenance”. Vanessa will offer interior and exterior painting and other property maintenance in the Gorrie area. Her flexible hours and years’ of painting experience will assist with her business plans.

Nicholas Avis (Goderich, 519.524.5876) will be operating “Avis Web & Design”. Nicholas’s goal is to provide quality web sites and social media services to businesses and clients in the Goderich area. He plans to fill a niche market by helping small businesses access a larger network and to advertise their businesses.

Mitchell Clarke (Goderich, 519.524.4856) will be operating “Mitch’s Lawn Care”. Mitchell will provide low cost, high quality lawn cutting and trimming services in Goderich. He aims to relieve both residents and businesses of the tiring and time-consuming chore of cutting and trimming their lawns.

Jordan Currie (Seaforth, 519.527.2872) will be operating “Sign Me Up”. Jordan will be making his own subway art (painted wooden signs) as well as custom vinyl graphics for individuals and businesses in Huron County. Jordan’s personalized signs could be used as gifts, home decor, on farms and in businesses.

will be operating “Rob’s Dogs”. Robert will be operating a hot dog stand at various venues. He plans to operate his stand in St. Columban, at the Mitchell Farmers’ Market, the Goderich Flea Market, and at other spots throughout Huron County.

Currently in its 12th year, the Summer Company program aims to inspire more young people to choose entrepreneurship as a career and to equip them with the tools they need to succeed. The Ministry is granting hundreds of Summer Company awards this year, and we’re pleased that Huron County won five of them, reported Alison Lobb, Business Consultant at the Huron Business Enterprise Centre in Seaforth. Designed for students aged 15-29 who will be going back to school in the fall, this program provides for up to \$1,500 toward start-up costs, and upon successful completion of the program requirements, the student is eligible for an additional award of up to \$1,500.

Each student submitted a comprehensive business plan with their application, and participated in an interview process. Training and mentorship is provided during the summer by a volunteer group of Community Mentors, along with Alison Lobb, Business Consultant for the County of Huron. This year’s mentors include John Feeney, John McNeilly, Debbie Moran, Paul Nichol, and Pamela Stanley. These individuals will be with the young entrepreneurs on a regular basis during the summer, assisting with the management side of operating a business. The students also participate in a series of business training workshops. Contact the Huron Business Centre for further information (519.527.0305).

