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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HURON AWARDED FOR PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Ontario Economic Development Awards took place last Thursday evening at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre Hotel. The County of Huron was nominated for three awards and took top honours in all three. In the Tourism category Huron received the top awards for the special event with Doors Open Haunted Huron, also receiving an award of merit for the restyled Ontario's West Coast Brand. The Huron Economic Development Matters (HEDM) partnership between Huron Business Development Corporation (HBDC) and The County of Huron received the award for best strategic plan in the business development category. The ceremony honours winners and honourable mentions for their efforts in promoting their communities for location and tourism opportunities. Economic Development initiatives are also judged as part of the process.

"This year, over 150 entries were judged" stated 2009 EDCO President Aileen Murray, Ec.D (F). "The competition allows local communities to see just how they stack up against other municipalities when it comes to promoting location, investment & tourism opportunities"

Expert judges reviewed all of the entries that covered everything from promotional brochures to infrastructure development projects. There are judges from specialized areas of expertise assigned to judge specific categories.

Rick Sickinger and Jenna Ujiye were on hand to accept the tourism awards and Pam Stanely and Warden Ken Oke accepted the HEDM award during the Annual Conference of the Economic Developers Council of Ontario. "It is an honour to receive this award as the competition is very stiff" stated Paul Nichol, economic development manager for HBDC " This competition result demonstrates our effectiveness in our economic development efforts"

"It is nice to get recognition for the event, the major significance being that six of the county's municipality worked together"" said Rick Sickinger, Heritage and Cultural Partnership co-ordinator "The event and now this award are testimony of what we can accomplish when we work together."

The Ontario's West coast brand has been around for more than 15 years and went through a re-styling process during 2008. "The Ontario's West Coast Brand is the image for our County and the Huron Tourism Association." stated Jenna

Ujiye, Tourism Marketer for the County of Huron “The recognition of Ontario’s West Coast brand will help to build great tourism profile for the community”

EDCO is the country’s largest provincial economic development association that offers this program as well as professional development opportunities throughout the year. Membership is close to 600 that come from the private and public sector.

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If you would like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Jenna Ujiye, please call 519-524-8394 ext.3 or e-mail: jujiye@huroncounty.ca, Rick Sickinger call 519-482-5457 ext.8 or rsickinger@huroncounty.ca, Paul Nichol, Economic Development Manager, HBDC call 519-527-0305 ext. 23 or pnichol@smallbusinesshuron.ca



* Photo – Kerri Herrfort, County of Huron Downtown Revitalization co-ordinator, Ken Oke, Huron County Warden, Pamela Stanley , HBDC president, Rick Sickinger , Heritage and Cultural Partnership co-ordinator , Jenna Ujiye, Tourism Marketer for the County of Huron.