



PRESS RELEASE

The Corporation of the County of Hastings

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Hastings County Honoured at Economic Development Awards

Toronto – Hastings County has been recognized for professional excellence at this week's annual Economic Developers Council of Ontario (EDCO) conference. The County's new *investinhastings.ca* website and new *Economic Development Action Plan* each received Honourable Mentions at last night's award's banquet.

"Economic development at Hastings County is still relatively new, so it's great to see our marketing and planning efforts being recognized," stated Hastings County Warden Jo-Anne Albert. "This honourable mention is a testament to the creativity and hard work of our staff in promoting our County as a place to invest and operate a business".

The new website was launched in early 2009 and provides a clearinghouse of information for entrepreneurs wishing to start or expand their business. The Economic Development Action Plan: 2009 to 2012 is a 20 page document providing an assessment of the local economy and outlines a series of priority actions based on data analysis and consultations involving more than 130 local people.

Economic Development Manager Andrew Redden attended the conference and commented, "It's always an honour to be recognized as the competition across Ontario is immense. Being acknowledged like this helps demonstrate that our efforts are effective and making positive impacts on Hastings County."

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.

EDCO is Canada'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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