



# PRESS RELEASE

The Corporation of the County of Hastings

Contacts:

Jim Pine, C.A.O.  
Terry Clemens,  
Warden

---

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 7, 2012

### **Creative Hastings Event Connects Entrepreneurs**

*Belleville* – Hastings County is pleased to announce an exciting new networking event known as “Creative Hastings”. The first event is taking place on Wednesday, March 21st from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at West Wings in downtown Stirling. Admission is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about a growing sector of our economy called the “creative economy”.

Presented in partnership with the Small Business Centre, Creative Hastings events are an opportunity for creative-minded people of Hastings County to connect over local food and the desire to build a richer local economy.

“Everyone is invited to attend this free event, from entrepreneurs, to local volunteer groups and to those who just wish to learn more about what we’re doing to support economic development,” states Terry Clemens, Warden of Hastings County.

“Networking is so vital to business success and can be especially difficult when you consider that many who work in our local economy work from home or in small offices,” says Economic Development Manager Andrew Redden. “I’m tasked with encouraging the growth and success of our rural economy and this event is another way to showcase the creative talents that we already have here in order to attract more”.

Canada’s economy is changing. Over the past 30 years, Ontario has experienced a shift from an industrial economy to one based on creativity, knowledge and innovation. In Hastings County today, approximately one third of our businesses are considered part of the new “creative” economy.

On March 21<sup>st</sup>, the evening will consist of brief presentations by a number of local entrepreneurs preceded and followed by time for networking. The second event will take place on May 23rd at the Royal Canadian Legion in Coe Hill. For more information, visit [investinhastings.ca](http://investinhastings.ca)

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:

Terry Clemens, Warden  
(613) 966-1319

Andrew Redden, Economic Development  
Manager  
(613) 966-6712 ext. 4011