



Welcome to the Township of North Huron

A Guide for New Businesses



Wingham Downtown

Municipal | Community | Business

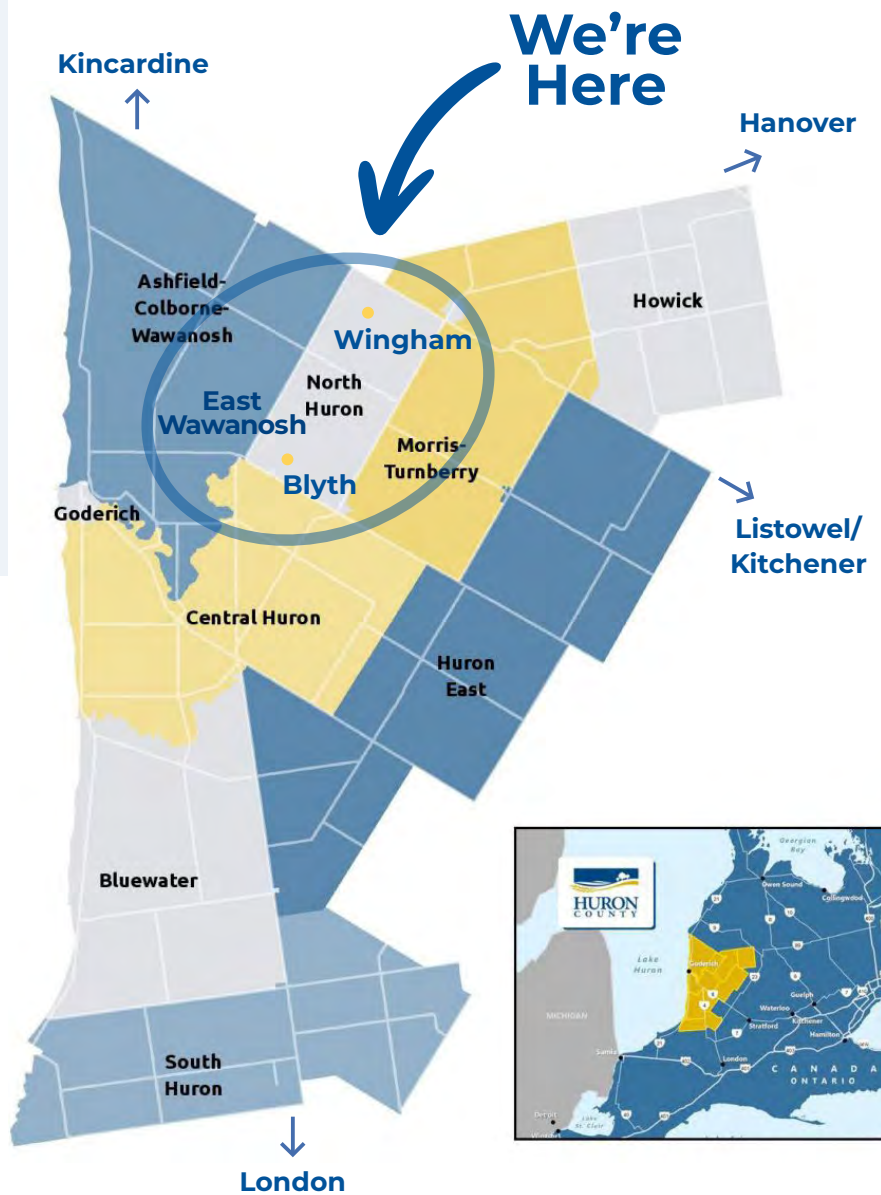
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The Centre of Everywhere!



WELCOME TO THE TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON



Thank you for joining our community. We are happy that you decided to locate your business in our Township. North Huron is a thriving community and has been supported by a healthy business environment with a history of small independent businesses and many national retailers with deep roots in the Township.

As part of our services provided at Town Hall, our Staff are available to assist you with your business needs and strive to make North Huron a better place to live, work and conduct business.

In this New Business Welcome Guide, you will find essential information to help your business get started. We are here to help and look forward to working with you.

Wishing your business success in the Township of North Huron.

Sincerely,
Reeve, Paul Heffer



The Township of North Huron welcomes a new business in Wingham.



WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT!

We are looking forward to having you as part of our thriving business community. Whether you are just starting, expanding or investing in something new, we are here to help you succeed. Your main point of contact is our Economic Development Officer- your dedicated resource for navigating opportunities, connections and local insights.



The Township celebrates a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new business in Wingham.

We are committed to supporting the growth of existing businesses while also welcoming and encouraging new investment in North Huron. Here's how we can support your business:

- **Site Selection Assistance:** Let us help you find the perfect location for your new or expanding business
- **Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Openings:** We are here to support and promote your business, including on our socials, and we would be honored to share and celebrate your milestones with the community!
- **Local Data and Insights:** Access up-to-date information and statistics to help inform your business decisions
- **Government Programs and Funding:** We provide guidance on available government programs, including grants, loans and other funding opportunities such as Community Improvement Plans (CIP)
- **Networking and Industry Events:** Stay informed and join us at local business events to help build your network and grow your visibility
- **Municipal Navigation:** We will help you connect with regulatory and planning staff to streamline your business development process
- **Community Connections:** We can introduce you to existing businesses, local leaders and support organizations to help you integrate and thrive

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS

A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) is a planning and economic development tool used by municipalities to encourage revitalization and development in the community.

The CIP has been prepared to serve as a long-term strategy to revitalize the community. This CIP provides key revitalization and improvement strategies to stimulate and support growth in the new investments, commercial downtown areas, local industries, value-added agricultural facilities, and local businesses across the township. Grants programs that are available under CIP include:

- Commercial Façade Improvement Grant
- Direct Grant for Structural Work
- Agri-tourism Grant
- Development Charges Grant
- Tax Increment Equivalent Grant
- Planning Application, Building Permit Fees, and Site Study Grant
- Start-up Space Leasehold Improvement Grant



For more information:
Economic Development Officer

P.O. Box 90, 274 Josephine Street
Wingham, ON. N0G 2W0
Phone: 519-357-3550 ext.130
Fax 519-357-1110
Email: info@northhuron.ca



LET US HELP YOU FIND THE PERFECT SITE

There are several ways to find the ideal site for your business within North Huron depending on your business needs and preferences. Some companies work with site selectors or commercial realtors, while others use their in-house teams.

We encourage you to explore local resources and networks when searching for a location. Engaging with the local business community can provide valuable insights and potential recommendations for locations that can benefit your business.

Things to Consider Before Leasing or Buying any Property:

It is crucial to consult with the Municipality's Building and Planning staff. They can confirm whether the intended use of the property aligns with the Ontario Building Code, Ontario Fire Code and local zoning regulations. This step is vital to ensure that the property is zoned appropriately and the building complies for the applicable codes for your business activities.

GET GUIDANCE FROM A PLANNER

Speaking with a Planner will assist you with answering any questions you may have regarding zoning designations of a building/property in relation to your business.

We recommend contacting a Planner in our Planning and Development department if:

- You are unsure if your property is zoned correctly (Township of North Huron Zoning By-law) for your proposed business
- You require an official plan or zoning by-law amendment or site plan approval
- You have a question about heritage buildings or designations
- You require a minor variance at the Committee of Adjustment
- Contact us directly to schedule a pre-consultation with our team to review your ideas and development considerations.

For more information:

Planning & Development

57 Napier Street, 2nd Floor

Goderich, ON, N7A 1W2

Phone: 519-524-8394 ext.3

Email: planning@huroncounty.ca

BUILDING OPERATIONS AND PERMITS

A building permit is the required formal permission from the Township of North Huron to begin a building project. This includes any construction, demolition, renovation or additions.

The Township's Chief Building Official must review your plans to ensure that they comply with the Ontario Building Code (2024), Township of North Huron Zoning By-law, and other applicable regulations. The Ontario Building Code (2024) requires that you obtain a building permit before you start work on a new structure or an addition, or alterations to an existing structure.

Examples of when a permit **is** required may include:

- Constructing or renovating a building
- Installation of signage
- Structural alterations of the interior of a building
- Changing the use of the building (for example, from office to retail space)
- Renovating, plumbing and heating systems
- Installation or alteration of commercial cooking equipment

Examples of when a permit **is not** usually required may include:

- Painting and decorating
- Landscaping
- Eavestrough (installation or replacement)
- Minor repairs to bricks or blocks, etc.

If applicable, the following may also be required through the Township of North Huron:

- **Plumbing application and fee** – required for any work that involves altering or installing new plumbing systems, including additional fixtures, drainage, venting or private water, sanitary or storm sewer systems
- **Application for water/sewer service** – required for all applicants requesting a new or updated water or sewer connection



- **Application for entrance** – required for all applicants requesting new or modified entrances
- **Energy Efficiency Design Summary (EEDS)** – a detailed energy efficiency design summary for buildings under specific regulations
- **Schedule 1** – (It is a mandatory form in Ontario building permit applications, used to identify who designed the project and takes responsibility for its compliance with the Building Code) – to be completed in accordance with building code requirements
- **Commitment to General Review by Architects and Engineers** – this form ensures that qualified professionals will be overseeing the project’s compliance with relevant standards and regulations

External Approvals/Permits

Depending on your project, you may require the following external approvals/permits:

- Electrical Safety Association Certificate of Acceptance
- Conservation Authority permit
- Huron Perth Public Health approvals (for example, potable water, food production premises)

Occupancy Permit

- An Occupancy permit: ensures that the building meets all necessary construction and safety standards
- An occupancy permit is one of the last inspections to complete a building permit. An inspection must be conducted prior to use or occupancy of the space. This ensures that any construction done to the space meets the building code and provides first responders with relevant information in case of an emergency.
- Once all requirements in the Ontario Building Code have been completed, an inspection is requested and will be conducted by the Building Department. Once all requirements are met, the Occupancy Permit will be issued.

Installation of Signage

- The Municipal Sign By-law and/or the Ontario Building Code regulate the size, location and number of signs that are permitted on any property, business and/or at special events within the Township of North Huron.
- All businesses looking to put signage on their premises, whether for an existing building or a new design-build space, ground signage or mobile signs will be required to obtain a sign permit and will require permission from the owner of the property.
- Certain signs in the Township of North Huron may require both a sign permit and a building permit. To apply, you must submit both permit applications, often including detailed plans or drawing.

For more information:

Chief Building Official

P.O. Box 90, 274 Josephine Street
 Wingham, ON. N0G 2W0
 Phone: 519-357-3550 ext.126
 Fax 519-357-1110
 Email: info@northhuron.ca

FIRE PROTECTION AND INSPECTION

The North Huron Fire Department performs inspections that are routine or that are based on requests, complaints, safety concerns. Utilizing authorities, powers, duties, and responsibilities set out under provincial legislation, the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, Fire inspectors enforce the Ontario Fire Code.

During an inspection, the Fire Department will look for compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Here is a short list of potential items an inspector will look for:

- Blocked/obstructed exits
- Fire extinguishers
- Fire separations and their integrity
- Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms, where required
- Records of tests for fire safety equipment
- Improper storage of flammable liquids or gases
- Unsafe accumulations of combustible materials
- Fire safety plans

Fire inspections are also completed to meet licensing requirements for:

- Liquor licensing
- Transient Trader license
(refreshment and food vehicles)

For more information:

Fire and Public Safety Department

P.O. Box 90, 274 Josephine Street

Wingham, ON. N0G 2W0

Phone: 519-357-3550 ext.241

Fax 519-357-1110

Email: info@northhuron.ca





MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS



The Township of North Huron is committed to fostering a safe, healthy and vibrant community for all residents and visitors. Bylaws are created as a way to address issues and concerns of the community.

They are created to protect the environment, public health, safety and to maintain a pleasant community for everyone. Below are some of the Common Municipal By-Laws that may pertain to operating a business in North Huron:

- Clean Yards By-law
- Development Charges By-law
- Fireworks By-law
- Noise By-law
- Zoning By-law and Official Plan
- Property Standard By-law
- Retail Business Establishment
Holiday Openings By-law
- Site Plan Control By-law

For more information:

Clerk's Department

P.O. Box 90, 274 Josephine Street

Wingham, ON. N0G 2W0

Phone: 519-357-3550 ext.144

Fax 519-357-1110

Email: info@northhuron.ca

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



There are many community partners that we can connect you with to help you to grow your business. Our Economic Development Officer would be happy to meet with you to learn more about your business needs and connect you with the appropriate resources.



Huron County Economic Development

The County of Huron provides insights into workforce trends, industry sectors, demographics and market opportunities—helping businesses plan strategically and grow with confidence. Contact: economicdevelopment@huroncounty.ca



Huron Business Centre

The Huron Business Centre offers personalized business consultations, tailored resources, business training, and access to funding programs. Services are available for all entrepreneurs, including youth and newcomers, at any stage of their business development. Contact: smallbusiness@huroncounty.ca



Huron Chamber of Commerce

The Huron Chamber of Commerce provides advocacy, networking opportunities, promotional services and educational events to strengthen local businesses. Membership connects you with a supportive business community and a platform for regional visibility. Contact: info@huronchamber.ca



Community Futures Huron

Community Futures Huron is a locally led, risk-friendly organization championing rural and small-town entrepreneurs. With flexible, development-focused loans, expert guidance, and local insight, the board and staff support businesses that may have been turned down by traditional lenders. Loan approvals are based on the entrepreneurs' potential and the realities of the Huron County marketplace. Contact: info@cfhuron.ca



Huron Manufacturing Association

The Huron Manufacturing Association represents the interests of Huron and Perth County's manufacturing sector, offering advocacy, workforce development initiatives, industry events, and opportunities for collaboration. Contact: info@huronmanufacturing.ca

Business Improvement Areas



Wingham Business Improvement Area

The Wingham Business Improvement Area was established in January 2013 to support the growth and revitalization of Wingham's downtown and commercial districts through advocacy, promotions and beautification efforts. Contact: chair@winghambia.ca



Blyth Business Improvement Area

The Blyth Business Improvement Area was formed in 2011 and replaced the former Blyth Business Association. Its sole purpose is to support the growth and revitalization of Blyth's downtown and commercial districts through advocacy, promotions and beautification efforts. Contact: Blythbia@gmail.com



*Santa Claus Parade, Blyth Downtown/
Blyth Community Betterment Committee*



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Township of North Huron

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