

# Huron/Bruce Regional Sites

## Culinary Arts/Culinary Management International and Domestic Student Proposal

November 30, 2018

Town of Blue Mountains

# Problem

- The County of Huron is branding itself as a significant food destination but there is an ongoing shortage of trained kitchen and hospitality staff.
- Oakwood Resort, Grand Bend - short 50+ staff in all areas of resort operations. Managers have to take on housekeeping and other roles in order to meet peak seasonal demands.

# Problem

- Benmiller Inn– in 2018 the Inn had 38 weddings booked, severely overtaxing staff. Business is being turned away due to the demand, and efforts at recruiting staff from the GTA and other metropolitan areas (including room and board offered to potential new employees) have not been successful.
- There are serious concerns at the County level that the skills shortage at both ends of the spectrum, from resort locations to “mom and pop” restaurants will have a lasting negative effect on entrepreneurial activity in the hospitality industry.

# Opportunity

- There is an identified demand within both Huron and Bruce Counties for skilled hospitality services.
- Huron County – developing wine (e.g. Dark Horse, Grand Bend) and brewery (e.g. Cowbell, Blyth) industries; destination resorts and restaurants (e.g. Oakwood Resort, Hessenland, Benmiller Inn, Cowbell, White Carnation) that require skilled labour; County focus on tourism and retirement communities with disposable income.

# Opportunity

- Bruce County - \$13 billion Bruce Power refurbishment (2018-2032) and creation of the Bruce Region Nuclear Cluster will dramatically increase the need for skilled trades and professional managers within the community, thus putting added pressure on hospitality services.
- Huron County is very interested in creating supports for New Canadians within the community.
- Local entrepreneurs are desperate for college tourism, hospitality, and culinary arts students to relocate to Huron and Bruce Counties, or at least take employment during the summer season.

# A Potential Solution

- Implement both Culinary Arts and Culinary Management Certificate programs in the Huron/Bruce Regional Sites that would be open to both International and Domestic (local) students for September 2019.
- Oakwood Resort has proposed that the College lease a teaching lab (kitchen available from September to April) at the resort. In addition, 10-12 International students could be housed at the resort (10 per certificate), and the students would be provided part-time employment. The County would work within the community to create supports for International students and partnerships with other resorts/restaurants.

# A Potential Opportunity

- Both programs would also recruit local residents (direct and non-direct enrollment) who would be interested in a career in the culinary arts. Both government and industry are prepared to assist the college in identifying potential students, and providing supports where possible.
- Local resorts and restaurants would be interested in forming future partnerships with the School of Tourism, Hospitality, and Culinary Arts, including advertising employment opportunities for students and graduates.

# Oakwood Inn Dining Area



# Main Kitchen



# Preparation area



# Conference Area



# Proposed teaching lab



# Proposed teaching lab



# Pub



# Golf course and food services



# Next Steps

- Fanshawe College will continue to work with the County of Huron and Oakwood Resort to move towards implementation of this plan.
- Meetings will continue over the next few weeks to ensure we have time for recruitment of international students in this concept.
- Community support is vital in this project to be successful! What will that look like?