

### **Local 15-year-old awarded \$1,500 to launch computer business**

Brent Schneider is not your average 15-year-old, rather, he is an exceptionally talented young entrepreneur who could very well be the next Bill Gates.

The Grade 9 student at Mitchell District High School (MDHS) was recently selected to receive a \$1,500 grant to launch his computer business this summer.

Schneider's Computing & Websites offers everything from web design, web hosting and publishing to PC repair and training.

"We offer services to the residential and small business customer that is looking for quality service at reasonable prices", says owner/operator Brent Schneider, of Russeldale. "I've found that a lot of folks who are less tech savvy are looking for somebody they can trust to fix their computer, help them start selling their products online, or wipe a virus off their machine."

The grant is through the Summer Company program that is offered by the provincial government's Ministry of Enterprise Opportunity and Innovation. The government program is brought to the local area by the Huron Business Enterprise Centre in Seaforth and The Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) of Perth County.

"We are pleased to bring this grant to the Perth County area", says Community Futures General Manager Jaret Henhoeffter. "Small business success and mentoring our future entrepreneurs is critical for long-term job creation and economic development in Perth County. Our goal is to help youth discover and learn the thrills and challenges of entrepreneurship. Getting this experience at 15 is going to create a stronger class of entrepreneurs in Perth County in 10 years."

To receive the Summer Company grant, Brent worked closely with the Perth Community Futures to develop his business plan and application, went through a rigorous interview process in competition with over 15 other applicants. In addition to the grant, Brent will have the opportunity to work with a local mentor, Jim Lynn, CEO of the Heartland Community Credit Union Limited.

"Jim will provide a whole new level of business growth and training for Brent, mentors like Jim are a fantastic way to help our young entrepreneurs develop into future business leaders", says Henhoeffter.

If Brent completed the program successfully, he will receive a second \$1,500 grant for a total investment of \$3,000.