

November 12, 2010

MPP and University of Guelph Representatives Visit REACH Huron

Inaugural Program Brings 30 Students to Local Community

The Regional Equine and Agricultural Centre of Huron (REACH Huron) welcomed Carol Mitchell, MPP for Huron-Bruce, and representatives from the University of Guelph and Ridgetown Campus on November 12, 2010 to celebrate the success of the centre's inaugural course.

Starting this fall, REACH Huron began hosting a new Performance Horse Handler Certificate program in partnership with the University of Guelph's Ridgetown Campus; it has brought 30 students to the Municipality of Central Huron to complete a full year of study. The students come from across Ontario and as far away as England.

"Support from our local MPP has been cornerstone to us reaching this point in program development and delivery and we are excited about what future program and facility development will contribute to the local economy of Central Huron and Ontario's equine industry," states Richard Harding, CEO, REACH Huron.

MPP Mitchell joined Dr. Rob Gordon, Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, Dr. Art Schaafsma, Director of Ridgetown Campus, Richard Harding, CEO of REACH Huron and Larry Langan, President of the REACH Huron Board of Directors at the Clinton facility. These representatives met with two students enrolled in the new program and discussed their experiences to date. Guests also toured the REACH Huron grounds.

"It's exciting to see a Performance Horse Handler course being offered right here in Central Huron. Through a partnership between the University of Guelph and REACH Huron, these students are living in our community and contributing to the local economy," said Mitchell.

"The University of Guelph's Ontario Agricultural College (OAC) is a natural fit for this type of programming and we are energized about the number of academic pathways that these students, and other high school and OAC students could consider within OAC's suite of

programming. Congratulations to everyone who worked hard to make the first class at REACH Huron a reality,” said Dr. Art Schaafsma, Director, Ridgetown Campus.

Student recruitment for the fall 2011 class is currently underway and anyone interested in learning more about the program is encouraged to contact Katie Savage, Campus Recruitment Co-ordinator.

MPP Mitchell, who is also the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, was pleased to hear that one of the students participating in the certificate course is currently enrolled in the province’s Second Career program.

“Through Second Career, our government is committed to providing retraining opportunities for people who have experienced lay-offs. This is a great example of the program in action.”



OAC Dean and Ridgetown Campus Director Visit REACH Huron

L-R: **Larry Langan**, Chair, REACH Board of Directors, **Ashleigh Antle**, Student at REACH Huron, **Rob Gordon**, OAC Dean, **Mandy Clarke**, Student at REACH Huron, **Art Schaafsma**, Director, Ridgetown Campus, **Richard Harding**, CEO, REACH Huron



MPP Carol Mitchell Welcomes Ridgetown Campus Students to Huron County

L-R: **Ashleigh Antle**, Student at REACH Huron, M.P.P. **Carol Mitchell**, **Mandy Clarke**, Student at REACH Huron

contact us

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