

## Lake Stewardship, Broadband, The Arts, Business Loans, Local Food & Entrepreneurship

This headline sounds like one of the lists for the Sesame Street song “One of These Things (Is Not Like The Others)”. In this case, diverse as this list might seem, there is a common factor - and that is the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC)., HCDC is one of the 269 “Community Futures” organizations in Canada that were initiated 25 years ago when the federal government provided seed money to not-for-profit organizations in rural areas to provide loans for small businesses and to encourage community economic development and community planning.

So - what about the list? In just the last couple of years HCDC has helped finance the Lake Steward’s manual published by the Coalition of Haliburton Property Associations; helped businesses in remote areas access broadband services; assisted with the purchase of stage lights for the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, provided millions of dollars of loans to small businesses; provided funding to support local food initiatives such as the Garlic Festival, the Haliburton Farmers Market, the Local Food Coalition, the Haliburton Meat Co-operative and Abbey Gardens and assisted entrepreneurs with the start up of new businesses through the Haliburton Creative Business Incubator, a business advisory committee, business loans and the Self Employment Benefit Program.

Since 1986, HCDC has grown \$2 million of seed money into a loan portfolio of over \$11 million and has contributed over \$4 million to local initiatives, community planning and assisting businesses with skill development, business planning and hiring youth interns. HCDC is eager to work with members of Lake and Property Associations who are looking to do more of their business in or from Haliburton County. “We are always interested in new ideas for business development in the area”, said Andy Campbell, HCDC General Manager. “HCDC can provide financing and support but I think that our greatest asset is our team of staff, board members and advisors who eager to work with businesses big and small. We also love to hear from people who have chosen to move here and would like to contribute their expertise to help build our local economy. We are always open to new ideas.”

HCDC is a local, independent, not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with FedDev Ontario, an economic development agency of the federal government. To find out more about HCDC visit their website at [www.haliburtoncdc.ca](http://www.haliburtoncdc.ca) or get in touch 705-457-3555 or [info@haliburtoncdc.ca](mailto:info@haliburtoncdc.ca)

Article provided by

