



**SARNIA-LAMBTON
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
A Community Futures Development Corporation



Happy Holidays from Our Board and Staff

December 2010

**Wishing you all the best for a Healthy
and Prosperous 2011!**

At the end of each year it seems the ideal time to reflect on our key accomplishments, the challenges we have faced and met head on. It's also time to commit to new goals for the New Year ahead. Perhaps YOUR goals for 2011 include starting your own business, expanding existing operations or receiving some valuable advice on refocusing your business? SLBDC is here to help.

One of our main areas of focus for 2011 is to communicate and connect with the community on a more consistent basis, promoting our array of programs, services & community partnerships that have a positive, lasting impact on Businesses and Not for Profits throughout Sarnia-Lambton.

New for 2011!!!

Let us help get your message out to people who are eager to support other entrepreneurs. Connect with new clients, access resources and help Sarnia-Lambton's economy thrive! Promote yourself free with **Client Connections**. Email beth@slbdc.com with your business name, contact info and a summary of what makes your business tick. We'll share your info with all our clients!



**We're in Business for YOUR Business.
Keep in touch with us!**

Telephone 519.383.1371

Fax 519.383.8115

109 Durand Street
Sarnia ON N7T 5A1

www.slbdc.com

beth@slbdc.com

Limbo Lunch Lounge & Martini House

**196 Christina Street
(519) 344-6097
www.limbolounge.ca**

LOAN Client Success Story:

Limbo Lunch Lounge & Martini House

In 2007, with over 20 years of international culinary experience, Sean Barlow took a leap of faith into being an entrepreneur with a boost from the Ontario Self Employment Benefit (OSEB) program delivered by SLBDC. Together with counselling and loan assistance, Sean established his business in downtown Sarnia to rave reviews from patrons eager to embrace Limbo Lounge's offering of great food in an elegant but comfortable atmosphere. It was an instant hit! His business has grown exponentially with sales at over 350% of his first year forecast and net income high enough to prompt him to incorporate before the end of the first fiscal year! He currently has a staff complement of over 15. Sean's desire to increase the capacity of Limbo Lounge included a vision to enhance his operation by adding a licensed patio and an elegant banquet room. Both goals were accomplished and add to the vibe of Limbo Lounge. The SLBDC staff can attest to how successful the new addition has been after we tried, very unsuccessfully to book the back room for our Christmas party! There wasn't a free date to be had. Limbo Lounge adds vitality and style to Sarnia's downtown core and is helping ongoing revitalization efforts in our city. Congratulations Sean!

OSEB Client Success Story:

Belly Buttons Bath Shop

Moving to a new community provides the impetus for a fresh start – perhaps even a chance to shift from a traditional job working for someone else and live a new dream - an opportunity to flex your entrepreneurial muscle and create your own future.

This was just the challenge young entrepreneur Lisa Shearer took on when she relocated to Sarnia from the Huntsville area in 2009 with her husband Matt. Having worked in the housing industry for some time, she hoped to pursue new challenges and found her way to SLBDC and the support of the Ontario Self Employment Benefit Program. Because she had to resign her position to relocate, Lisa was eligible to access the OSEB program for business planning support that helped bring her concept to life. Her husband Matt has been integral to the process, providing support with store renovations, logistical support with the store's POS system, website and so much more.

Belly Buttons carries a full range of merchandise related to bathing, emphasizing Canadian-Made, with all natural ingredients; even the bath accessories are made of renewable resources like bamboo. With unique lines for children, babies, men and of course... women, a variety of scents and fragrance free options, there is something for everyone. For those who like to let their fingers do the shopping? Online ordering IS available.

**Belly Buttons Bath Shop
565 Murphy Road, Unit 4
(519) 491-BATH (2284)**

www.bellybuttonsbathshop.com



Did you know? SLBDC is a community building. We make space available for organizations to host meetings, house exercise classes and host Junior Achievement's Company Program! Need a place? Give us a call!