

### **Student opens up computer, website design business**

What started out as a hobby and then a summer job, has now turned into a business for Mitchell resident Brent Schneider.

At the age of 19, Schneider has started and is now successfully running Schneider's Computing & Websites in downtown Mitchell. The University of Western Ontario student has been open at 70A Ontario Road, Unit 2 since December 15.

Schneider, who is studying for his bachelor of management and organizational studies, has been working on computers since 2003, started with fixing family and friend's computers.

"I decided that this was what I wanted to do because I enjoy it," he said.

In the summer of 2003, Schneider received a government grant from the Ministry of Enterprise Opportunity and Innovation offered through the Summer Company Program that allowed him to start his home-based business in his Russeldale-area home.

Since then he has expanded, received support from Dell Computers and other software providers. "There is a lot of demand in the area," he added.

The former Mitchell District High School student also noted that with a strong clientele base in the area and the website and consumer sales, business has been good since he opened downtown.

Schneider's Computing specializes in business to business computer sales and service for Dell Computer Corporation. He also offers their own line of custom-built and in-store pre-built computer systems, hardware, software, printers, digital cameras, projectors, ink and toner with drop shipping service, repair, training and many other services.

"Our competitive advantage is our on-site service. Our customers are looking for good quality systems, where they can have them repaired and maintained easily without unplugging everything and dragging it into the store," said Schneider.

The website part of Schneiders business offers logo design, website design, from starting up a new website to giving the old site a fresh new look, domain registration, e-commerce solutions, and web hosting.

"My business really tailors to the needs of businesses, with business print services available for copying, to logo design, to website hosting, or e-commerce online selling solutions," he said. "We also have the basics for home consumers in Mitchell and area. Although our focus is business sales and service throughout Ontario, a large part of my business has been the repair and sales of my custom built systems to local home owners."

Schneider said having a store in Mitchell gives him the opportunity to stock items and have a timeframe for customers to come in if they'd like to purchase or order in-demand items for next day delivery or pick-up.