

NODN NEWS

Welcome New Members!

Please join NODN in welcoming the following people to their new positions:

- **Florence Bailey, Economic Development Officer for the Municipality of Sioux Lookout**
- **Sarah Lewis, Economic Development Officer for the Township of Nipigon**

As well please help NODN welcome the following new members to our network:

- **Confederation College, Reg Jones, Vice President, Corporate Services**
- **Economic Development Corporation of Wawa, Maury O'Neill, C.E.O**
- **North of Superior Tourism Association, Bruce Fallen, Executive Director**



**NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO
DEVELOPMENT NETWORK**



EmployerRegistry.ca

Think your business doesn't have anything to offer high school students? Want to learn more about how to get involved with high school cooperative education programs?

Registering your business to provide experiential learning opportunities to high school students through the Passport to Prosperity program has just become even easier!

The Employer Registry is Ontario's free online community connecting employers with tomorrow's workforce. You can help extend learning beyond the classroom -- Ontario's youth are counting on it!

Benefits of using EmployerRegistry.ca for Employers:

- One starting point for involvement in experiential learning
- Ability to easily offer new forms of learning opportunities for students and manage existing opportunities

- Gives immediate clarity to a single point of contact locally
 - Can access up-to-date information on learning programs in Ontario
 - Forum to spotlight their involvement in helping to define tomorrow's workforce For Industry Associations / Sector Councils:
 - An intuitive online community allowing easy sharing of resources and partnership opportunities related to experiential learning opportunities, advancements in education and HR information
 - One-step connections with employers across the province
 - Content delivery messaging system bringing targeted news and information from the Ministry of Education & education partners across Ontario
- Contact Nancy Saunders for more information or visit www.employerregistry.ca
- Passport to Prosperity
107B Johnson Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON (807) 346-2947



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Northern Networks Conference

Northern Networks Conference (NNC) is a cross-border, multi-national trade event. Business people from Northwestern Canada, Minnesota, and Wisconsin will have the opportunity to tap into the experience of trade representatives. This venue provides attendees the chance to discuss business ventures; meet other business people; plan strategic alliances; and build partnerships to maximize results. Trade and policy experts will address the plenary sessions. Keynote speakers include Alex Cirillo—3M Vice President of

Community Relations and 3M Foundation, Leslie Schweitzer—Senior Trade Advisor for the National Chamber Foundation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and Steve Duerr—Attorney at Law, Sr. Vice President ANB Financial Corporation, and Past President of the Jackson Hole, Wyoming Chamber of Commerce. More information and registration is available at www.northernnetworks.com

Mark it on your calendar: September 10-11, 2008, Holiday Inn Hotel & Suite (200 West 1st Street, Duluth, Minnesota)



September 10 | 11, 2008
Duluth, Minnesota USA

Agriculture BioFuel Trial

Trial duration:

3 years

Species of interest: Reed Canary Grass and Switchgrass

Project partners:

- Rainy River Future Development Corporation
- AbitibiBowater Inc.
- Rainy River District Soil and Crop Improvement Association
- Emo Agriculture Research Station
- Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

The purpose of this field trial is to collect data on the sustainable establishment of two perennial grasses for bio-fuel production for the purpose and use with the AbitibiBowater Inc. biomass boiler, and to collect data on the sustainable establishment of those grasses within the Rainy River District. For the purpose of this trial AbitibiBowater Inc. partnering with the Rainy River Future Development Corporation will fund a portion of the costs of the trial. The Rainy River District Soil and Crop Association and the Emo Agriculture Research Station with the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs have developed the growing protocol, the grower log chart and have solicited agriculture producers with available, prepared acreage, to establish and maintain plots with either reed canary grass or switch grass, that will be planted in May of 2008.

The Emo Agriculture Research Station has been trialing small plots of six different varieties of switch grass along with reed canary grass over a six year period with varying yield results. One purpose of the trial will be to see if a larger more realistic plot size will produce a better yielding grass. AbitibiBowater forecasts that there could be an opportunity to include a certain percentage of agriculture products to mix with wood wastes for the biomass boiler in Fort Frances. This will open up opportunities for agriculture producers to diversify their production if there is adequate reward in revenue generated. The trial will document producer costs in order to determine the economic viability of agriculture biomass as a boiler fuel. In the long term, agriculture products will only be viable as feed to the biomass boiler if they are competitively priced to other biomass fuel options for AbitibiBowater. Conversion of idle lands to viable agriculture products for the biomass boiler could create new revenue opportunities in the District without displacing current crops. The Rainy River Future Development Corporation, working to better the success and sustainability of all aspects of rural agriculture, regards this as a viable project.

Article provided by the Rainy River Futures Development Corporation.





SUPERHOST

Dryden Development Corporation Recognized as a Designated



The Dryden Development Corporation is now recognized as a designated Local Host Organization to administer SuperHost Programs in Dryden. This certification enables them to introduce the Destination Dryden Ambassador Program as a medium for the growth and vitality of the community.

The SuperHost Program's excellence is recognized internationally. Eastern portions of the province have found the program to be instrumental in spurring economic growth of tourism both visitor and business based. Tourism agencies in England, Scotland, Australia, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Ontario have also taken on this program.

The driving force of the Destination Dryden Ambassador Program is Dryden's up and coming Centennial Celebrations in 2010 and the provision of frontline services at the Visitor Information Centre. In February, the Dryden Development Corporation established a Tourism Advisory Committee to see such projects and programs through to celebrations.

Dana Soucie, a local Drydenite, has been recruited as the Ambassador Program Coordinator, and is heading to Toronto to obtain the skills and expertise through the Ontario Tourism Education Corporation. She will be qualified to deliver the SuperHost and Service Excellence programs. This will provide the level of expertise and the essentials to build a successful pro-

gram.

The program will create a valuable network of individuals who will continually promote Dryden to residents, visitors and others, as a great place to live, work and play. The Destination Dryden Ambassador Program is now organizing the recruitment of outgoing, energetic and reliable volunteers from the community to become certified as tourism Ambassadors. The major role of these individuals will be to support Dryden's Visitor Information Centre operations and other activities will include supporting events, business functions and community tours.

Vicki Kurz, Manager of the Dryden Development Corporation believes this program will be beneficial to many community partners and hopes to introduce the SuperHost for Business Program by fall. She went on to say, "this program will allow local businesses to train 60% of their employee base in customer service excellence ensuring every customer will receive a warm Dryden, Ontario welcome, friendly service and an invitation to come back to our Wilderness City". Kurz is looking forward to the Ambassador Program launch in May.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers and can commit a maximum of 4 hours per week (flexible) and wish to participate in the 7 hour SuperHost Training, please contact Dana at 223-2174 or e-mail dsoucie@dryden.ca.

Advance Early Stage Innovation Program back in 2008

The NWO Innovation Centre with support from National Research Council - Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) is offering support to Northwestern Ontario businesses through the Advance Early Stage Innovation Program. This program provides a contribution of up to \$5,000 towards the appropriate expertise and resources to move an idea/innovation to the market place. The support can include prototype development, market research, technical feasibility, engineering and design. All projects

supported through the Advance Program must be completed by March 15th, 2009 and there is a limited amount of funding available. If you are interested please contact us or visit www.nwoinnovation.ca



Upcoming Events

- NODN Spring Sync '08—June 5th, Terrace Bay Schreiber. More information and registration forms available at www.nodn.com
- Becoming an Investor-Ready Entrepreneur—June 17th, Airline Travelodge, Thunder Bay. Register and find out more at www.noeg.com
- Northern Networks Conference—September 10th & 11th, Holiday Hotel & Suites, Duluth MN. Keynote speaker information and registration available at www.northernnetworks.com
- 2008 Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference—"Voices for Change, Partners for Prosperity". Hosted by NOMA and MMAH, September 18th and 19th, Victoria Inn, Thunder Bay. More information available at www.noma.on.ca
- Community Futures National Event 2009 "Spectacular Rural Canada" - May 28th to 30th at Blue Mountain Resort, Collingwood, Ontario. More information available at www.cfnationalevent.ca, registration will be open in mid-June.

Town of Marathon Feasibility Study

The Town of Marathon will undertake a feasibility study to help attract investment and bring new businesses to the community.

The study will help identify businesses in target sectors such as mining, tourism and recreation that could be pursued and brought to the area. The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is providing \$40,000 to this project. In addition, the community will research the potential of further developing the Marathon airport for increased use by the private sector. Airports have long been recognized as major creators of employment and business development. Attracting increased business, services, and development to the Marathon Airport will create new jobs and taxes for the local community, provide increased transportation logistical support to local and regional

businesses and industry, and provide another viable transportation alternative for

Marathon and the surrounding region. The

development of the Marathon Airport will also present the opportunity to attract other developments such as: encourage new tourism activities and promote Marathon as a destination; and service the health and social sector.

"It is anticipated that this project will provide the impetus to leverage new investment to the community. An economically strong Marathon will help Northern Ontario remain economically sustainable," said Marathon Mayor Rick Dumas.



A New Hospital for Sioux Lookout

The Sioux Lookout Meno Ya Win Health Centre Foundation and Board, along with the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, are very excited to have received funding approval in March, 2008 that the construction of the new hospital will proceed this year. The

new 60 bed facility will replace two existing health care facilities in the community. A separate 100 bed hostel construction project is also underway this year to accommodate patients from the Far North during their stay in Sioux Lookout.

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