

Congratulations To All Of The 13th Annual Influential Women Of Northern Ontario Award Winners!



As an NODN Board Director we highlight Angela Halvorsen, 2010 Public Sector Award winner for the Northwest. Angela writes: There is no specific training for a business investment officer. Sure, you can take counselling courses, but not everyone can truly see if someone has what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur.

After 10 years, Angela Halvorsen can.

“You can see that energy, that drive,” says the Rainy River Future Development Corporation business investment officer.

“You can tell what people are willing to do and how much effort they are willing to put into it.”

It’s a sixth sense that kicks in, but then again women tend to have it anyways. Halvorsen says some people tend to be initially skeptical of her expertise - that is, until they walk out the door with loads of information and a focus on their future.

“The rest of the world doesn’t have to see me working behind the scenes. It doesn’t matter to me. Giving them help is really what it is all about and that feels good to me.”

With a 67 per cent success rate in helping entrepreneurs open a business, Halvorsen says her office team of five beat the provincial standard of 50 per cent through one-on-one coaching and providing a support network for new business startups.

“There have been a few clients that have come and gone, but that is the norm in this business. However, those are excellent figures. We are doing all right.”

How many businesses has she helped? Almost 60 business loans were provided in 2009, and that doesn’t include the number of businesses that didn’t receive loans out of 1,800 contacts.

Sometimes people just need a push while others require information before branching out on their own. Halvorsen finds it rewarding when she is invited to a grand opening, or when a former client refers her new candidates.

“It seems the word is out there... if you are thinking of starting a business you need to see Angela,” she says.

Word of mouth is a big part of the business and this is where Halvorsen shines. She truly believes in networking and connecting with community organizations that can help move an idea, a project or person forward. She belongs in the Business Women’s Network, which is a “really

amazing group. You need these contacts and you want to support these people,” she says, adding that they help with the charitable needs of the community through the year.

Halvorsen leads by example and doesn’t pretend to know everything. If she doesn’t know a particular answer, she’ll look it up and get back to the client the next day.

“The important thing is to be myself and provide the same assistance as I would if I was on the other side of the table.”

Sage words of advice from a woman who manages a \$3.7-million budget. Halvorsen wants aspiring business owners to know, “you’re not out there on your own. There are people that can help you.”

Although there are personal mentors in each person’s life, there are also seasoned business people that can offer a world of advice. It comes from making mistakes and finding solutions and fledgling owners should ferret out some of these folks for wise counsel.

“Find out the tricks of the trade.”

Interestingly, women tend to be the start-up business entrepreneurs of the decade. And this is true in Halvorsen’s neck of the woods, just as it is across Canada.



Inside this issue:

13th Annual Influential Women of Northern Ontario	1
NADF receives Award of Excellence	2
Miles with the Giant Marathon	2
Northern Networks Conference	3
Innovation Centre developing Advisory Boards for SME's	3
Northern Communities Readiness Initiative (NCIR)	3
Community Energy Partnerships Program (CEPP)	3
Nipigon Opens Paddle to the Sea Park	4
North Superior Workforce Planning Board LMI Web Portal	5
Welcome Aime Dimatteo, Director General of FedNor	6
Upcoming Events	6

NISHNAWBE ASKI DEVELOPMENT FUND RECIEVES OACFDC AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Saturday, June 12, 2010 At the 17th annual OACFDC Annual Conference and the 9th annual Awards of Excellence Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund was recognized for their achievement of the Video Conferencing Workshop Series initiative.

In the fall of 2008, NADF decided to formalize its workshop delivery by developing a bi-weekly video conferencing series. Later during the same fiscal year, working in partnership with Keewaytinook Okimakanak (KO) and PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise (PARO), the workshop series was expanded to 3 weeks of every month. Video Conference training and workshops enhances services in First Nation communities and helps to sustain the locally owned and operated broadband network. K-Net (www.knet.ca) is this collective network that spans beyond the NAN territory and has enabled NADF to reach communities throughout Ontario at no extra cost. With this fiscal year's schedule beginning in September 2009, the workshop delivery was expanded to include additional community partners and to tie the topics into the bi-weekly radio show delivered from the NADF offices. It involves establishing a phone connection to Wawatay radio in Sioux Lookout, through specialized equipment. The signal is then broadcasted by Wawatay throughout the north. The radio station also is available on Bell Express Vu and via live streaming on the Internet.

Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund (NADF) has a large geographic territory including 33 First Nations within its Community Futures eligible community. The majority of these First Nations (27) are remote with only air access the majority of the year; the ice roads provide road access for approximately 6-8 weeks during each winter. Promotion and delivery of services requires creative thinking and use of emerging technologies.

NADF's Board of Directors, management and staff have delivered a high standard of service by responding to the unique needs of their clients due to their geographic location and the challenges associated with that location. In addition, NADF has capitalized on partnerships with other service agencies to make the most effective use of limited resources, both human and financial.

The use of video conferencing has expanded the potential audience for each workshop. Focusing on topics of interest to a wide range of individuals, entrepreneurs, business employees, not for profits and First Nations, capacity is increasing across a wide spectrum of sectors within the rural community of northern Ontario. The reach of video conferencing, and the promotion, is not limited to northern Ontario. Participants have joined from the Ontario economic development network from as far away as Alderville, Fort Severn, Dokis and Kenora.

In the fiscal years ending March 31, 2009 and 2010, 37 video

conferences were held. Over 70 participants from over 20 rural and remote First Nations and communities connected

for the training. Many of the events were hosted by the youth at Dennis Franklyn Cromarty High School where the Paul Martin business class students interacted with presenters and their peers in remote First Nations.

We would also like to acknowledge Nishnawbe Aski Development Fund's celebration of 25 successful years and reaching a milestone for loans granted of over one *billion dollars* a result of investments across the AFI (Aboriginal Financial Institutions) nationally..



MILES WITH THE GIANT MARATHON

Avid runners from across Northwestern Ontario won't need to travel far if they wish to partake in a marathon or half marathon this Fall. The inaugural Thunder Bay Marathon-Miles with the Giant will feature a full marathon of 26.2 miles, a half-marathon of 13.1 miles, a 5 kilometre race and a series of associated events that will bring elite and recreational runners and walkers together in Thunder Bay on September 19. It will be the first running of event of this magnitude in Northern Ontario and the ONLY Canadian Fall marathon event between Toronto, Ontario and British Columbia.

Running events of this type can bring thousands of visitors and hundreds of thousands in economic activity to the host community, and that is exactly what the Board of the Thunder Bay Marathon has in mind.

For the past two years, the organizing committee of nine volunteer Board Directors has been working to ensure that the first annual Thunder Bay Marathon-Miles with the Giant will be a success. Thanks to the capable assistance of City staff from the departments of Parks, Transit, Roads and Police, a challenging and rewarding route has been approved. The course circles from Marina Park through Boulevard Lake and parts of Centennial Park, down Water Street with a loop back at Central Avenue and up Cumberland Street before a sprint to the finish down Red River Road while the Sleeping Giant looks on.

A highlight of the weekend will be the participation of world-class marathoner, best selling author and motivational speaker, Dick Beardsley, who will be a presenter at the Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce Superior Living Health, Wellness & Leisure Expo.

With just a few months until race day there is still much to do. Volunteers are needed to help with advance preparations and race weekend activities. Anyone who would like to help can sign up to volunteer on the website. Runners and walkers of all fitness levels can register online to participate in their choice of race distance. Participants also have the option to raise pledges for one of ten local charities through the "Run for a Reason" pledge program.

Join the fun! Whether you plan to run, walk, volunteer, sponsor, or cheer on participants you are guaranteed to have a great time. For more information visit: www.thunderbaymarathon.com

NORTHERN NETWORKS CONFERENCE 2010 SEPTEMBER 15 & 16, 2010 Fort Frances, ON

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. This year's Northern Networks Conference will feature distinguished American and Canadian speakers, company tours, keynote speakers, and many networking opportunities. Central North America's premiere business conference

For more information:

call: 1-800-465-8502 or visit www.rrfdc.on.ca

INNOVATION CENTRE ADVISORY BOARD FOR SME'S



The Innovation Centre is developing Advisory Boards in order to provide guidance and support for our client companies' development and growth. By becoming a voluntary Advisory Board Member, you will have the opportunity to share your experience and business expertise with growing client companies by participating in quarterly meetings. Business advisors can be leaders in their own business or industry and must have a strong affinity with small business. They may be retired or semi-retired, or active in business and have the desire and available time to 'give something back' to the small business community. For more information contact Graham Mailhot by Phone: (807) 768-6676 or Email: graham@nwoinnovation.ca

NORTHERN COMMUNITIES INVESTMENT READINESS (NCIR) INITIATIVE

Background:

- Program information can be located at http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/nordev/GO_North_E.asp
- The funding has been bumped up from \$5000 per project to \$10,000 per project this year

Next Steps:

- Start planning how you can use the program to increase the investment attraction of your community
- Communities are encouraged to work together as creatively and innovatively as possible to increase the scope of the projects, as well as the funding that will be available as a result of partnering

Questions ? contact: Mike Dunlop at (807) 475-1773 or email mike.dunlop@ontario.ca

COMMUNITY ENERGY PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (CEPP)

http://www.communityenergyprogram.ca/Grants/Grants_MainGrantPage.aspx

CEPP Grant 1 applies to Project Design & Development Activities associated with developing your community power project.

CEPP Grant 2 applies to Regulatory Approvals necessary to develop your community power project.

CEPP Funded activities: Wind Projects, Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Projects, Waterpower Projects, Biomass/Biogas/Landfill Gas Projects

The activities listed in these documents are not exhaustive. Other activities not included in these lists may also qualify for CEPP funding. Please contact (CEPP) Toll Free: 1-888-907-2377 with questions.



The Corporation of the
TOWNSHIP OF NIPIGON

Dreams Come True as Nipigon Opens Paddle to the Sea Park

(Nipigon, ON) Despite a bit of chilly weather, the opening of the Paddle-to-the-Sea Park was well attended and enjoyed international participation with a wooden Paddle-to-the-Sea carving sent all the way to Northwestern Ontario from Atlanta, Georgia, and two entries for the Dare to Dream Art Project from Florida. Nipigon Mayor Richard Harvey says, "It's amazing how well known the story of Paddle-to-the-Sea is around the world. The Paddle-to-the-Sea Park puts Nipigon on the map".



The winner of the Dare to Dream Art Competition is Desiree Boulter, who created two pieces of art about her dreams. The first dream is "My dream for the future of Nipigon, my family and myself is: That jobs will be made in Nipigon, that my dad will get a good job here (he will not have to work away any longer,) and we can be together. Especially because I don't want to have to move away." Desiree's second entry is "My dream is to be an author in my spare time. I hope to win several awards and make tons of money." The presentation of Art Awards was done by Roma Kopechanski from OPG, Bruce Hyer M.P. and Mayor Richard Harvey. Desiree received a limited edition Paddle to the Sea Park Paddle, which is also a donation to the Nipigon Curling Club Junior Curling Program.

It was a full day of activities for local schools. "The day was successful because it incorporated new activities into the Park, for example, the kids loved geo-caching which is all about geography, and a great way to get kids interested in tourism." said Barry Maurice, of the Land of Nipigon Chamber of Commerce. As volunteer Shauna Dampier explained to the students, Geo-Caching is like a high tech treasure hunt, where students use GPS units to find hidden caches within the Paddle to the Sea Park.

Smokey the Bear was on the scene to teach the kids how to prevent forest fires, while Kim McNaughton and Rob Swainson from the Ministry of Natural Resources dug into the creek bed to identify insects and learn about the ecology of the creek. The Nipigon Historical Museum had new displays to share. The Grade 6,7 and 8 classes from St. Edwards Catholic School in Nipigon as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Thunder Bay enjoyed activities based on the themes of the Paddle to the Sea Park; the natural environment, the geography of the great lakes and Nipigon's cultural heritage.

The activities were followed by the opening ceremony, with local musicians Jim McCullough entertaining the crowd as it gathered, and drumming by the Lake Helen Women's Drum Group. Donor agencies and local leaders spoke about the Park and its importance to tourism in Northwestern Ontario.

Messages from supporters of the Paddle-to-the-Sea Park on the occasion of its first season: 'On behalf of the Red Rock Indian Band and our citizens we would like to congratulate the Township of Nipigon on the Grand Opening of the Paddle-to-the-Sea Park. This is as a positive step forward in enhancing the economy in our area and although there have been economic hardships in our region this proves that accomplishments can prevail. As they say, "The greatest accomplishment is not, in never falling, but in rising again after you fall." Once again, we would like to say

congratulations and good luck Nipigon!' – Chief Pierre Pelletier and Red Rock Indian Band Council

"Thought I'd offer a few behind the scenes comments about the 'Paddle to the Sea' film. The first 6 paddle models used in the film were hand carved... my father Bill and his assistant Blake James were losing them so quickly that they resorted to molding some out of foam for the scenes requiring stunt canoes. In the scene where I show paddle to the sea to my dog, he takes such an interest in paddle because of some strategic peanut butter applied to paddle. For the close up shots of paddle running rapids, he was tethered to a camera floating on inner tubes. Paddle to the Sea was Bill Mason's first film, and his first film for the National Film Board" – Paul Mason

"I'm really excited to see the "Paddle-to-the-Sea" project complete and ready to be shared with the world. This park will give visitors a true Northwestern Ontario experience. It couldn't have been achieved without the dedication of the community itself and all the volunteers who have put their hearts into this project. I'm proud that the Ontario Trillium Foundation made such an important contribution to bringing a world-class tourism attraction to Nipigon," said Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle.

"TransCanada recognizes what it means to be a good neighbour," says Dan Stencil, Aboriginal & Community Relations Liaison, TransCanada. "We are always looking for ways to lend a hand as we build better and stronger communities together. This initiative reflects our values of lifelong learning, innovation and collaboration and we are proud to be a sponsor of the Paddle to the Sea Park initiative."

"Ontario Power Generation is pleased to support the Paddle to the Sea Project and this exciting Grand Opening Event. As a proud member of the community, we recognize the importance of this major heritage and tourism initiative and join with other community members in celebrating its official launch." -Mike Martelli, Manager Northwest Plant Group (Hydroelectric) Ontario Power Generation

"Our Government is proud of its \$1.5 million investment in Nipigon's Paddle to the Sea Park," said Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for FedNor. "This initiative will help the region to create a sustainable, competitive advantage in the tourism industry, attracting visitors and increasing employment opportunities."

For more information, please contact: Sarah Lewis, Economic Development Officer Ph: (807) 887-3135 x26
E: sarahlewis@nipigon.net

NORTH SUPERIOR WORKFORCE PLANNING BOARD WEB PORTAL

North Superior Workforce Planning Board has developed a web portal that will expand access to local labour market information for individuals, businesses, and communities to support worker attraction and skills development decision-making. This portal will provide a baseline of information, tools and resources necessary to better plan and implement current and future-focused labour market development strategies. Be sure to keep watching for news of its official launch at the end of June!

Thunder Bay District Labour Market Information Portal

North Superior Workforce Planning Board

HOME PUBLICATIONS FACTS & FIGURES GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS & SERVICES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES BLOG JOB BANKS CONTACT

Welcome!

Welcome to the new North Superior Workforce Planning Board's Labour Market Information Portal! This website offers a baseline of current and local labour market information, research, government program summaries and contacts, and links to community employment services for the District of Thunder Bay.

The NSWPB is committed to ensuring this website is maintained and kept current with timely and valuable data relevant to the economic landscape of our region. Our current database of information will grow and expand as the portal continues to move forward.

The WHAT and WHY of LMI

Quick Links:

- June 2010 Workforce Focus
- April 2010 Northwest Ontario Labour Market Monitor
- Market Monitor Newsletter
- Immigration Northwest Ontario Portal

Latest Blog Entries:

- 200 Jobs Coming with Bombardier!**
Bombardier and Bombardier will provide 102 light rail vehicles, with a possibility of 118 more, over the next 10 years. Project management, production engineering and final assembly of the vehicles will be done in Thunder Bay. This will create some 200 jobs for Thunder Bay's workforce! Check out the article here: <http://thunderbayportal.com/...>
- Modest gains for Summer Employment in Thunder Bay**

FRANCS

75-84 Years of Age with Apprenticeship/Trades Certificate

Region	Percentage
District of Thunder Bay	12.7%
Ontario	8.2%

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AIME DIMATTEO, AS THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FEDNOR

Northwestern Ontario Development Network (NODN) welcomes Aime Dimatteo, as the new Director General of FedNor

Aime Dimatteo will now lead the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario (FedNor), an organization with main offices in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay.

Dimatteo will reside at the main branch in Sudbury. A native of Coniston, Dimatteo has been working at the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry for 32 years, beginning in 1978 as a senior financial officer with the former Ministry of Northern Affairs. He officially steps into the position on June 16.

"His extensive knowledge of the Northern Ontario economy, municipal governments, First Nations and the business community will be an asset to the department," said France Peugeot, assistant deputy minister in Industry Canada's Regional Operations Sector in Ottawa.

Full article by Ian Ross:

<http://www.northernontariobusiness.com/Industry-News/government/Sudbury-s-Aime-Dimatteo-named-new-head-of-FedNor-0602.aspx>

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*Fostering Growth in
Northwestern Ontario*



NODN on the web www.nodn.com

Upcoming Events

June

- OACFDC June 10—12, Thunder Bay
- Innovation Centre Turbo Charge Your Business June 14, Thunder Bay

July

- July 7th Webinar Liability for Not for Profits *register through NODN*
- NADF 4th Annual Fairways for the Future Charity Golf Tournament
July 9th Fort William Country Club, Thunder Bay ON

August

- AMO Annual Conference August 15 & 16 Caesars, Windsor

September

- Northern Networks Conference Sept 15 & 16
Fort Frances, ON
- Thunder Bay Marathon - Miles with the Giant Sept 19 Lake Superior,
Thunder Bay, ON
- NODN AGM and NOMA Northwestern Ontario Regional Conference
September 29—October 1 Thunder Bay, ON

