

Resources west Inc. ENTERPRISE

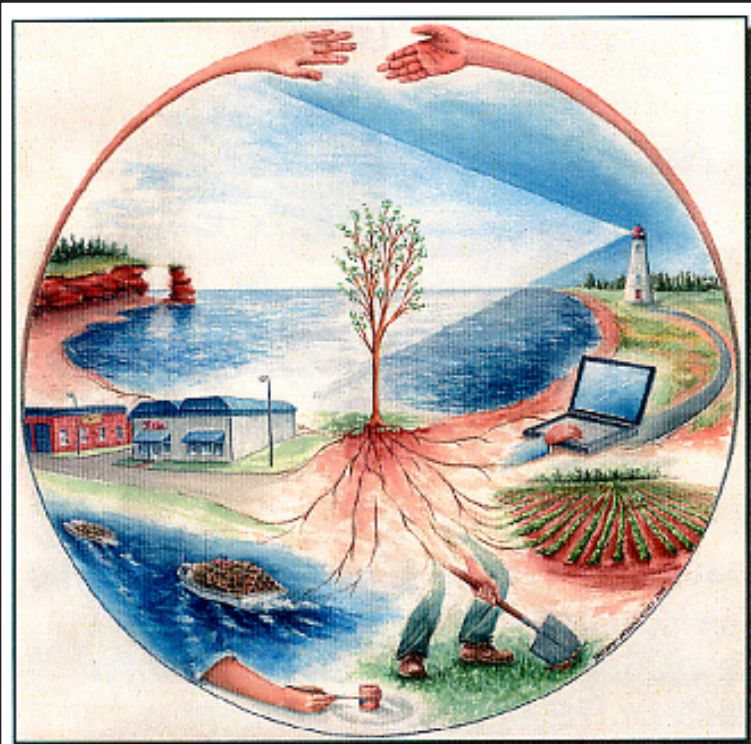
CELEBRATING CANADA'S MOST INNOVATIVE COMMUNITY



Minigoo Fisheries hosts open house

ALMOST TWO WEEKS before the local lobster season opens, Minigoo Fisheries in Lennox Island hosted an open house, April 21. The brand new 15,000-square-foot plant was set to process lobster from Newfoundland during the last week of April to ramp up production prior to the May 1 opening of the local fishery. With all new state-of-the-art equipment, Atlantic Canada's first lobster processing plant wholly owned by a First Nation will employ up to 80 people as the season unfolds and process as much as 25,000 pounds of lobster per day. **SEE STORY PAGE 3**





ENTERPRISE is a monthly on-line newsletter produced by Resources West Inc. to keep Western P.E.I. residents and business operators informed of current trends and successes in the local business community.

The main focus of Resources West Inc. is to stimulate economic development in Western P.E.I., which encompasses the geographic area north of routes 132 and 128. This area also includes the provincially designated community development areas of Tignish, St. Louis-Miminegash, O'Leary, Tyne Valley, and Alberton.

Resources West Mission Statement:

'To actively promote and foster sustainable growth, economic prosperity and development in Western P.E.I. by providing a unique value added service to business, residents and targeted clients.'

Who we are:

David Anderson, Managing Director
Erkki Pohjolainen, Economic Development Officer
David Gamble, Small Business Officer
Mitchell Rennie, Tourism Officer
Barb MacDonald, Office Administration/Reception

Where we are:

Resources West offices are in the Alberton Business Centre, 455 Main St., open Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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Minimum wage hike June 1, Oct. 1

Minimum wage on Prince Edward Island will increase in two phases in 2010 to \$9.00.

Executive Council has approved the decision to implement the 60 cent increase as follows: from \$8.40 to \$8.70 effective June 1, 2010, and by an additional 30 cents to \$9.00 on Oct. 1, 2010.

"We realize that the minimum wage impacts many workers on Prince Edward Island, particularly young workers and those who rely on seasonal employment," said Honourable Janice Sherry, Minister of Community Services, Seniors and Labour.

"We also recognize that employers need time to incorporate increases into their operational plans and that is why Government has chosen to implement the wage increase in two stages. This will provide the Island business community more time to integrate the salary adjustments into their budgets."

The Employment Standards Board which is made up of representatives of employers and employees, with a neutral chairperson, meets to review the minimum wage rate each year and make recommendations to government.

The board considers the social and economic effects of the minimum wage rates in the province, cost of living increases, current economic conditions, and the minimum wages in neighbouring provinces. The decision to implement the wage increase in a two-phased approach is supported by the Employment Standards Board.

This scheduled increase will help put Prince Edward Island more in line with other maritime provinces.

Approximately 62,000 Island employees are covered by the Employment Standards Act (not working under a collective agreement).

Minimum wage rates in other Maritime Provinces

New Brunswick

April 1, 2010	\$8.50
Sept. 1, 2010	\$9.00
April 1, 2011	\$9.50
Sept. 1, 2011	\$10.00

Nova Scotia

April 1, 2010	\$9.20/experienced \$8.70/inexperienced
Oct. 1, 2010	\$9.65/experienced \$9.15/inexperienced

Minigoo opens doors

By ERIC MCCARTHY

COURTESY OF THE JOURNAL PIONEER

There was drumming and smudging and much enthusiasm yesterday during the official opening ceremonies for Minigoo Fisheries, Atlantic Canada's first lobster processing plant wholly owned by a First Nation.

"Today is the day we have long been working towards. Today we show the world the power and strength of the Lennox Island First Nation and its people," Chief Darlene Bernard told a large crowd inside the new plant.

Minigoo Fisheries will start processing lobster next week under the brand name Hy Water Foods.

Chief Executive Officer Jon Arason projected production levels at 20,000 to 25,000 pounds a day, but said there's capacity for up to 35,000 pounds a day. Between 55 and 80 people will be employed at the plant. Production will run into November or December.

"Today we solidify our position as an important partner in the Atlantic fishery," Bernard said.

She called the plant an investment in the future of her community. Profits, she promised, will be re-invested in improving band programs and services.

"My decision to move forward with this concept was based wholly on my need to ensure that this community becomes independent," Bernard said.

"This is what we're telling customers: 'We dare you to compare. Go for it. Just try it,'" Arason said, expressing confidence Minigoo's focus on quality and sustainability will capture the attention and the interest of buyers.

First Nations products, he said, have a strong market appeal.

Wednesday's official opening ceremonies followed three hours of public tours of the 20,000-square-foot plant.

"It's starting to be a big, small plant," Arason said. Half of the space is new construction.

"I have been in all the lobster plants, more or less, in Canada, and this is the best plant in Canada," Arason boasted.

Among the special guests in attendance for the ceremony was national Chief Shawn Atleo. He applauded the opportunity the plant provides for overcoming differences.

"The answer here is about real partnerships and it's about pursuing economic self-sufficiency and economic independence, and that is the sort of the message this sends to the rest of the country and it is the sort of approach that First Nations are more and more taking, and we, as a national organization are very supportive of that."

The national chief said there is still much poverty in communities across Canada, but said First Nations also have examples such as what's happening on Lennox Island.

"I would suggest the implications (here) are about a peoples that are resurging and rebuilding themselves as nations."

Bernard said response to the new plant has been largely positive all over P.E.I. and Atlantic Canada. She predicted expansion and diversification into other products in future years.

Bernard, who leaves this week for a seafood show in Brussels, said focus markets are Europe, Asia and the U.S.

Nominate a Business of the Month

Candidates for Resources West Business of the Month represent the best of what Western P.E.I.'s business community has to offer and as such they must demonstrate significant achievements in one or more of the following categories:

- Ethical employer
- Continued Growth
- Ongoing product research and development
- Actively expanding markets
- Overcoming adversity
- Laying a solid foundation for future prosperity
- Responsive to changes in market demand
- Providing economic benefits to Western P.E.I.
- Corporate citizenship
- Sustainability

Know a business in Western P.E.I. that excels in one or more of the criteria outlined here? If so, we want to know about them. Feel free to nominate a deserving business for the monthly recognition. Contact edo@resourceswest.pe.ca or call (902) 853-4555.

Spencer Plumbing & Heating Ltd. is the Resources West March 2010 Business of the Month, see feature on Page 6



Summer's tradeshow registrations welcome

Register your business for the Tradeshow this summer being held at the Prince County Exhibition in Alberton, July 30, 31 and August 1.

More than 5,000 people attend the Exhibition, providing an excellent opportunity for tradeshow presenters to promote your business. Ten Katimavik volunteers will be on hand to help staff and oversee booths if your business needs an extra volunteer.

Participation in the tradeshow is \$50 for Chamber members, while non-members will be charged \$100. Contact Natasha to register at nmgilks@hotmail.com or call 853-3871.

The upcoming Annual General Meeting of the West Prince Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Boatshop Restaurant in Northport. More details to follow.

On April 12, more than 20 people attended an information session in Tignish, where Hon. Neil LeClair and his staff presented on the Rural Action Plan to members.

GET INVOLVED: JOIN THE WEST PRINCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

<http://resourceswest.pe.ca/chamber.cfm> chamber@resourceswest.pe.ca

Atlantic Provinces Chambers of Commerce
Chambres de commerce des provinces de l'Atlantique

Government of Canada, Prince Edward Island invest in Potato Museum expansion

The PEI Potato Museum will be expanding to preserve more of PEI history thanks to funding from both federal and provincial governments. The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, and Robert Henderson, Member of the Legislative Assembly for O'Leary-Inverness, announced on April 6 investments totaling over \$195,000 for the museum's expansion.

"Our Government, through its Economic Action Plan, recognizes the importance of maintaining community and cultural infrastructure and is pleased to invest more than \$43,000 in the PEI Potato Museum," said Minister Shea. "This project, made possible through the Community Adjustment Fund, not only generates additional local economic activity but it also supports the long-term contribution this facility makes to the history of agriculture in PEI."

The museum's mission is to record, preserve and communicate the story of the family farmer and the potato. The funding supports a 7,200 sq. ft. expansion to the facility and includes the addition of antique farm equipment and machinery.

"The PEI Potato Museum honours an industry that has been second-to-none in its contribution to Prince Edward Island's economy. As a tourist attraction, as an educational facility and as a tribute to generations of hard-working

Island farmer, this museum is a valued part of the Island community," said Mr. Henderson, on behalf of the Honourable Allan Campbell, Minister of Innovation and Advanced Learning.

The PEI Potato Museum opened its doors in 1993 and since then thousands of people have enjoyed self-guided tours of the facility.

"We are pleased that the federal and provincial government recognizes the importance of both the agricultural and potato industry and the contribution that the museum makes to interpret the industries, both historically and presently," said Stanley MacDonald, Chair of PEI Potato Museum Board. "In the new Antique Machinery gallery they will show the ingenuity for those who continue to work in the production of the much valued food market for Islanders and Canadians."

The Government of Canada is supporting the expansion project with \$43,614 from the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF), while the province of PEI is contributing \$152,050 through the Island Community Fund program.

Canada's Economic Action Plan is providing a total of \$1 billion over two years through CAF to support initiatives that help create and maintain jobs in communities impacted by the economic downturn. Atlantic Canada's allocation of \$100 million under CAF is administered by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. For information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

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May 19, 2010

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- locate tools for writing projects

Facilitator: Lori Mayne

Lori Mayne is a professional writer and educator with more than 15 years of communication experience in media, classroom, and corporate environments. Her classroom experience includes instructing English 101: Academic Writing and Global Issues 151, an intensive writing course, at UPEI.

She also has experience facilitating company training programs and producing and editing communication materials for use by business and non-profit organizations. In her previous work as an Island journalist, she produced more than 2,000 news stories over an eight-year period. She continues to write, edit, and research on a freelance basis.

Cost: \$299

For the complete course description or to register, please visit www.upei.ca/lifelonglearning or call 902.566.0336.

Keeping up with technology assures customer satisfaction

The ink was hardly dry on his red seal journeyman plumber's ticket when Spencer Myers set out into business on his own. That was in 1992. He returned home to West Prince with a station wagon, fresh from serving his apprenticeship.

Graduating from Westisle with the opportunity to continue his academic education with a scholarship, he opted instead to pursue a trade. He saw an ad calling for plumbers and apprentices in Hay River, NWT, and soon after found his way across the country to begin his career. He finished the first of his four-year apprenticeship there and attended the first of his three college blocks in Red Deer, AB. He then returned to the Island and concluded his apprenticeship with a Charlottetown company.

Three months after starting Spencer Plumbing & Heating Ltd. He met up with Darryl Gavin and offered him the opportunity to apprentice in plumbing. A couple years later, as the business continued to grow, Spencer needed another person and invited Jeremy Hackett to join the company. Darryl and Jeremy remain with the company, along with two additional men. Quinton Bridges and Scott Gallant are currently apprenticing with the company.

A lot has changed through the years, Spencer says. "To keep up to date with the changes in heating technology, we go out to Waterloo, Ontario, every year for additional training." Keeping stride with the



SPENCER MYERS is flanked by long-time employee Jeremy Hackett (left), and Scott Gallant, who hired on more recently.

ever-expanding field, all three red seal journeyman plumbers also hold HVAC certification. The company provides complete plumbing, heating and ventilation services, eliminating potential conflicts in work sequencing and layout.

To illustrate changes in the industry, Spencer notes that somewhere in the range of 3,200 square feet of floor space to heat, ground-sourced heat pumps are economically viable, while smaller areas are still more economical with oil heating. However, in keeping with trends of the day, a lot of his customers are also opting for wood and pellet burner heating options. While natural gas is not an

option on PEI, Spencer notes that propane is gaining in use, as today's technological advances can deliver efficiency of 95-99 per cent.

Recently, Spencer opened a retail shop, Oasis Kitchen & Bath, in Summerside, to complement his plumbing business. "We felt we should be able to provide our customers with everything they need," he says, noting that customers were picking up fixtures from all over, not considering their fit with the rest of the plumbing.

He says the showroom specializes in quality plumbing fixtures for every budget, from Canadian suppliers whenever possible. The shop is doing so well that in the three years since it opened, he has had to relocate to a much larger space, going from 1,000 to 3,000 square feet.

Working throughout the province, Spencer is quick to state: "West Prince has always been good to me. I enjoy the area and the people. Other people should look at moving into the area.

"Some of the best people in the world live in West Prince."

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An electronic newsletter for Island employers on Workers Compensation and Occupational Health and Safety Matters

The Employer Advisor

April 2010
Vol. 6 Issue 4

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FIRST AID REGULATIONS

The Occupational Health & Safety Advisory Council invites the business community to provide written comments to the Council regarding the draft proposed amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety First Aid Regulations.

The proposed draft regulations are part of the OH&S Advisory Council's continual review of the OHS regulations. The draft First Aid Regulations were initially part of the comprehensive review of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Regulations which was conducted by a Ministerial Review Committee appointed in 1998 by the then Minister of Community and Cultural Affairs and chaired by Don MacCormac.

Some factors which lead to the review of the regulations were:

- Regulations have not been comprehensively reviewed since 1982
- First aid requirements for Island workplaces and technology involved has changed dramatically
- All other Atlantic jurisdictions have amended their OH&S first aid legislation in recent years

The draft proposed first aid regulations have taken into consideration current legislation in other Atlantic provinces as well as a need for workplaces to have first aid training

which meets the requirements of their workplaces today.

Copies of the correspondence and draft regulations are available from the Office of the Employer Advisor at 902-368-6132 or by email at kdmullins@gov.pe.ca. The deadline for written submissions to the OH&S Advisory Council is prior to April 30, 2010.

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

April 28 each year is observed as the National Day of Mourning and this year Prince Edward Islanders are being asked to remember all the men and women who were killed, disabled or injured in the workplace.

The National Day of Mourning originated in Canada in 1984 and today is observed in more than 100 countries worldwide. Its purpose is to acknowledge the serious injuries and deaths of workers and to honour their memory. On April 28, employers, workers and joint occupational health and safety committee members are urged to display the Day of Mourning poster, lower workplace flags to half mast, observe a moment of silence and attend the Day of Mourning Ceremony which is scheduled for 7 p.m. at Province House in downtown Charlottetown.

STEPS FOR LIFE - Sunday, May 2

The Kensington and Area Chamber of Commerce has issued a corporate challenge to local businesses and members of the community to participate in a 5 km walk and raise awareness about the importance of injury prevention across Canada. Steps for Life events launch the annual North American Occupational Safety and Health Week and all funds raised go directly to Threads of Life Family Support Programs and Services since Threads of Life is the charity of choice for health and safety event donations. Teams of 10 may register for \$200 and individuals for \$20 and the registration fee includes a T-shirt and the breakfast which is served at 8:30 AM. To register, pledge or become a local sponsor for the walk which will begin at the Kensington Train Station on Sunday, May 2, 2010, please contact Gayle Mueller at Gayle.Mueller@cavendishfarms.com or Glenna Lohnes at the Kensington and Area Chamber of Commerce at kacc@pei.aibn.com.

The registration deadline is April 23, 2010.

This page is provided by its author, Keith Mullins. If you would like to be included on his monthly e-newsletter distribution list, please contact:

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Infrastructure projects completed in 2 West Prince communities

Residents of two West Prince communities are benefitting from the development of a new well field for Tignish and improved road infrastructure in Alberton, thanks to investments made under the Building Canada Fund and Build PEI.

The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, on behalf of the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway, and the Honour-

able Ron MacKinley, PEI Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, visited the completed projects, April 14.

“Our government is proud to invest in infrastructure projects that create jobs and enhance the quality of life for Islanders,” said Minister Shea. “We are pleased to partner with our Provincial and Municipal counterparts to improve infrastructure in our rural communities.”

Tignish and Alberton are among the many rural communities across

PEI to have received funding from the BCF-CC infrastructure program. The Communities Component focuses on projects in communities with populations of less than 100,000 – helping these smaller communities face their unique challenges.

“These two projects will provide direct benefits to residents in these two communities,” says Minister MacKinley. “These two projects also confirm this government’s commitment to the development of rural communities through our Rural Action Plan.”

The Government of Canada, through the Building Canada Fund, the Province of PEI, through its Build PEI initiative and the Town of Alberton shared the cost of the street improvement project worth \$210,000. The project provided new storm sewers and new paving on three local streets.

“This was a very important project for the Town,” says Alberton Mayor Michael Murphy. “The street improvements allowed for better water drainage and flood control and it also improved the look of the streetscape which can be beneficial for tourism and for local residents.”

The project in Tignish identified a suitable location for a new well field. The Government of Canada, the Province of PEI, the Community of Tignish and funding from the Canada-Prince Edward Island Gas Tax Agreement collectively funded the \$93,500 project which will lead to the eventual development of a new well field to serve the future growth of the community.

“This will give our community access to a second safe source of drinking water,” says Tignish Community Chair Gerard LeClair. “We have an existing well field, but a second site will give us another source in case of an emergency or, if the need arises, to expand our water services within Tignish.”

For more information on the Building Canada plan, visit: <http://www.buildingcanada.gc.ca> or <http://www.gov.pe.ca/go/infrastructure>

Get listed, it's free!

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If you're in business in Western P.E.I., Resources West is here for you! Our Website features a business directory, providing local businesses a chance to post their information for the world to see. Visit www.resourceswest.pe.ca, search the business listings for your entry and check it for accuracy. If you find errors or if you're not listed, please click on the link to get listed, or fill and send this questionnaire to Resources West at the Alberton Business Centre, 455 Main St., PO Box 220 Alberton, PE C0B 1B0, fax it to 853-3298, or e-mail it to edo@resourceswest.pe.ca.

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Alberton area residents benefit from community centre upgrades

The Honourable Gail Shea, Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and MLA Pat Murphy, Alberton-Roseville, were on hand April 16 to help celebrate the completion of upgrades to the Alberton Community Centre. These renovations were made possible, in part, through \$141,675 in combined financial support from the federal Recreation Infrastructure Fund (RInC) and the Province's Island Community Fund (ICF).

Minister Shea, participated in the grand opening of the newly renovated community centre, on behalf of the Honourable Keith Ashfield, Minister of National Revenue, Minister of the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and Minister for the Atlantic Gateway. MLA Pat Murphy represented the Honourable Neil LeClair, PEI Minister of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Rural Development.

"As part of our Government's Economic Action Plan, the RInC program is helping communi-

ties like Alberton to renovate and upgrade local recreational facilities, which will benefit area residents for years to come," said Minister Shea. "These investments are helping to stimulate the economy in the short term while enhancing the quality of life for Islanders in the long term."

The Government of Canada, through the RInC program, invested \$62,337, while the province of Prince Edward Island has invested \$79,338, through ICF. The community of Alberton contributed \$47,225 to complete the project.

"The completion of this project is a real asset to the people of Alberton and surrounding areas, and I offer my congratulations to all those who have helped bring it about," said Mr. Murphy. "This project is an example of how the provincial government's Rural Action Plan is strengthening the economy and quality of life of rural communities."

The Island Community Fund represents a provincial investment of \$27.5 million towards the infrastructure needs of Prince Edward Island communities. Eligible categories of funding under this program include: Community Safety and Security; Recreation; and Cultural infrastructure not funded under the current programs. The Island Community Fund is just one component of the over \$80 million the province is investing in infrastructure for our one island community.

The joint funding went toward upgrades to the bowling lanes at the Alberton Community Centre including wheelchair accessibility improvements and the replacement of six bowling lanes.

"Canadian Mental Health Association is very pleased to have been able to partner with both the federal and provincial governments to carry out extensive renovations at the Alberton Bowling Lanes," said John Horreht, President of Canadian Mental Health Association, PEI Division. "The lanes provide a great source of recreation for the residents of West Prince and local bowlers are very appreciative of the completed improvements."

As more of these projects reach the completion stage, residents of Prince Edward Island and the rest of Atlantic Canada will be able to enjoy their local recreational facilities for many years.

For information on Canada's Economic Action Plan, please visit www.actionplan.gc.ca.

For more information about provincial infrastructure initiatives, please visit www.gov.pe.ca/fard/.

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