



Annual RAIN Symposium focused on growing fruit in the north

The Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN) recently announced the upcoming RAIN Symposium, focused on agriculture and food workshops, to be held in Bruce Mines this February 7th and 8th.

RAIN identified cold-hardy fruit production as a topic of interest to Algoma growers. The annual RAIN Symposium, hosted in the winter to accommodate the busy schedule of farmers, will provide an opportunity to bring the agriculture community together.

"We've always strived for the RAIN Symposium to bring the experts to the growers. Dr. Bors is internationally-known for his work with cold-tolerant fruit crops, and will provide a wealth of practical experience. We hope this knowledge-sharing will encourage growers in our area try new fruit crops with reduced risk," said Errol Caldwell, Co-Chair, RAIN.

On the evening of Friday, February 7th Bryan Gilvesy of Y U Ranch in Tillsonburg, Ontario will lead Marketing and Innovation for Local Food Producers where he will discuss how Y U Ranch's innovative techniques have allowed them to overcome barriers for selling beef in the local market.

Friday evening's dinner and discussion will provide innovative solutions for selling through the local food system. Y U Ranch is an ecologically-conscious beef operation whose 100% grass-fed beef is sold at

the farm gate and more than a dozen restaurants throughout southern Ontario.

"Y U Ranch has shortened value chains through brand management and innovation, with the long-term



objective of returning maximum dollar value to the farm. Hopefully this talk will inspire producers to move up the value chain and look at their farms as businesses with compelling value propositions, not just beef production systems," explained Bryan.

On Saturday, February 8th, Dr. Bob Bors from the University of Saskatchewan will lead a full-day workshop on Northern Hardy Fruit Production, sharing his experience at the university's Fruit Program, known to be the northern-most fruit breeding program in Canada. Dr. Bors will share basic concepts relevant to beginners, as well as advanced techniques for experienced growers. Topics will include easy grafting with parafilm, predicting and accessing winter damage, avoiding late frosts, and techniques for getting fruit trees to grow faster. Dr. Bors will share his research experience growing and breeding cold-tolerant fruit, as well as techniques for selecting which fruits to grow in the north.

Many factors need to be taken into

consideration when growing fruit in cold climates. Although species selection is important, winter survival isn't the only characteristic to be considered. One should consider: Which species are easy to grow and harvest? Which species taste good? Which ones can be processed? Or which ones might have a market? explained Dr. Bors, Assistant Professor, Plant Science, University of Saskatchewan.

Additional workshops will be held on Saturday from local producers and horticulturalists, including Greg and Mira Melien of Boreal Berry Farm & Winery, Ron Lewis of Lewis' Hardy Fruit Trees & Giant Pumpkins, and Dale Jackson.

The workshops are open to the public. Register by contacting Erin Heeny at 705-942-7927 ext. 3065. For more information on RAIN, please visit: www.rainalgoma.ca.

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Is 3D printing ushering in the third Industrial Revolution?

By Lucas Armstrong

There's been a lot of hype about 3D printing in 2013. From 3D-printed shoes to a fully functional speaker built recently at Cornell University, the technology is certainly capturing headlines. And who could forget the uproar caused by the world's first 3D printed gun? Many predict that 3D printing will completely change not only the manufacturing industry, but also our entire way of life in the future. Are we truly entering the third Industrial Revolution? These bold predictions have captured the attention of the world, but just how accurate are they?

Three-dimensional printing or additive manufacturing is the process of creating tangible objects by depositing material layer upon layer. While the technology has been around since the 1980s, it has only gained widespread recognition in recent years. While plastic is the most commonly used material for printing, there has been an increase in the use of metals, ceramics and carbon fibre.

Parts printed through 3D printers are already being used in the healthcare, aerospace and automobile industries, among others, albeit in a limited capacity. They're also entering the consumer market. Some enthusiasts forecast that consumers will one day be able to print off household products at their own leisure.

New MaRS report: Layer-by-Layer: Opportunities in 3D printing

With these predictions in mind, MaRS Market Intelligence published today a report on 3D printing, titled Layer-



by-Layer: Opportunities in 3D Printing. The report explores how this disruptive technology can affect industries, as well as potential opportunities for entrepreneurs who are developing applications and business models in this space. The report also includes interviews with seven Ontario-based companies involved in the 3D printing sector.

Touted as the next step for current manufacturing processes, our findings show that **3D printing may not quite live up to the hype**. There is no question that the technology has the ability to create amazing, customized objects in all sorts of sectors, including, for example, dental crowns

and spinal bones that can be personalized to fit an individual.

Three-dimensional printing is also an excellent substitute for current prototyping practices, as it allows local development of prototypes instead of outsourcing overseas, which is a long and expensive process. Through interviews and research, we found that while cheaper printers are slowly becoming available, it is still an expensive technology for smaller companies and individual consumers to invest in. **Makers are fuelling 3D printing**

In the future, with further technological and software advancements, it is possible that additive manufacturing could replace traditional manufacturing. However, as it stands right now, our current practices of mass production are simply cheaper, faster and more efficient than 3D printing. Nevertheless, there are a number of dedicated, creative minds working behind 3D printers.

A number of these innovators, inventors and enthusiasts are currently involved in the Maker Movement, a subculture of the do-it-yourself movement, usually connected through a maker space. Maker spaces allow individuals to brainstorm and experiment with 3D printers that they would otherwise be unable to afford.



Lucas Armstrong is a Junior Industry Analyst with MaRS Market Intelligence, assisting entrepreneurs and startup companies in the information technology, communications and entertainment (ICE) sector.

Smart Energy Strategy Team Announced

SSMIC recently announced four new jobs to help implement the Smart Energy Strategy for Sault Ste. Marie. The positions will be housed out of the SSMIC offices in the Essar Convergence Centre.

Leslie Smith is the Smart Energy Business Strategist, focusing on developing the Smart Energy Strategy brand, investigating and evaluating energy projects that are strategic to the Algoma region and identifying risks and opportunities, and leading the funding application requirements of the strategy execution phase.

Leslie brings over 20 years of experience from the energy and utility industry, having worked for Ontario Hydro, Hydro One, Hydro One Remote Communities, and Brookfield Renewable Energy in environment.

Qing Wen, Smart Energy Technician, is primarily responsible for providing policy and regulatory guidance and direct assistance to both internal and external energy projects.

Qing has over six years of work experience in the energy sector with projects on fuels, biofuels, oil sands and water science with companies including CanmetENERGY, Natural Resources Canada, and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Alberta.

Christina Coutu is the Smart Energy Strategy Special Events Project Manager. Christina has experience in recruitment, event planning, marketing, finance, and labour development experience with positions from Sault College and Manulife Financial.

Michael Degilio, Smart Energy Researcher, is responsible for working with businesses in the region to identify opportunities and challenges with the intent of developing more business, advancing collaboration, and developing new technologies, with special focus on the Smart Energy Strategy and Sector Improvement Strategy.

Prior to joining SSMIC, Michael worked at SUNLab at the University of



Ottawa doing research in solar cell modeling, solar tracking systems and setting up a test bed for solar thermal equipment testing.

"Sault Ste. Marie possesses unique advantages that appeal to innovative energy companies,+said Tom Vair, executive director, SSMIC. %The community has a great track record

for supporting these companies and we have assembled an excellent team to help drive further growth and create new jobs.+

The Smart Energy Strategy is a project built with local, regional and international collaborators, and will position Sault Ste. Marie and region to take advantage of opportunities in the emerging smart energy sector.

Project partners include numerous local private sector energy companies, SSMIC, Sault Ste. Marie Public Utilities Commission (PUC), City of Sault Ste. Marie, and Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC).

This project enables the community and region to diversify the economy and continue its momentum in the alternative energy space.

A process began with the Destiny Energy Committee to form an Alternative Energy Task Team which created a strategic framework as a foundation for the alternative energy strategy.

The goal of the Task Team was to look at the Alternative Energy sector and begin to map out a process to think more strategically and align community activities in order to grow this promising sector.

For more information, please contact Diana Medaglia at 705.942.7927 x. 3138.

2014 Youth Engagement Forum Announced

for Local Youth and Employers

Community partners recently announced the Youth Engagement Forum 2014 to be held in Sault Ste. Marie on February 11th at Algoma's Water Tower Inn.

With a focus on youth aged 15-29, youth service providers, and adult allies in the Algoma district, the forum will set out to engage youth and youth workers. The purpose is to share information and ideas about the barriers, gaps and opportunities that exist related to education, employment and entrepreneurship while mobilizing the community to act on the opportunities and challenges identified.

It is critical that Sault Ste. Marie builds an environment that is both attractive and supportive to youth, said Tom Vair, executive director, SSMIC. We have been extremely pleased with the interest and passion that this topic has received amongst partner organizations and community members and look forward to a dynamic forum.

The one-day event is laid out in a two-part format.

Part One runs from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. with focus on youth service providers. The agenda includes the Youth Jobs Strategy, presented by the Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Employment and Ministry of Research and Innovation (MEDTE/MRI), presentations by local organizations on innovative engagement practices to engage youth, and youth-focused discussions.

Part Two runs from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. with focus on youth. Engaging youth stakeholders and participants in an open space forum with action-

oriented presentations by youth in the community are part of the afternoon agenda.

Other organizations with a mandate to foster growth of youth entrepreneurship are supporting this initiative, including the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC), NORDIK Institute, and Thinking Rock Community Arts (TRCA).

Jody Rebek-DiCerbo, a Strategic Advisor and Facilitator, is organizing the forum, and a number of community organizations are on board to support the initiative.

The Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC), NORDIK Institute, Indian Friendship Centre, Algoma District School Board, Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board, Algoma University, Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, Sault College, Algoma Workforce Investment Corporation (AWIC), Employment Solutions, Thinking Rock Community Arts (TRCA), Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge (NORDIK), Children's Aid Society, Community Living Algoma, Sault Community Career Centre, Strive Young Professionals, Algoma Public Health, Algoma Youth Engagement Network, Local Immigration Partnership, Sault Youth Association, YesYouCan Consulting, ER Employment Consulting, Positively Charged, Accessibility North, City Councilors Susan Myers and Terry Sheehan, and The Mayor's Office are all participating in the forum.

For more on the Youth Engagement Forum 2014, contact Diana Medaglia at 705.942.7927 x. 3138.

NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES



*Ontario Lottery and
Gaming Corporation (OLG)*

Contract Specialist

CLOSING DATE: 2/10/2014

Human Resources Generalist

CLOSING DATE: 2/03/2014

For more information on these and other external job postings, please visit www.ssmic.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February

Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre
1520 Queen Street East, Suite BT 200
www.ssmic.com

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

February 7th and 8th

Rural Agri-Innovation Network (RAIN)
Symposium

February 14th

SSMIC's Valentine's Day Coffee Break
Fundraiser for United Way

February 20th

Growing a Winning Business Model
Workshop
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

For information on these events,
please contact Diana Medaglia,
Marketing and Communications
Manager, at
dmedaglia@ssmic.com

Remembering Gerry Taylor



In 1999, Gerry Taylor was instrumental in developing the initial concept of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. He was heavily involved in the launch of a geographic information system (GIS) market development project with support of the Mayor and City of

Sault Ste. Marie.

On December 7, 2013, Gerry passed away at the age of 57.

(Photo courtesy of ObitsforLife.com)

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