# eye on innovation

**SAULT STE. MARIE INNOVATION CENTRE**

## Incubator and Innovation Centre Impress Industry Icon

In his presentation at the grand opening of the Technology Incubator, Dr. Denzil Doyle said that the city of Sault Ste. Marie's IT strategy is "first rate". The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) plays an integral part in the city's strategy. The SSMIC offers services and facilities to help support and grow the local IT sector.

Dr. Doyle commended the Innovation Centre on their Technology Incubator. He said that Incubators come in many different shapes and sizes and that they are a wonderful investment. The SSMIC Technology Incubator is designed to service start-up companies focused on innovative IT products and

services, promote economic development and support growth in the small to medium sized enterprise sector.

The story behind Instantel Inc., as Dr. Doyle recounted in his presentation, demonstrates how IT companies evolve and the speed with which they can grow provided they have a strong business plan and awareness of industry opportunities.
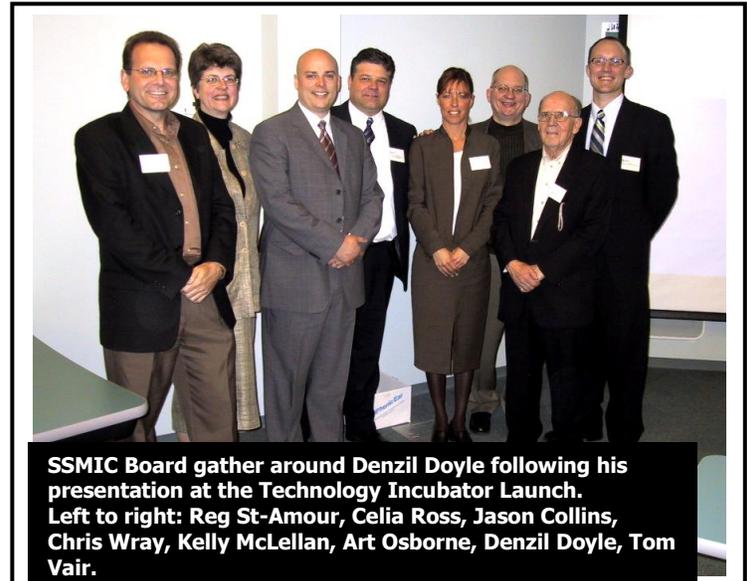
Dr. Doyle's presentation and the launch of the Technology Incubator drew a crowd of just over 100 IT entrepreneurs, city councilors, business owners, university and college faculty, and members of the general public with an interest in IT.

"We are pleased to see the



**SSMIC Board gather around Denzil Doyle following his presentation at the Technology Incubator Launch.**
**Left to right: Reg St-Amour, Celia Ross, Jason Collins, Chris Wray, Kelly McLellan, Art Osborne, Denzil Doyle, Tom Vair.**

level of interest and support shown for the IT sector," said Tom Vair, Business Manager SSMIC.

Mayor John Rowswell introduced Dr. Doyle, and

## IT Group Goes Ga-Ga for Gaming Workshop

After surveying the local Information Technology (IT) sector to determine the interests of our IT community, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) put together knowledge development workshops tailored to the

needs of our IT sector. Based on the survey results, the SSMIC organized three workshops: Web DBMS, GIS and Computer Gaming.

The workshops are inexpensive and are designed to meet the needs of our local and regional IT entrepreneurs who have limited time and resources.

The most recent of these workshops, the COMPUTER / WIRELESS GAMING WORKSHOP, attracted professors from Lake State University, Sault College, Secondary School teachers and other members from the local and regional private

sector.

The interest the workshops received illustrates the demand and the growing public interest in IT.

Mark Allen of Infinica Technologies and Chris Long, desktop games developer hosted the three hour, hands-on workshop. They covered the key topics required to put a game together including: Desktop and Wireless Gaming, Basics of Game design including: Graphics, Math, Control, and Animation.

Dr. Jay Rajnovich and Glyn Heatley were guest presenters at the workshop, discussing the upcoming Future Play
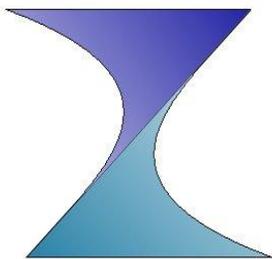
### Welcome to our first edition!

This monthly newsletter will update you on all the activities of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

### UPCOMING EVENTS
### *JUNE*

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- June 7 **- CISCO Routers Workshop**
- June 10 **— Algoma U, ICT building opening celebration**
- June 13 to 17 **- Computer Forensics 5 Day Workshop** - Sault College
- June 21 **— IT Breakfast** - Gran Festa Ristorante
- June 24 **- TAG Luncheon** - Guest Presenter: **PUC Telecom - "Broadband-Over-Powerline"**

## Innovation Centre meets Innovative Students

On May 3, Paul Beach and Chris Sambol of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) GIS team were invited to Central Algoma Secondary School (CASS) to participate in "GIS Day". Mrs Biggar, a teacher in the Geomatics course at CASS, headed GIS day. Students from Bawating and Korah were invited too. There were approximately 80 students who participated in the forum.

The forum involved a presentation by students on remote sensing, a presentation by the MNR and the SSMIC GIS team on GIS applications and a presentation by Sault College on their GIS program.

"The most eye-opening thing for the students was that, though GIS is something you can study at college and get a career in, it is also a skill that you can apply to many other careers such as health care, business and marketing, natural resource management, municipal management, utilities management, and so on," said Paul Beach, SSMIC GIS team. "GIS is an add-on to your existing college or university degree that makes you much more marketable in the work force."

CASS initiated their Geomatics course five years ago. Students learn topographical mapping, global positioning systems, geographical information systems and air photo interpretation.

### Incubator continued..

Chris Wray, Chair of the Innovation Centre board, delivered the closing remarks.

IT entrepreneurs with startup ambitions should contact the SSMIC today to learn more about this incredible resource! www.ssmic.com

## Sault College Hosts High-Calibre Forensics Workshop

Sault College is hosting a Computer Forensics workshop for the Sault Ste. Marie IT sector. The five-day workshop will run from Monday June 13 to Friday June 17, 2005.

The main goal of this course is to provide a comprehensive outline of computer forensics and investigation tools and techniques. Students will learn what computer forensics and investigation is as a profession, and gain an understanding of the overall investigative process. All major personal computer operating system architectures and disk structures will be discussed. Students will learn how to set up an investigator's office and laboratory, as well as what computer forensic hardware and software tools are available. They will also learn the importance of digital evidence controls and how to process crime and incident scenes. Finally, students will learn the details of data acquisition, computer forensic analysis, e-mail investigations, image file recovery, investigative report writing, and expert witness requirements. The course provides a range of laboratory and hands-on assignments that instruct the theory as well as the practical application of computer forensic investigation.

James Lewis is the workshop instructor. He is the Site Director for the Centre for Systems Security and Information Assurance (CSSIA) at Washtenaw Community College in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He has a Bachelor of Science in Electronic Systems from Southern Illinois University and an M.A. from Eastern Michigan University. He has a Graduate Certificate in Computer Forensics from Oregon State University. He has his CCNA and CCAI certifications from Cisco, the CISSP certification from ISC2 and recently received the CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker) certification. He has 27 years of experience in the field, including working with U.S. and international computer manufacturers and engineering firms.

### Gaming continued…

computer games conference in Lansing Michigan from October 13 – 15, 2005.

Dr. Jay Rajnovich, is the founder of the Future Play conference (in its fourth year running) and a professor at Algoma U. Glyn Heatley, is the CGT Promotions Manager and discussed the guest speakers/ panelists/ and workshop topics for the Future Play conference.

For more information regarding workshops or to suggest a workshop topic, please visit our website at **www.ssmic.com** or contact **swatson@ssmic.com**.

## May TAG Luncheon a Hit!

Lunching, mingling with IT professionals and learning important and exciting information is the flavour of the TAG luncheons that are organized by the, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and co-sponsored by AdNet, and the SSM EDC. There was a large turnout with representatives from Algoma Steel, Chamber of Commerce, OLGC, Sault College, Blind River, Elliot Lake, Group Health, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and private sector companies.

The IT community took a keen interest in the presentations of Julian Piwowarski, Manager of IT at SAH, on the transformation of healthcare data processing, and of Mark Hoffman, President of Anesis Consulting, on vulnerability management.

There are many exciting new applications being implemented in our healthcare system to improve accessibility to patient information. Mr. Piwowarski explained what this means for healthcare data processing on three levels: locally, regionally and provincially.

There will always be surprises and crisis that can have a large impact on businesses, but practicing vulnerability management can help prevent many technological crises. Mr. Hoffman went into detail on the degree of impact an oversight could have on a company.

The next TAG luncheon is scheduled for Friday June 24, 2005 at 12:00 pm & features PUC Telecom discussing Broadband Powerline.



**NEW SSMIC AND IT INCUBATOR FACILITY OPEN!**