



BRAND NEW! – Innovation Centre launching local IT Awards

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre would like to formally recognize the industry leaders, entrepreneurs and post-secondary students of the IT sector who are creating future economic opportunities for the Algoma region, with the first IT Awards program for Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma region.

In our first year, the SSMART (Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma Region) IT Award program will introduce four awards: Company of the Year, IT Student/Graduate of the Year, Best Website Award and IT Executive of the Year.

Company of the Year acknowledges a company's leadership through the innovation of its technology products or services, the sustained growth of its assets and its dedication to community involvement. Technology should



be the innovative energy fuelling this emerging or expanding company.

IT Student/ Graduate of the Year acknowledges an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the technology sector through his/her university/college work. Contributions may be through outstanding academic achievement; leadership in the area of technology transfer, or the commercialization of new

technology; development of innovative products; diversity of research, scholarship, leadership, or entrepreneurship.

Best Website Award acknowledges the people and/or organization within Algoma responsible for developing the most effective website. This award is open to both organizations and Web design companies.

IT Executive of the Year acknowledges an IT executive whose leadership and/or creative use of technology has helped to advance their organization, to improve client/customer services and have a positive impact on the IT community.

Nomination details, applications and award criteria will be posted on the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's website and the Sootoday.com Technology

page.

Nominators will be eligible for a prize as well. Nominate yourself or your peers! Let's make this event a success and showcase the best and brightest from our growing IT sector.

Brought to you by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre

Visit: www.ssmic.com

This monthly newsletter will bring you up to date on all the activities of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	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	29	30		

- July 23 -IT Breakfast, Gran Festa Ristorante
- TAG Luncheons and workshops will resume in the fall. - **have a great summer!**
- Register now at Algoma U for **Future Play**, the International computer gaming conference.

For more information about the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, or any of our events contact:

Sarah Watson
942-7927 x-3122 or
E-mail: swatson@ssmic.com

Forensics, For Everyone?

Students were amazed when Mr. Lewis, the instructor at the Forensics workshop, deciphered the woman's password in no time at all.

Seconds after the student volunteered herself, Mr. Lewis was able to announce her password to the class.

Frank Turco, Sault College, said that he learned some outstanding things in this course. For example, he said that when you send a document on the Internet it could contain information from

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Pictured above is the class from the highly successful Computer Forensics course offered at Sault College. Great turnout and a great course!

Board Member Profile - Chris Wray...Almost Famous

"Ten degrees Celsius is just about perfect," said Chris Wray, Chair of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) Board. It seems right that someone who is most comfortable in a cool climate would choose to live in Northern Ontario.

"I always wanted to live in Northern Ontario," said Chris, and his shift from working in the private sector to the public sector allowed him to make his move. Equipped with ten years experience at an IT firm, Dun & Bradstreet Software Services Ltd., and the qualifications to run a municipality, Chris Wray moved from Southern Ontario to Ignace, Ontario.

From Ignace, Chris took on the position of Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Township of Michipicoten. In 2001, the Township of Michipicoten won the Peter J. Marshall award in recognition of their innovative approaches to governance and specifically, their unique restructuring of an existing debenture. The creative municipal debenture model the township developed is now being adopted in other areas of Ontario.



Chris at the intimate Reception with Snow Cake Stars!
Left to right: Mayor Rod Morrison, Carrie-Ann Moss, Gina Carter, Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver, Chris Wray. In front: Tamara Little.

There are some perks to being the CAO that aren't always obvious. The movie Snow Cake was filmed in Wawa this winter, and the film crew held a private reception for a select few who accommodated their needs. Chris was among the ten or so people invited to the intimate reception with Alan Rickman, Sigourney Weaver, and Carrie-Anne Moss.

"It was a unique experience," said Chris. "There were lots of locals in the movie and the project had a positive economic impact on the community."

Sitting on the Board of

Directors for the SSMIC complimented Chris' CAO position in developing an IT strategy for Wawa. Last year, in conjunction with the Government of Ontario's GeoSmart program and FedNor funding announcement, Wawa implemented a municipal based GIS model. Working together with Dave Williamson and Paul Beach of the SSMIC, Chris and the team put together a first-rate GIS system for Wawa.

"The GIS system has had the biggest impact on Wawa," Chris said. Other municipalities

are poised to implement GIS systems using Wawa's model. Chris is the only member of the Board of Directors for the SSMIC who does not reside in Sault Ste. Marie, and still he never misses a meeting. "I feel very fortunate to be on the SSMIC Board of Directors," said Chris. "The future for the organization looks bright and I feel strongly that the SSMIC can help foster growth and job creation in the small to medium sized IT business community."

In the future, Chris also sees the Technology Incubator forced to find additional space to accommodate clients and future growth and is confident also that the SSMIC GIS team can maintain its "best in Canada" reputation through continuous evolution and re-development.

Forensics continued...

your computer's memory and give a person a clear picture of what you have been doing.

Some of the topics covered were: potential security holes in an organization, policies that should be in place, data retrieval methods in case of a disaster, and deciphering material.

Frank said that Sault College is hoping to offer this course again and also implement some of the components of this course in their current Computer Studies Program.

"We might bring Mr. Lewis back to instruct either the 'Forensics II' course or the 'Ethical Hacking course'," said Turco.

Security is a constant threat and a major industry. The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre is considering starting a Security Peer Group based on a suggestion at one of the IT Breakfasts. If you are interested, please contact Dan Kachur, of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre at 942-7927 x-3129.

Message from Tom Vair, Business Manager, SSMIC



Thank you for reading the second edition of Eye on Innovation. We hope that you will find our

newsletter interesting and informative. There are lots of exciting things happening at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. Since launching the Incubator, a number of new technology companies have emerged and are taking advantage of our services.

We are also pleased to announce the first annual SSMARt IT Awards for Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma

Region. The awards will generate awareness of our

Don't forget to submit your nominations for the SSMARt IT Awards!

technology sector and recognize the dynamic people who are contributing to our economy. The SSMIC aims to promote our local IT capabilities and create awareness of the talent we have right here in our community.

Our Technology page on Sootoday.com is another avenue for promoting the Sault Ste. Marie IT sector. If you would like to see a profile on your company, or see an article about a certain technology product or issue, please send us your ideas.

Watch for more SSMIC events and exciting projects following the summer break. We are always open to suggestions for workshops and events so, if you have an idea, get in touch while we are planning the fall schedule. Don't forget to submit your nominations for the IT awards!

- Tom Vair, Business Manager