



## SSMIC incubator client Pod Generating Group closes financing for first two 10 Megawatt (MW) projects in Sault Ste. Marie

Pod Generating Group, a developer of community-scale solar power generating facilities, announced on January 7, 2010, the close of financing for its first two 10 megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic projects to be located in the city of Sault Ste. Marie. These two projects were contracted under the Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program developed and overseen by the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and will connect to local utility PUC Distribution, Inc.

Equity financing for the projects is being provided by Starwood Energy Group Global, LLC ("Starwood Energy"), which also owns the projects through its wholly owned affiliates. Debt financing is being provided by Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale ("Nord/LB"). The turnkey project is being delivered by Q-Cells International Canada, an affiliate of Q-Cells SE, one of the world's largest photovoltaic companies.

"Today we are moving forward with another exciting renewable energy project that will see one of the largest solar farms to be built in Canada, being constructed in our city, through the support of our government's innovative energy programs," said David Oraziotti, MPP for Sault Ste. Marie. "In addition to the Brook-



David Livingston, COO and Glen Martin, CEO of Pod Generating Group at their January 7, 2010 announcement in Sault Ste. Marie

field Renewable Power wind farm and the Essar Steel Algoma co-generation plant, our government continues to help create new jobs, diversify our local economy and build the electricity system Ontarians need."

Steve Butland, current City Councillor, former Minister of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie, former Mayor of Sault Ste. Marie and leading proponent of renewable energy in the city, commented, "This initiative represents a resounding confirmation that Sault Ste. Marie is indeed the 'Alternative Energy Capital of North America'."

For each of the two new 10MW solar facilities, Pod Generating Group was awarded a 20 year power purchase agreement (PPA) under the OPA's Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program (RESOP). Local jobs will be created for engineering, construction and ongoing management, operations, and maintenance of the new solar facilities,

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### Coming Soon: Advanced business planning workshop with Akira Hirai from Cayenne Consulting

"If you fail to plan, you're planning to fail." – Unknown. A solid business plan, no matter the size of the business, is a key component to creating a solid foundation for success. On February 19, 2010, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) will host The Power of Planning: Advanced strategies to take your business to the next level. This hands-on, half-day workshop features renowned consultant Akira Hirai from Cayenne Consulting. Hirai has been featured in a number of publications including Inc. magazine.

Check [www.ssmic.com](http://www.ssmic.com) for more details on the workshop in the coming weeks or email [tharmar@ssmic.com](mailto:tharmar@ssmic.com)



**Akira Hirai**  
Founder and Managing Director, Cayenne Consulting

Akira helps entrepreneurs get their act together before they meet with investors. He does this mostly by developing VC-grade business plans,

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## Pod Generating Group continued

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which are scheduled to be operational in late 2010.

David Livingston, CEO of Pod Generating Group, commented, "We continue to be impressed by Ontario's commitment to develop clean, renewable power generation. The solar power facilities that we are putting into Sault Ste. Marie are showing what a dedicated group of individuals can do to meet the environmental challenges facing Canada and the world."

Glen Martin, president and chief operating officer of Pod Generating Group, added, "Pod Generating Group is excited to be implementing the vision of the Ontario government to create a province-wide renewable power generation network and establish the Province of Ontario as the greenest economy in North America. Further, given the level of support we have received from the local stakeholders in Sault Ste. Marie, we are sure that this municipality will maintain its leadership role in the design, manufacture, and production of alternative energy."

"We are very pleased to see this important announcement marking the advancement of the initial 20MW project," said Tom Vair, executive director, Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre. "The solar power projects being developed by Pod Generating Group present opportunities for the community both in terms of job creation and also further research and development work in advanced solar technology. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Pod Generating Group as they move forward on this, and future projects, in Ontario."

Development Sault Ste. Marie, a



John Febbraro (SSM EDC), David Carroll and Boris Shubert (Q-Cells International), Bruce Strapp (SSM EDC) and Tom Vair (SSMIC) at Pod Generating Group's announcement.

division of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation and the City of Sault Ste. Marie, continue to be part of the local team working directly with Pod Generating Group on this solar initiative. "We are extremely excited in this solar announcement as we continue to strive towards being the leaders in alternative energy", said John Febbraro, acting executive director.

"As this project moves forward you will see a considerable amount of activity from a local content in our community. Development Sault Ste. Marie along with respective City of Sault Ste. Marie staff will continue to work closely with Pod Generating Group to ensure their requirements continue to be addressed" added Greg Punch chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

### About Pod Generating Group

Pod Generating Group is one of Canada's leading independent community-scale solar power developers. Based in Sault Ste. Marie, Pod Generating Group is dedicated to working with local communities to develop clean and renewable power throughout North America.

### For more information:

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## The Power of Planning continued

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financial forecasts, and investor presentations.

In a world where perhaps one in 200 business plans ever get funded, well over half of his clients have done so.

Before starting Cayenne Consulting in 2001, Akira was the founder of two Silicon Valley Internet companies during the height of the dot-com bubble.



Previously, Akira held various management positions at Solomon Brothers, a New York investment bank.

At other

points in his career, he has also worked in financial risk management; software engineering; sales management; and advertising and graphic design.

And finally, Akira earned his B.A. in Engineering Sciences at Harvard University.



## Science Spotlight: SSMIC begins Sustainable Biomass Production Zone project with partial funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), with support from the City of Sault Ste. Marie, St. Mary's Paper, Flakeboard, the Algoma Federation of Agriculture (AFA), and partial funding from the Agricultural Adaptation Council (AAC) recently hired Ross MacLeod, bio-resource development coordinator, to lead the Sustainable Biomass Production Zone project. In this 20 month position, Ross will assist SSMIC and partners with efforts to increase production of bio-feedstock, including agricultural and agri-forestry crops.

Ross will also be responsible for running crop trials with soybeans, camelina and potentially hemp and solin. He will also facilitate soil amendment application trials with St. Mary's Paper biosolids as well as establish one or more coppice plantations with a major focus on studying alder. Networking and relationship building are also a key component in Ross's position, as he works with community partners to help establish a biodiesel cooperative. Finally, Ross will coordinate several public outreach activities including educating the public on relevant bio-economy information as well as organizing workshops and seminars. Ross will interface with local groups that have interests in the project's various initiatives.

"I hope to improve and strengthen my skill sets and expand my business and career connections," said Ross. "Based on my current projects, I would love to see the successful launch of the Algoma bio-diesel cooperative, more attention paid to coppice as a bio-resource and the certification of St. Mary's Paper bio-solids as a soil amendment in Ontario."

Originally from Poplar Dale, located north of Bruce Mines, Ross currently lives in Sault Ste. Marie. Prior to working at SSMIC, he graduated from the University of Manitoba with a B. Sc. in Agroecology in 2006. After working in the timber harvesting industry for almost a year, Ross was hired on a job creation partnership by the Community Freshwater Ecology Unit in Sudbury to do water sampling in local lakes. In July 2007, Ross began a Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) internship at science enterprise Algoma (seA) in Sault

Ste. Marie where he investigated value added cropping opportunities in the Algoma District. Most of his projects focused on hemp, flax and woody coppice. At the end of his internship with seA, Ross began building a project that would explore the feasibility of growing oilseed and fibre crops in the Algoma district. This resulted in a job extension as a contract employee with seA which ran for a year. During his second year with seA, now merged with SSMIC, Ross spearheaded a number of new initiatives derived from the results of his Oilseed and Fibre Feasibility Study.



Ross MacLeod, bio-resource development coordinator for SSMIC.

"The Innovation Centre is a fantastic place to work and I'm happy with the new opportunities that this role will bring. In particular, I'm very excited about the economic opportunities that projects like the ones I'm currently working on can bring to Algoma and I like the way they support and reinforce existing local industry," said Ross.

### Eye On Nicole Gareau

The Township of Laird in cooperation with the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre welcomes Nicole Gareau as bio-feedstock development intern. In this youth internship position, Nicole will be working on crop trial coordination and investigating production trials for flax, hemp, soybean, reed canary and a variety of other crops. A component of the internship will focus on production and market research where Nicole will be responsible for analyzing and reporting on future opportunities and market needs for the crops under study. "This internship will provide me with experience in estimating local forest and related biomass inventories, as I will be working closely with private woodlot owners," said Nicole.



information that is pertinent to the Algoma Region and the Biofuel Co-op project by establishing network links with local growers and organizations working in alternative crop production. She will also assist in the development of seminars and workshops targeted at producers, to raise understanding of the potential for production and marketing of alternative crops.

Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Nicole graduated from the University of Guelph in June 2009 with a degree in Biological Sciences. At the University of

Guelph, she volunteered her time assisting in crop trial projects and provided orientation tours to prospective first-year students. She spent the last four summers working as a heritage presenter for the Sault Ste. Marie Canal National Historic Site of Canada.

"I am very excited to discover what the Innovation Centre and its projects have in store for me," said Nicole. She is also looking forward to exploring the local natural resource supply while gaining valuable field work experience for future career paths.

Nicole was hired on a one-year contract using an investment from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). For more information on the NOHFC's Youth Internship Program visit: <http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/NOHFC/>

## ProtoLaunch workshop set for February 20-21, 2010 features Jonathan Morin from Ubisoft Montreal

ProtoLaunch's 4th workshop is set to take place on February 20-21, 2010 at Algoma University. This workshop builds on January's workshop where high school students started making their own games using tools from the video game industry. In this session, guest speaker Morin will combine theory and practice by having participants use the tools that they've learned to build their own games and maps. Participants will work in teams to create their games/maps, get to try out other teams games/maps and list the pros and cons of each one.

All ProtoLaunch workshops are free to attend. High school participants **MUST** register by contacting [Dwayne.hammond@algomau.ca](mailto:Dwayne.hammond@algomau.ca) in order to participate. Spaces are limited!

Join ProtoLaunch's Facebook Fanpage to stay informed on all ProtoLaunch initiatives: [www.facebook.com/ProtoLaunch](http://www.facebook.com/ProtoLaunch)

### About Jonathan Morin from Ubisoft Montreal

Through his ten years in the industry, Morin has performed Game Design, Level Design and Art roles on several projects. Now in his 9<sup>th</sup> year at Ubisoft Montreal, he recently shipped Far Cry 2 as Level Design Director last year and currently works



*Philippe Therien from Ubisoft Montreal led ProtoLaunch's 3rd workshop. The 4th workshop on February 20-21, 2010 features Jonathan Morin from Ubisoft Montreal who will build from Therien's workshop.*

as Creative Director on an unannounced project. Morin studied in Human Science, Computer Science and briefly considered a career in mathematics education but chose to apply these skills to an environment that would offer a bit more unpredictability. Happy with his choice, Morin loves his job, his fabulous wife Carole and his 3 awesome kids Kelly-Anne, Raphael and Nicolas.

### ProtoLaunch Workshop 3 Recap with Philippe Therien

January's 3rd ProtoLaunch workshop featuring Philippe Therien from Ubisoft Montreal was full with local high school partici-

pants. Held on January 9-10, 2010 at Algoma University, guest speaker Therien (Rainbow Six series, Naruto: Rise of a Ninja etc) led this third hands-on workshop where students started building video games using gaming industry tools. Students continue to impress video game industry professionals with their talent and enthusiasm while participating in ProtoLaunch workshops.

### About ProtoLaunch

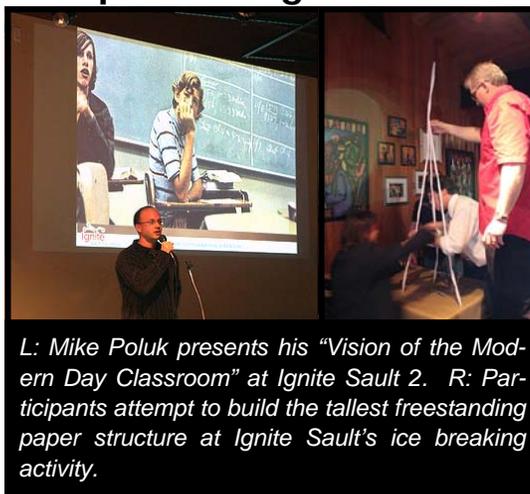
ProtoLaunch is a series of hands on, industry led workshops followed by an annual game development competition targeting youth in the community who are interested in a career in video game development. Students selected to participate in the annual game development competition held in the summer months will be paid as part of an exciting summer job experience. ProtoLaunch received \$461, 800 funding from The Ontario Trillium Foundation and is run in partnership with the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), Algoma University, Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology, YMCA Employment and Community Services, Anishinabek Information Technology Centre (AITC) and the Children's Rehabilitation Centre – Algoma.



## "Enlighten us, but make it quick" at Ignite Sault 3

If you had 5 minutes to talk about something you were passionate about what would you say? Ignite Sault is a free community event that brings together an inspiring and unexpected blend of thinkers from business, art, technology, government and academia. All with ideas. And all willing to share them. Ignite Sault 3 is set to take place on April 8, 2010 at The Grand Theatre on Queen Street. Presentation proposals are being accepted until February 25, 2010. Want to see the presentations? Tickets are free and available on the website: [www.ignitesault.ca](http://www.ignitesault.ca)

"Enlighten us, but make it quick" is the slogan of Ignite. Presentations are made in 5 minutes, with the aid of 20



*L: Mike Poluk presents his "Vision of the Modern Day Classroom" at Ignite Sault 2. R: Participants attempt to build the tallest freestanding paper structure at Ignite Sault's ice breaking activity.*

PowerPoint slides and each slide advancing automatically every 15

seconds.

The first ever Ignite Sault took place in June 2009 and the second in October 2009; both featured a diverse group of local speakers and attendees. Ignite Sault 3 promises more of the same! Now's your chance to be part of it: [learn more](#), [get tickets](#), [submit a talk](#).

If you missed the first two Ignite Sault events but would like to see the talks visit: [www.youtube.com/ignitesault](http://www.youtube.com/ignitesault) to watch them online.

Want to learn more? Visit [www.ignitesault.ca](http://www.ignitesault.ca) or join Ignite Sault's Facebook fanpage: [www.facebook.com/ignitesault](http://www.facebook.com/ignitesault)



## Sault College opens Applied Research Centre (ARC)

Sault College recently launched the projects

Applied Research Centre (ARC) after receiving seed funding from the Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI) and project funding from a variety of sources including Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN), private sector partners and other government agencies.

The Centre brings together Sault College's talented faculty, staff and students and local and regional enterprises to participate in applied research projects that provide real-world solutions to real-world problems, enabling them to create or improve products and services and compete in the global marketplace.

The ARC facilitates the development of applied research projects from start to finish by participating in these activities:

- evaluating and launching projects
- assisting with the management of projects
- arranging faculty release time to allow project participation
- providing participants to work on



Some of the research labs in the ARC. Photos courtesy of Sault College.



- liaising with physical resources to provide work space, laboratories, and other facilities within the College

The ARC also provides a link to the Colleges Ontario Network for Industry Innovation; an applied R&D network providing SMEs access to the expertise and resources at

20 of Ontario's top colleges for assistance with their commercialization projects.

The main purpose of this network is to coordinate applied R&D activities. It is also aimed at helping SMEs to:

- Solve technical problems
- Adapt new technologies for the marketplace
- Develop prototypes and new or improved products and processes
- Enhance products, processes and/or services
- Test/evaluate and perform proof of concept study

- Innovate either incremental or larger-scale
- Identify funding opportunities and prepare applications for R&D assistance and tax credits

### What type of business may participate?

The research undertaken by the Applied Research Centre may focus on the economic sectors identified as priorities by the provincial government, including but not limited to:

- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Construction
- Digital Media
- Environmental Technologies
- Health and Life Sciences
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Information & Communication Technologies
- Manufacturing and Materials
- Viticulture and Agri-Business

### For more information contact:

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[www.saultcollege.ca/Pages/ARC/default.asp](http://www.saultcollege.ca/Pages/ARC/default.asp)



## Prestigious awards honour women leaders in Northern Ontario

Do you know someone who is deserving of public praise for her business acumen, career success, professional drive and contribution to community? Consider nominating her (or yourself) for a prestigious 2010 IW Award!

The 13th Annual Influential Women of Northern Ontario Awards program call for nominations is now open.

Six women will be honoured at two separate events this coming spring. Three recipients from northeastern Ontario will be recognized at the first awards luncheon, to be held in Sault Ste. Marie at the Algoma's Water Tower Inn on June 1, 2010. In Thunder Bay on June 3, three recipients from northwestern Ontario will be similarly honoured at the second celebratory luncheon, to be held at the Victoria Inn. And one grade 12 student from Northern Ontario will be awarded a \$2,000 Aspiring Achiever Scholarship. The

nomination package with eligibility and criteria is online at [www.influentialwomen.ca](http://www.influentialwomen.ca). The deadline is Friday February 19, 2010. The selection of award recipients is made by an independent panel of judges, and winners will be invited to attend celebrations in their respective areas. Combined attendance is anticipated to exceed 800.

"It is estimated that women will start half of Canada's new companies," says Northern Ontario Business publisher Patricia Mills. "We need innovators, mentors and risk-takers," she adds. "We also need to acknowledge those women who do venture into the world of business and economic development, and we need to encourage more to follow."

The Influential Women of Northern Ontario program was launched in 1997 in order to seek out, honour and profile women in Northern Ontario who contribute

to the North's economic success and expansion. Over 100 influential women have been recognized since the program's inception. The roster of award winners continues to grow.

Premier Dalton McGuinty, in his message published in last year's annual IW souvenir magazine, commends Influential Women for promoting and facilitating an environment that celebrates women business leaders in Northern Ontario.

For more details on the Influential Women of Northern Ontario Awards program visit [influentialwomen.ca](http://influentialwomen.ca)



## Internationally-recognized researcher named Invasive Species Chair

On February 1, 2010, Algoma University announced the appointment of Dr. Pedro Antunes as research chair of invasive species biology. The announcement was made jointly with Linda Jeffrey, minister of natural resources, David Orazietti and Dr. Celia Ross, president, Algoma University. The research chair position is jointly funded by the Ontario government and Algoma University. Ontario has provided \$800,000 to fund the invasive species research chair for five years.

"The naming of the chair is an important step forward in meeting our Province's commitment to addressing invasive species," said Jeffrey. "We look forward to Dr. Antunes' leadership as we partner with Algoma University to enhance invasive species research in Ontario."

"This new research chair at Algoma University will help our province curb the progression of invasive species to preserve biodiversity and protect Ontario's natural resources," said Orazietti. "The creation of the Invasive Species Centre will further establish Sault Ste. Marie as a national leader in forestry research."

Dr. Antunes will develop an international network of researchers

through the university's Invasive Species Research Institute and will conduct invasive species research on critical priorities in Ontario. He will also work closely with the Invasive Species Centre in addressing the threat of forest invasive species and invasive plants. In addition, Dr. Antunes will lead the



*Minister of Natural Resources Linda Jeffrey and David Orazietti, MPP and Parliamentary Assistant to Minister Jeffrey made the \$800,000 funding announcement for the invasive species research chair position for the next 5 years.*

university's initiative to study invasive species from different parts of the world in a contained, secure environment.

"We are excited to have such an esteemed researcher as Dr. Antunes joining Algoma University," said Dr. Ross.



*Algoma University announced the appointment of Invasive Species Research Chair Pedro Antunes.*

"His wealth of international research experience positions him well to lead our research team in the fight against the threat of invasive species in this region and beyond."

Ontario has committed \$15 million to creating an Invasive Species Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. According to the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, losses caused by invasive species in Canada average \$7.5 billion annually. That figure is expected to swell to between \$13.4 billion and \$34.5 billion annually over the next five years.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## The Kensington Conservancy and the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition welcome freshwater quality public outreach intern

***Intern will work on public education and tackling major issues and concerns for watersheds in the Central Algoma region through funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC)***

The Kensington Conservancy (TKC) and the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) are pleased to welcome Freshwater Quality Public Outreach intern Lindsey Verdone. Verdone was hired through funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC), in contribution with Johnson Township and Huron Shores Municipality. Due to the generous in-kind support from the Central Algoma Secondary School (CASS) and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), Verdone will be situated at CASS to better

accommodate the Central Algoma region, and at SSMIC to collaborate with organizations and researchers with similar

this year.

As the freshwater quality public outreach intern, Verdone will tackle major issues and concerns common with the north shore of Lake Huron and watersheds in the Central Algoma region, with an emphasis on nutrient loading, invasive species, soil erosion and human expansion. Throughout her year long internship, she will develop public education and outreach materials on good stewardship practices for municipalities and local

*(Continued on page 7)*



goals and resources. She will also be supporting CAFC projects, some of which include the 2010 Green Expo, which will be held on July 23 and 24 in Desbarats

# Invasive Species Research Chair continued

## About Invasive Species Research Chair Pedro Antunes

Dr. Pedro Antunes has joined Algoma University in Sault Ste. Marie as a Research Chair in Invasive Species Biology and Associate Professor (Department of Biology).

Antunes began his academic studies in biology at the University of Evora, Portugal. He developed a strong interest in plants and their associated microorganisms during his undergraduate education, which led him to pursue graduate studies abroad. With a PhD scholarship from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology,

Antunes undertook research in soil science at the University of Guelph.

Upon completing his PhD, Antunes began post-doctoral research in Molecular Microbial Ecology at the University of Guelph. Antunes moved to Berlin, Germany, to assume a Research Assistant Professor position in Ecology at the Freie Universität. He was awarded a €100,000 (\$159,000 Cdn) Marie Curie Excellence Grant to support his research, which aimed to understand why some plant species are more abundant than others.

Antunes' personal research focuses on the roles that naturally-occurring, or indigenous, soil organisms play in controlling or facilitating invasion by non-

native organisms.

In the last five years, Antunes has published twelve articles in international journals and two book chapters on the interactions between soil microbes and plants.

### Learn more:

- Visit <http://people.auc.ca/antunes/Antunes/Home.html> to learn more about Dr. Antunes.
- Find out about the work of the **Invasive Species Research Institute** at Algoma University: <http://tinyurl.com/AboutISRI>.

**ALGOMA**  
university

# Fresh Water Public Outreach intern continued

*(Continued from page 6)*

property and cottage owners living on or near the water. She will also assist the CASS science department with local activities and presentations on freshwater quality awareness.

In addition to public outreach activities, Verdone will develop and manage a recurring volunteer-based sampling protocol for monitoring water quality in Central Algoma's lakes. Her main project will involve the collection and assessment of characteristic studies on many local lakes of interest to better understand loading capacities and economic impacts of lakeside development. Consistent testing of our waters and shorelines will better monitor the quality and composition of our inland and great lakes. Currently, she is searching for any historical or current lake characteristic data in the Central Algoma region to better understand the state of our watersheds and what steps need to be taken to recommend appropriate sampling procedures to preserve and/or restore these pristine areas.

If your school or organization would like to learn more about your local watershed and how to keep it healthy for years to come, or you would like to share information on a local lake that will assist with lake characteristic studies, please contact Lindsey Verdone at [lverdone@ssmic.com](mailto:lverdone@ssmic.com).



Prior to joining the CAFC, Verdone worked as a laboratory technician for the Ministry of Natural Resources where she collected water samples in riparian and wetland areas North of Sault Ste. Marie and analyzed them in-lab for carbon content. She also worked as science commercialization officer for science enterprise Algoma, now merged with SSMIC, to encourage collaboration and resources within innovation sectors and promote science research and development locally. She is a graduate from the Co-operative program of the University of Waterloo with a Bachelors Degree in Honours Biochemistry and a specialization in biotechnology.

## About the Kensington Conservancy

The Kensington Conservancy (TKC) works to inspire all members of the North

Channel community to embrace positive conservation and good stewardship values. TKC is a land trust that works to protect lands and waters through voluntary conservation agreements, by purchasing property, and accepting donations of land. TKC also works with local landowners, farmers, governments, schools, and other organizations to develop outreach programs to promote greener and less intensive development, best land and water management practices, invasive species control, and low impact recreational activities.

## About the Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition

The Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition (CAFC) is a recently established not-for-profit group dedicated to the protection, improvement and restoration of the watersheds throughout the Central Algoma Region. CAFC provides information and practices that enable the general public to become good stewards of our natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

### For more information Contact:

Lindsey Verdone

Freshwater Quality Public Outreach Intern

The Kensington Conservancy

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C: (705) 971-5356

E: [lverdone@ssmic.com](mailto:lverdone@ssmic.com)

# OLG and PMI present: Audit as the Project Manager's Secret Weapon

Join Project Management Institute (PMI) Southern Ontario Chapter at their second of four events in Sault Ste. Marie. The focus of the presentation will be on the role of project audit and its contribution to the success delivery of projects.

Mention the word Audit, and most project managers will picture an onerous process with typical "Monday Morning Quarter Back" results. However there are opportunities for project managers to embrace and leverage audit's power of scrutiny to improve the outcome of their endeavors by leveraging audit to:

- 1) Improve project delivery through best practices for management controls
- 2) Gain management attention for investment in management controls
- 3) Collaborate and improve the rate of project success through management controls



#### SPEAKERS:

**Marty Wright, Director Technology Audit, OLG**

As Director Technology Audit, Marty is accountable for planning

and overseeing the execution of operational audits for the IT business unit. Marty has spent the majority of his career in the assurance field, starting off in the public accounting ranks with Grant Thornton LLP, before moving over to the Ontario Lottery Corporation as an Internal Audit specialist. Marty is a Chartered Accountant (CA) with a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) specialization.



**Fariba Anderson, VP Lottery IT, OLG**

As Vice President Lottery IT, Fariba is the single point of contact, senior advisor and spokesperson on information technology for Lottery business line. Fariba held a verity of CIO, SVP, VP, Executive Director and Director roles with Allstream, Bell, Compuware, Rogers, Imperial Oil, and most recently, as the President of ACI Consulting Group. Fariba has been recognized as one of Canada's top 100 Women Entrepreneurs and holds a MBA from University of Toronto Rotman School of Management and a Computer Science Degree from York University. Fariba is also a Certified Management Consultant with CGEIT (Certified in the Governance of Enterprise IT) designation.

**FEE:** (includes presentation and refreshments)

PMI Members, OLG Staff and Students - Free

Non-Members - \$20 +GST

*Attendees will receive 1 PDU!*

**REGISTRATION:** Visit **Upcoming Events** at <http://www.soc.pmi.on.ca> home page and click on **SSM-PMI Presentation** link

**February 4, 2010**

**Sault College - Multi Media Centre**

**Room B1170 - B Wing**

**6:00 - 8:00 pm**



## Announcing Soo PodCamp 2010

On February 20, 2010, the first ever Soo PodCamp will be held from 9am to 3pm at Sault College. Admission is free. A PodCamp is a free community Unconference aimed at bringing together new media enthusiasts, professionals and hobbyists. If you ever wanted to know more about social media, or how to better utilize it for either business or in any other application, this is the place to be.

#### What is an Unconference?

We all know what a conference is right? We've all been there before – gone to some sort of conference where we were excited to learn something new, and ended up bored out of our minds all day listening to people talk at us. Or other times the content was ok, but there was another direction we wanted to go in to make it work for us. And in all cases, there was no opportunity to interact and get what we wanted out of the

experience.

That is where the 'un' part of Unconference comes in. It takes all the negative things that we've come to associate with going to conferences – the long, boring, non-interactive presentations, the set-in-stone agendas, and turns it on its head. At an Unconference (in this case a PodCamp), you have the opportunity to help shape the experience so that you get the most out of it as possible.

**To learn more about the Soo PodCamp visit <http://soopodcamp.com/> to get details and register.** Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Every person who attends brings their knowledge and adds it to the pool (and everyone has something to contribute, even if they don't know they do!)

Social media has changed the way we

go about our daily lives. It is called 'new media' because that is what it is – new. Participants are invited to attend, bring an open mind and a willingness to discuss, and see what you can learn about new media and how you can use it, whatever your goals may be. Share ideas, discuss theories and learn lessons from an audience of experts.



# 10 best IT jobs right now

Read the whole article here: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2010/020110-best-it-jobs.html?page=1>

With many industry watchers speculating about a jobless economic recovery, IT job seekers could find work in a few key technology areas.

By Denise Dubie, Network World  
February 02, 2010 12:02 AM ET

Industry watchers report that while an economic recovery won't guarantee that IT jobs return to pre-recession levels, increased interest in emerging and existing technologies will drive internal training and external hiring decisions.

Here we examine 10 IT job titles that could gain traction in 2010 as new technology demands require evolving IT skills.

## 1. Security specialist/ethical hacker

Disturbing new facts and figures appear almost daily about companies falling victim to hackers and experiencing security and/or data breaches. That won't change in 2010 and IT training and employment industry specialists report that interest in acquiring new security skills continues to grow among IT pros and hiring managers who seek the latest skill sets to better secure their environments.

## 2. Virtual systems manager

Like high-tech vendors, IT pros will have to incorporate virtual systems knowledge into their repertoire in order to compete for open positions in 2010. Virtualization not only impacts current data center plans, but also future cloud computing efforts and while companies look to adopt such technologies, they will expect staff to be versed in the tools required to support new environments.

## 3. Capacity manager

Companies that don't properly prepare for needed resources could lose money or fail to respond to business needs. That's why industry watchers from Forrester Research and Gartner have tagged capacity planning skills as in demand, especially considering the down economy.

Forrester says the role of capacity manager will be in demand for companies looking to optimize resources and accurately assign financial values to technology resources.

## 4. Network engineer

As retro as it may sound, network know-how won't go out of style in 2010. According to Gartner, interest in networking, voice and data communications technologies increased for 2010, meaning skills in that high-tech area will also be in demand.

"The future of IT and enhanced competitive advantage requires social



interactions and greater collaboration and that is why the importance of the network continues to grow," Gartner's McDonald says.

## 5. Open source specialist

Companies keeping IT budgets lean but hoping to add services and help business return to growth will be considering open source software for more enterprise projects. And while several open source software maker offer commercial support packages, IT managers will want to have some skills in-house as well, according to IT talent experts.

## 6. Service assurance manager

The premise of IT service assurance isn't entirely new and until recently was more commonly a concern for service providers, but enterprise IT organizations have started to evolve into service providers in their own right. Vendors such as BMC, CA, HP, IBM and now EMC are touting the ability to provide insight into the life cycle of an IT service, and enterprise IT departments want to establish themselves

as internal service providers. That means IT staffers would be wise to also embrace the skills required to track services from start to finish across a distributed and diverse environment.

## 7. Electronic health records systems manager

CompTIA anticipates some 70,000 new IT positions in the next 12 months in the healthcare industry. The increase in open jobs is due in part to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which includes billions in provisions for healthcare IT. The expected uptick in demand is driving industry organizations such as CompTIA to find the best ways to educate and train IT workers on healthcare specific skills.

## 8. Sourcing specialist

"Outsourcing is going to continue to be a trend, and the skill sets to manage vendor relationships and contract performance will be highly valued," said Lily Mok, vice president of Gartner's CIO

Research, in a *Network World* interview. "Companies will want to consolidate vendors, find better deals with existing vendors, really understand their contracts in terms of costs and performance, and renegotiate contracts to find better options."

## 9. Service catalog manager

"The service catalog manager is responsible for producing and maintaining the service catalog. This includes responsibilities that fall into three categories -- planning and implementing a service catalog, financial management aspects of a service catalog, and rollout and maintenance of service catalog," reads a recent Forrester Research report.

## 10. Business process engineer

Demand for business-savvy technologists will drive hiring decisions in 2010, as companies look to evolve processes to align with leaner budgets and more streamlined operations. According to Gartner's Mok, companies will seek business process engineers for re-engineering projects in the coming year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

# FEBRUARY

Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre

1520 Queen Street East, NW307, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4  
Phone: 705-942-7927 Fax: 705-942-6169 Email: mling@ssmic.com

[www.ssmic.com](http://www.ssmic.com) - [www.itssm.com](http://www.itssm.com)

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						

- **Feb 11, 2010**

**Innovation Breakfast— Gran Festa  
Ristorante, 180 Bay Street, 7:30 a.m.  
RSVP: [mguzzo@ssmic.com](mailto:mguzzo@ssmic.com)**

- **Feb 15, 2010**

**Family Day—SSMIC offices closed**

- **Feb 19, 2010**

**The Power of Planning workshop:  
Advanced Business Strategies to  
Take your Business to the Next Level  
For more info: [tharmar@ssmic.com](mailto:tharmar@ssmic.com)**

- **Feb 26, 2010**

**TAG Luncheon  
RSVP: [tharmar@ssmic.com](mailto:tharmar@ssmic.com)**

• Visit [www.ssmic.com](http://www.ssmic.com) to view an  
updated calendar of events.

For more information  
about any of the events

or to RSVP contact  
Mei Ling at: 942-7927 X3122 or  
[mling@ssmic.com](mailto:mling@ssmic.com)

In honour of Apple's iPad announcement:

### 20 things I already know about Apple's ultra-hyped iTablet/iSlate:

1. It will make you want one.
2. It will be missing something "essential".
3. It will have at least one really surprising feature.
4. It will singlehandedly re-monetize some waning industry.
5. It will be Time Magazine's device of the year.
6. It will have a short battery life.
7. It will standardize at least one new technology.
8. Steve Ballmer will say it's too expensive and too limiting.
9. Companies will start playing catch-up. Their products will be deemed "iTablet/iSlate killers."
10. All other similar products will be compared to it in their reviews.
11. At least one major critic will hate it on principle alone, then he'll actually try it for a week. It will become his main machine and he will write a story on his transition to the device.
12. People will sarcastically say that it does everything including making you coffee. This will somehow never get old.
13. At least one company will make an absolutely ridiculous and useless peripheral for it.
14. A group of people will say they're waiting until it has x feature before they buy one. It will get that feature. They still won't buy it.
15. Almost all cases for the device will be way too expensive.
16. It will somehow be used in the military.
17. You'll eventually get over its name.
18. Analysts will claim that it bridges the iPhone to Mac gap, thus helping the 'halo' effect, without any evidence.
19. Early adopters will be heart-broken when v2 of the product comes out.
20. People will say Apple did an upgrade of the device too quickly. Steve Jobs will say get over it.

<http://www.thedoghousediaris.com/?p=1234>

Doghouse Diaries

"We're thinking of a number between infinity and four."

## A new sign for the new year

SSMIC's new logo was unveiled at their 10 Year Anniversary celebration on December 8, 2009. To start off the new year, a new sign is currently located at their Algoma University office location and new signs are on the way for their Willow Street office.



SSMIC's old and new signs.

Are you an entrepreneur or part of a SME that would like to be profiled in a future edition of Eye On Innovation?

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