eye on innovation

SAULT STE. MARIE INNOVATION CENTRE

SAH Recruits IT Professional Through TAG

An Elliot Lake native, Chad Carter recently found his way back to Northern Ontario. Chad was the Manager of Technical Services at the Grand River Hospital in Kitchener when he learned of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's TAG luncheons.

By tele-conferencing in to attend the luncheons, Chad met Julian Piwowarski, Manager of Information Systems at Sault Area Hospital. A short time later, Julian informed Chad of an upcoming opportunity. Chad suited the requirements for the Senior Systems Support vacancy at the Sault Area Hospital and moved to Sault Ste. Marie.

As Senior Systems Support,

Chad is responsible for the servers and networks, planning and support for the hospital.
There are approximately 1300 end-user devices on the hospital's network spread across two main sites (the General and the Plummer) and eight remote sites with approximately 2000 users (nurses, clinicians, support staff) and 80 application servers. And it is expanding!

Chad Carter, Senior Systems Support, Sault Area Hospital

The hospital is expanding its network and focusing on stabilizing the environment to make way for new developments in healthcare technology. For example, the hospital is preparing to implement a PACS system. The PACS system improves the quality of and accessibility to patient images. The PACS system stores patient images and information digitally which gives patients/ physicians immediate access to these images and improves the radiology departments' ability to store, retrieve, review, diagnose, and distribute patient medical images and accompanying information. In addition to the PACS system, a wireless network is planned

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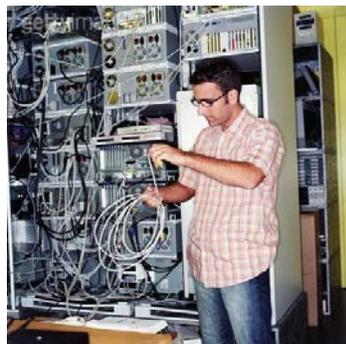## Microsoft Develop Mental Tour Hits SSM

The Develop Mental Tour is a complimentary 2-hour learning seminar, March 17, aimed at students with an interest in designing and building games and web pages. Attendees will learn first-hand from Microsoft developer experts how Visual Studio® 2005 Express Edition can quickly enable them to bring their ideas to life and create their own software in ways that are fun and easy.

Don't miss this opportunity. Register online at: www.microsoft.com/canada/developmental/default.aspx

IT Sector Adding New Jobs In SSM

IT professionals are in demand in Sault Ste. Marie. This past month the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) posted 20 IT-related jobs on www.itssm.com on behalf of local companies.

"The demand is based on both large organizations adding IT skills and the growth from some of our local IT companies," said Tom Vair, Executive Director at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

"This month was a busy one for our job board and we expect this trend to continue as businesses continue to embrace technology."

The SSMIC launched www.itssm.com in early December to create an online portal for the IT community. The site includes a directory of IT companies and an area called Sault Reconnect, which is aimed at creating a database of ex-pats who have left Sault Ste. Marie to pursue careers in IT.

Sault College, Algoma U and Lake Superior State University all have computer and IT programs and are generating highly skilled IT professionals.

"It is nice to see increasing opportunities locally so that

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
March

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	31	

- **March 2nd- BIZMAP** Phase II Deadline

- **March 17th - Microsoft Develop Mental Tour –** Algoma U

- **March 22nd - IT Breakfast - 7:30 am -** Gran Festa Ristorante. Informal meeting to discuss IT projects in the community.

- **TAG Meeting –** Date to be confirmed shortly!

For more info please contact:
Sarah Watson
942-7927 x-3122 or
E-mail:
swatson@ssmic.com

BIZMAP Business Plan Competition: PHASE I WINNERS

Organizers of the BIZMAP Business Plan Competition recently congratulated the top teams/individuals on their efforts in the first phase of the competition. All competitors in this phase received a small cash prize and benefited from feedback on their idea from successful business people and entrepreneurs who are judging the submissions. This feedback will help competitors develop the rest of their plan in Phase II which is now open to new competitors.

Congratulations go to the following people:

- Margo Beaudoin of Chapleau, Wicked Gravity (Tourism)
- Amy Sayers of Garden River, MOCC (Retail)
- Emily Andersen of SSM, EM's Gardens (Retail)
- Mark Perrott of SSM, Sault Tours (Tourism)
- Chrystal Petrocco of SSM, Caregivers North (Health Care)
- Katie Oberegger of SSM, Daydream Spa (Retail)
- Travis Hannah of SSM, Sinqe-Coq Solutions (Marketing)

- Troy McLaughlin of SSM, Synergy Forestry
- Kareem Roberts of SSM, KR Consulting (Tourism)

New registrations for Phase II of BIZMAP can be completed online at www.bizmap.ca. All individuals entering must be 18-25 years old and reside in the Algoma District. Business plans must be for new businesses and are due March 2, 2006.

The youth involved in this innovative and unique program are supported through a network of professionals (project partners and volunteer entrepreneurs) that will assist them in developing their business ideas, researching the marketplace and establishing achievable targets, as well as provide them with an invaluable networking opportunity.

Competitors will build their business experience, their resumes, and their contacts.

The grand prize winner(s) will receive $2000 cash and a business start-up package valued at $8600 if the winner(s) decide to launch their company within a year. Second and third place winners will receive $1000 and $500 respectively plus start-up packages valued at over $3500.

Full competition details, registration, guidelines, templates, and other resources are available on the BIZMAP web site and through the project manager.

BIZMAP was made possible with a three year Ontario Trillium Foundation grant. The management of BIZMAP relies on a partnership between the Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie & Area, the Sault Ste. Marie Enterprise Centre, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and Algoma University College.

BIZMAP is sponsored by KPMG, PUC, RBC, Brascan Power, and Yes FM.

IT Jobs cont'd…

we can keep some of our talented IT and Computer Studies graduates here, in Sault Ste. Marie," said Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma U.

"Many of our graduates in computer studies are eager to work locally. The Innovation Centre has played a tremendous role accessing these quality jobs available in Sault Ste. Marie and area," says Dr. Tim Meyer, President, Sault College.

There is a broad range of IT-related job opportunities from entry to senior-level in Sault Ste. Marie. The SSMIC promotes growth in Sault Ste. Marie's IT sector in an effort to diversify the economy and also retain some of the region's talented youth. Currently the job postings on www.itssm.com are related to web developing and computer programming.

Tech. Advisory Needs Members!

The Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce Technology Advisory Committee is looking to broaden its mandate and representation beyond Information Technology (IT).

The committee is looking to recruit volunteers and a good mix of opinions from all industries such as retail, health care, telecommunications, banking, education, government, industrial and manufacturing.

If you are a member or an employee of a Chamber member business and would like to volunteer on the Chamber's Technology Advisory Committee please contact Heather Petingola at (705)949-7152 or by e-mail at heather@ssmcoc.com.

SAH Cont'd …

for the new hospital.

Chad said, "I am looking forward to getting all the new IT systems in place. I have worked in a hospital environment for five years and enjoy working in healthcare technology."

Healthcare is evolving at a fast rate and advances are being made to improve patient experiences and operations efficiency. The new PACS system reduces the wait time for a patient imaging turnaround. If a patient who lives outside the region undergoes radiology imaging in Sault Ste. Marie their physician can be reviewing their images by the

time they return home. Formerly, the patient's images would have to be developed and the patient would have to return to the hospital to pick up the films and then deliver them to their physician for review.

"The new hospital will be more "patient-centric"," Chad said, "the IT department along with the architects and engineers are considering how the patient moves through the hospital in their planning."

Sault Ste. Marie is a good fit for Chad and he has no intentions of leaving. "I like hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and access to all the water. You just don't have it down south," Chad

said. "Sault Ste. Marie has a perfect balance of city and backcountry."

Chad supports the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and feels that it is doing a valuable service. "It brought me here and I've heard others say the same," Chad said.

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre assists in the recruitment of IT professionals to Sault Ste. Marie to help grow the IT sector. "Advertising the way of life that people don't know exists (shopping, high-speed Internet, entertainment) is a good way to recruit young people to Sault Ste. Marie, especially IT professionals who can work remotely," Chad said.