



SSMIC's Grand Opening Gala sparks excitement on future of innovation in SSM

On December 1st, over one hundred guests toured the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's new home in the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre located on the Algoma University Campus.

The evening event started at 7:30 p.m. with a series of special presentations from Mayor Debbie Amaroso, Tim Lavoie, Algoma University Chair, Board of Governors and Assistant Deputy Minister Brad Graham, Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation (MEDI).

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre has worked in partnership with a number of organizations in establishing the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre which has led to many great achievements for Sault Ste. Marie, including the founding of a Health Informatics Institute and Invasive Species Research Institute, all of which are located in the new space.

The Community Geomatics Centre is now located on the first level of the Bioscience and Technology Convergence Centre. The Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre also houses Algoma Games for Health (AGFH), a

"This is a place for the minds to meet...creativity to flourish...and solid planning and innovation to take action."

- Mayor Debbie Amaroso

teaching amphitheatre, biology labs for professors and students, along with fourth floor research lab facilities.

"Over the past few months, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre has experienced historic growth not just in size and structure but in reach and scope" said Tom Vair, executive director, SSMIC, in his opening address to guests. "The word innovation has truly taken on a new meaning and the range of innovative technologies and research now reaches far beyond the parameters of what we have become accustomed to as an organization and as a community."

Mayor Amaroso added: "This centre was developed to be a dynamic hub for innovation in Sault Ste. Marie and I look forward to the great things that will happen here and all the benefits it will have for our Community, our region and for Northern Ontario."

"This is a place for the minds to meet...creativity to flourish...and solid planning and innovation to take action" said Amaroso.

ProtoLaunch 3.3 opens big with Nolan Bushnell

The founding father of video games, with credits including Atari and Pong, is set to visit Sault Ste. Marie.

Registrations for the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's ProtoLaunch 3.3 workshop opened with news that industry giant, Nolan Bushnell, is confirmed to present at the series.

Bushnell, who co-founded Atari Inc. and was inducted into both the Video Game Hall of Fame and the Consumer Electronics Hall of Fame, was named one of Newsweek's "50 Men Who Changed America".

In his latest venture, Bushnell co-founded Anti-Aging Games, a website he created with two doctorate scientists designed to stimulate the brain through computer game technology.

Bushnell launched his first computerized video game, "Computer Space," in 1970. The following year, he created Pong, propelling Atari into a household name. Bushnell is also credited for founding Chuck E. Cheese Pizza restaurants, providing families with one location to both eat and play games.

"It can not be overstated how fortunate we are to have the man who founded the video game industry visit

Sault Ste. Marie and offer guidance to the youth of our community" Says Dwayne Hammond, Strategic Advisor, Computer Game Technology at Algoma University.

"It can not be overstated how fortunate we are to have the man who founded the video game industry visit SSM"

- Dwayne Hammond



Above: Nolan Bushnell, who briefly worked with Steve Jobs, has game credits including Atari and Pong

ProtoLaunch 3.3 runs this December 10th to 11th and targets high school students interested in a career in video game development. With such an overwhelmingly positive response, only two registration spots remain for this month's session.

To date, the ProtoLaunch series has assisted over four hundred high-school aged students in gaining knowledge and experience in the field of computer game technology through the contributions of industry

experts and seasonal workshops.

For more information on ProtoLaunch registration, please contact Diana Medaglia, Marketing and Communications Manager at 942.7927 x.3138 or dmedaglia@ssmic.com. Visit ProtoLaunch on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ProtoLaunch.

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Maude Barlow set to lead water workshop

Maude Barlow has a long list of achievements, but her focus on water brought her to the United Nations as Former Senior Advisor on Water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly—and will lead her to Sault Ste. Marie this January.

Maude is the National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians, chairs the board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch and is the recipient of eleven honorary doctorates.

In 2008, Maude received the Citation of Lifetime Achievement through the Canadian Environment Awards, the 2009 Earth Day Canada Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award, the 2009 Planet in Focus Eco Hero Award, and the 2011 EarthCare Award, the highest international hon-



Above: Maude Barlow speaking to students at the University of Guelph

While serving as a Senior Advisor on Water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Maude was critical in leading the campaign to have water recognized as a human right by the UN.

Maude's published works include the international bestsellers *Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis* and *The Coming Battle for the Right to Water*.

In January, Barlow is set to speak in Sault Ste. Marie covering the topic *Too Late to Panic: Protecting Canada's Water and Energy Supplies*. For more information, please contact Diana Medaglia, Marketing and Communications Manager at 942.7927 x.3138 or dmedaglia@ssmic.com.

our of the Sierra Club (U.S.).

Terrafact leads in advancing forest resource mapping

Rob Cormier says the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre business incubator is the "perfect venue" for his high-end remote sensing company.

Terrafact employs forest resource mapping techniques to offset carbon emissions and utilizes forest resource inventory mapping for use in Ontario forests. The company works in conjunction with owners of large tracts of private forest lands and the Ontario government on driving initiatives forward. Terrafact facilitates the development, registration, and ongoing compliance of forest carbon offsets through a number of services, including:

- technology and training
- sustainable forest management planning and certification
- 3D land use assessment

· mapping for alternate energy development

Terrafact has also partnered with the Wikwemikong Department of Lands and Natural Resources for a joint forest management venture. The team focuses on resource mapping by translating measur-

the company has international presence with operations in Roa, Norway and Taipei, Taiwan.

"Terrafact's focus on resource mapping certainly adds a new dimension to our business incubator. The advanced GIS mapping and 3D technology developed utilized by Terrafact makes them an ideal fit for our services" says Tom Vair, executive director, SSMIC.

Terrafact will provide training expertise to Wikwemikong, who recently acquired \$2.4 million dollars in con-

tracts with the Ontario government to map out parks and forests.

For more information on Terrafact, please visit www.terrafact.com or contact Rob Cormier at 942.7927 x. 3168. For more on the business incubator, please contact Mike Pratt, Business Development Manager at mpratt@ssmic.com.



Terrafact is new to the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's Business Incubator

ing, reporting and verification (MRV) information into data for use in Ontario forests. This process utilizes geographical information systems (GIS) and 3D technology to analyze forest demography. The groups work with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in moving forward projects at a provincial level, and

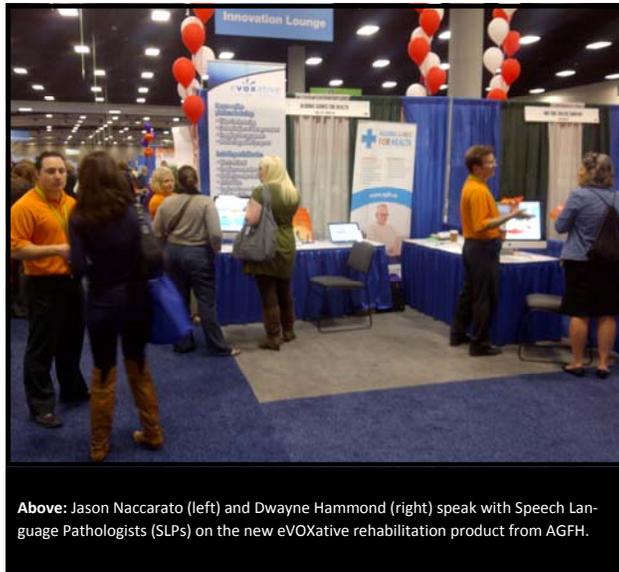
Algoma Games for Health Launches eVOXative in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, Ca. - Algoma Games for Health announced the launch of an innovative rehabilitation solution focused on speech therapy through gaming technology.

The Algoma Games for Health product, eVOXative, assists Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) in effectively administering therapy remotely through an internet connection, resulting in more cost efficient and engaging therapy sessions.

eVOXative is designed as an online portal to connect Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) and patients through a video conference. The portal integrates speech therapy tools and games with customizable content and powerful reporting. eVOXative made its debut at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) convention in San Diego, California, reaching over ten thousand SLPs and customers.

"We are pleased to offer the speech therapy com-



Above: Jason Naccarato (left) and Dwayne Hammond (right) speak with Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) on the new eVOXative rehabilitation product from AGFH.

effectively administer therapy anywhere in the world with an internet connection. This is a paradigm shift in the way speech therapy can be administered" said Algoma Games for Health acting CEO Jason Naccarato.

The Algoma Games for Health team has worked on eVOXative Speech Therapy Solutions for over three years under the supervision of Studio Director Dwayne Hammond.

"Through the application of gaming technology, eVOXative will allow for more engaging speech therapy sessions, resulting in better health outcomes. I would like to congratulate the AGFH team for their hard work which will result in a healthier community."

The eVOXative portal is now live at www.evoxative.com. For more information please contact Mike McGonigal, Sales Director at 942.7927 x. 3141 or mike.mcgonigal@agfh.ca.

munity a method to improve the convenience of the therapy experience that will allow SLPs to

ator at 942.7927 x. 3141 or mike.mcgonigal@agfh.ca.

Algoma University and the SSMIC Play a Key Role in the Restoration of the St. Marys River

Enhanced local involvement and improved coordination of rehabilitation efforts have put the St. Marys River on the fast track to renewed environmental quality.

One year in the works, a partnership between Algoma University, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and various government agencies, local stakeholders and the public is paying huge dividends in the restoration of the St. Marys River.

With the financial support of Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment (MOE), Algoma University and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (a science, technology and economic development think-tank based on the Algoma University campus), are jointly hosting the coordinating office for the St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan (RAP).

The local RAP office, which plays a key role in coordinating remedial efforts for the Canadian side of the St. Marys River, provides scientific support and facilitates communication between government scientists and local citizens. Currently, researchers are collecting data and working with stakeholders and the general public to formulate a rehabilitation strategy for Sault Ste. Marie's namesake waterway.

"It's given the RAP team a boost in having a greater reach to the public and in enhancing communication on what has been completed so far and what remains to be done to improve the health of the St. Marys River," says Mark Chambers, a senior coordinator with Environment Canada's Great Lakes Areas of Concern program. "We are now better positioned to complete the actions needed to resolve the remaining environmental issues in order to ensure the river's complete recovery."

The St. Marys River was designated an Area of Concern under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, a Canada-United States commitment "to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem." Among the 43 pollution hotspots identified around the five Great Lakes, the St. Marys River has suffered from cumulative impacts of contaminants that entered the water in industrial and municipal waste, sewage and storm water.

While strict environmental legislation currently enforced by the local MOE and Environment Canada has resulted in substantial reductions in pollution, the legacy of a century of industrial activity has left persistent environmental issues like contaminated sediments that require complex, long-term, and well-coordinated multi-agency efforts to address, says Chambers.

The St. Marys River RAP was created in 1987 to identify sources of pollution and their associated problems, to provide a list of actions to deal with these issues, and to outline a process for communicating with stakeholders. The ultimate goal is to rehabilitate impaired environmental features such as fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreational water uses. The RAP "tactical team" involves federal, provincial and state agencies, municipal governments, and a broad spectrum of stakeholders (listed below).

The RAP process is contingent upon public involvement to best reflect local concerns, says Michelle McChristie, an MOE Great Lakes Advisor. Because the eventual "delisting" of the St. Marys River Area of Concern requires public consensus, having a coordination office in Sault Ste. Marie is a pivotal step in facilitating public discourse and completing the RAP process.

Besides engaging local residents, Chambers says Algoma University and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre have been valued partners in assisting Environment Canada and the MOE assess the contaminants and develop a remediation strategy.

To this end, RAP Coordinator Corrina Barrett is working with agencies from all levels of government—federal, provincial, and municipal—to develop an "implementation annex."

This document specifies actions, timelines and the roles of RAP participants like the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Environment Canada, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, the MOE, Algoma Public Health, the Sault Ste. Marie Regional Conservation Authority, the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and the Binational Public Advisory Council (a coalition of stakeholders and members of the public from both sides of the border).

Meanwhile, Dr. Paula Antunes, the Innovation Centre's Science Development Officer, provides ongoing support as a member of the multi-agency Sediment Management Technical Team, facilitates the engagement of consultants in data collection and analysis, and helps to disseminate the research being carried out on the St. Marys River to academics, policy makers, and environmental consultants within both Canada and the United States.

"We're connecting people and resources in a manner that maximizes collaboration and streamlines the recovery of the St. Marys River," says Barrett. "Through enhanced community engagement, we're making tremendous strides towards ensuring the sustainable use and management of valuable freshwater systems."

UPCOMING EVENTS:

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

www.ssmic.com

December

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

A Geographical Information System (GIS) representation of the Gulf Oil Spill

Gulf Oil Spill Extent Timelapse from NOAA data

For more information visit the GIS Café at www.giscafe.com.

December 10th and 11th
ProtoLaunch 3.3
Featuring **Nolan Bushnell**

December 25th
Happy Holidays from the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre!

For more information about any event or to *RSVP* contact
Diana Medaglia, Marketing and Communications Manager at:
705.942.7927 x 3138 or dmedaglia@ssmic.com



Photo courtesy of GIS Café

For information on GIS in Sault Ste. Marie, visit www.ssmic.com and click on "Community Geomatics Centre/GIS"

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