

FedNor Update

OPENING DOORS. BUILDING FUTURES. IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

SPRING 2006



From Classrooms to Careers...

When the inaugural class graduated from the Community Economic and Social Development Program (CESD) at Algoma University College last April, FedNor was as proud of the students as any parent could be.

Algoma U's innovative, interdisciplinary CESD honours program combines economic and social approaches to community development. FedNor saw the program as an invaluable investment in the future that mirrors its own unique direction towards Northern communities.

"Small towns and communities, including those in aboriginal

settings, face unique economic and social challenges," says Alice Corbiere, Coordinator of Algoma U's CESD. "Graduates of this program will possess the qualifications and background to address these challenges in a positive and meaningful way."

This is the first course of its kind in Canada, and consultations are underway

for schools in other provinces to provide similar educational opportunities.

According to Corbiere, the program owes its success to the shared goals and vision of Algoma University College and FedNor.

"If FedNor was not involved, this program would never have become a reality so quickly,"

Corbiere explains. "FedNor has proven itself to be a valued partner, and our students and faculty are extraordinarily grateful for all of the support we have received."

With another full class of students set to graduate this spring, and enrolment at full capacity for a third straight year, the success of Algoma's CESD

program continues to grow as the course expands across the North. FedNor is proud to have supported the development of an academic program that will produce graduates who can help develop and better enhance challenged communities in Ontario's North.

With honours ...

Bonnie Gaikezheyongai graduated with honours from the CESD program at Algoma University College and has been working as a liaison co-ordinator with the Aboriginal Information Technology Centre on the Garden River First Nation.

"The CESD program has taught me a tremendous amount about community and economic development," Bonnie says. "There are many opportunities in Northern Ontario to get involved and help communities succeed on their own, and I look forward to making a real and positive difference in their development."



Cutting-edge research...

Dr. Greg Ross, the Associate Dean of Research at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM), can barely contain his enthusiasm about the potential of his state-of-the-art research labs. Housed within the first medical school to be built in Canada in more than 30 years, the labs are equipped with the latest technology and will be utilized by the inaugural class of 56 students at both the Sudbury and Thunder Bay campuses.

"From the onset, FedNor's support has been vitally important to the school's existence," Dr. Ross says. "FedNor developed the initial model for a medical school in Northern Ontario, and since day one has provided substantial funding for research and laboratory equipment."

The medical school's unique location is key to the scientific

research in the areas of non-hereditary disease and the environmental effects on human life.

"With respect to neuro-degenerative diseases, for example, we're studying fish in the many Northern lakes,"

says Dr. Ross. "Detailed records of pollutants and environmental variables give us a perspective like nowhere else in the world. We're close to unlocking the cure to a major disease, and it couldn't happen anywhere but Northern Ontario."



Another successful season...

From polar bears to film festivals ... from Shakespeare to food fairs – Northern Ontario’s tourism industry demonstrated a strong return on investment last season with thousands of jobs, millions of visitors and billions of dollars flowing into the Northern economy.

As the cool winds of winter subside, and the warmer weather finally arrives, what better time to look back at last summer and see how FedNor’s commitment to the tourism industry is yielding impressive results.

“Last year over 11 million tourists visited the North and pumped close to \$2 billion into our local economy,” says FedNor Director General, Louise Paquette. “And as more and more people discover what we have to offer, those numbers will just keep growing.”

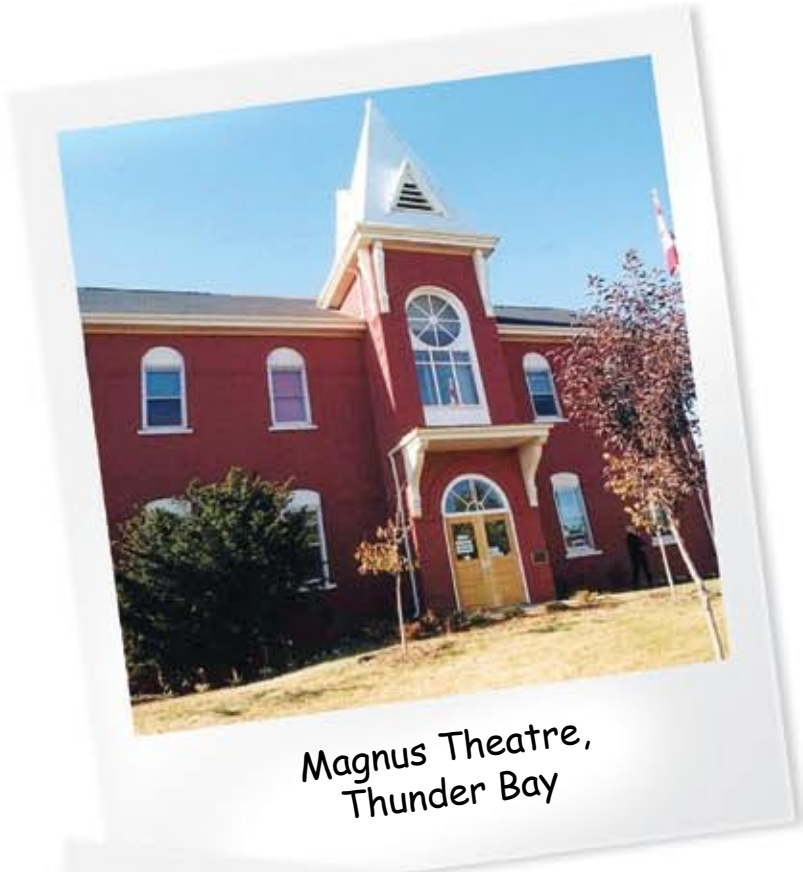
Over the past five years, FedNor has invested \$52 million in over 600 tourism-related projects. This investment has resulted in an additional half a million new visitors per year whose spending supports over 18,000 jobs.

This success can be attributed to the North’s variety of unique tourist attractions and destinations.

“What makes Northern Ontario so appealing is the myriad of things to do,” explains Paquette. “From live polar bears in Cochrane to internationally acclaimed film makers at Cinefest Sudbury, the North can offer art, music, history, adventure, science and nature all in one trip. Few places in the world can offer what we do and more and more people are taking notice.”

FedNor is committed to making Northern Ontario a top-of-mind, year-round destination for both Canadian tourists and visitors from around the world.

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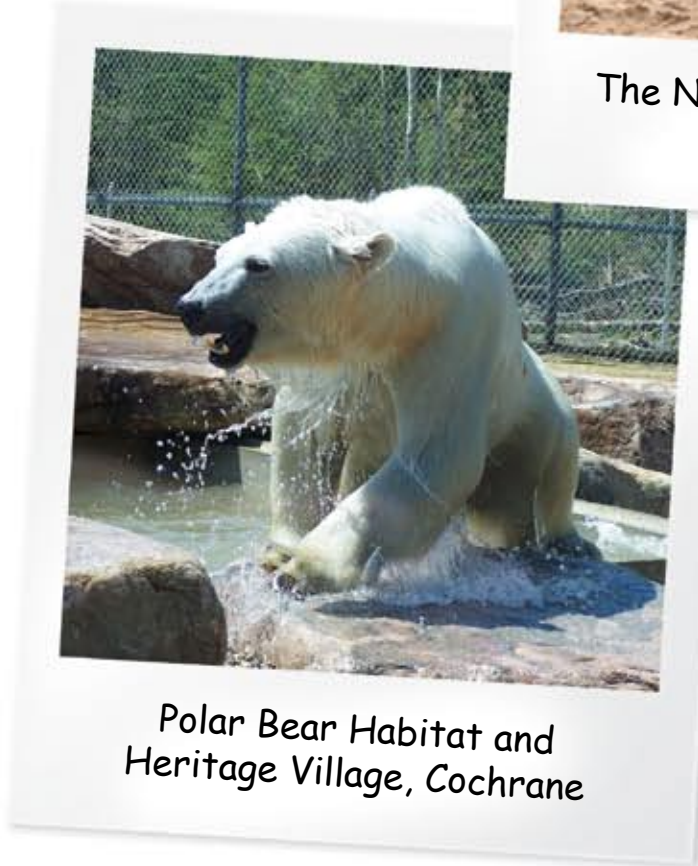
Magnus Theatre, Thunder Bay



Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Sault Ste. Marie



The Nipissing Stage Company, North Bay



Polar Bear Habitat and Heritage Village, Cochrane

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Manitou Mounds,
Stratton



Timmins Underground Gold
Mine Tour, Timmins



Bobby Orr Hall of Fame,
Parry Sound

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This investment has resulted in an additional half a million new visitors per year whose spending supports over 18,000 jobs.



Cinefest Sudbury International
Film Festival, Sudbury



The Red Lake
Regional Centre, Red Lake



The Heritage Lumberjack
Festival, Kapuskasing



La Foire gourmande,
Timiskaming



Bringing our past to light...

It is with great pleasure that I present FedNor's Spring Update. FedNor is a program as diverse and unique as the North itself, and I hope you have time to reflect and share in our success. This publication fills me with pride and a great sense of accomplishment. Within these pages are not just the results, but tangible,

concrete examples of FedNor working in partnership with the public to create lasting jobs, and to steadily increase the annual number of visitors to the North.

These results are a credit to FedNor's continued partnership with Northern Ontario's tourism operators whose vision, innovation and knowledge of

local history and heritage have elevated Northern Ontario's tourism industry to one of the most vibrant in all of Canada.

I urge you to visit The North and see all it has to offer. Take the time to look back at our past, and see our future.

Sincerely,

Louise C. Paquette

Louise C. Paquette

INSIDE FEDNOR: A glimpse at the people behind FedNor

Going for gold...

Sherri Smith has set her sights on gold for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, China. Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Sherri, a graduate of Baylor University in Texas, is an accomplished distance runner and track athlete who dominated the Big 12 Athletic Conference. Winning the 2004 World Triathlon Championships in Portugal has given her the confidence she needs to attain Olympic glory.

A Project Officer with FedNor's International Business Centre in Sault Ste. Marie, Sherri has been balancing her busy work schedule with her rigorous training regimen of running, cycling and swimming.

"FedNor has played a very important part in my training, and all of my colleagues have been extremely supportive," Sherri says. "It's great to know that everybody here is cheering me on."

The selection process for the Women's Distance Triathlon is long and challenging as Sherri must compete not only with

fellow Canadians, but with athletes around the world.

"Just to get to the Olympics, I need to place either first or second in Canada and rank within the top 50 in the world," Sherri tells us. "It seems daunting, but it's a goal I'll never give up trying to achieve."

(To follow Sherri's training schedule or to check in on her progress as she trains for the Olympics - visit her web site at: sherrismith.com)



A budding idea ...

FedNor staff in Sudbury are hoping to take to the hills again this spring to help the environment and perhaps 'plant' an idea whose impact will be seen and felt for years to come.

Mark Del Monte, FedNor's Environmental Analyst and Assessment Officer, led the charge last year as nearly a dozen FedNor employees volunteered to help plant 2,000 pine and spruce seedlings in and around Sudbury.

Del Monte rallied his friends and co-workers and teamed up with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Sudbury's Vegetation Enhancement Technical Advisory Committee (VETAC) to help add a little more colour to Sudbury's re-greened landscape. To date, VETAC and its volunteers have planted over 12 million trees with an expected success rate of approximately 75 percent. In fact, VETAC's land reclamation program has won international recognition and was recently cited by the U.N. The results are not only visibly stunning, but the positive impact on the



community and the environment will continue on for future generations.

"Tree planting is just one more way FedNor can give back to our community," Del Monte says. "We're doing something positive for the environment and we look forward to making this an annual event and to see the results of our work for years to come."

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In our next Update...

The Royal Winter Agricultural Fair – FedNor and its team of Northern Ambassadors celebrate their fifth year as a marquee attraction showcasing the North at the world's largest indoor fair in Toronto.

Team Northern Ontario – Developed as part of the FedNor Trade Strategy and operating through its International Business Centre, Team Northern Ontario is successfully promoting export and trade opportunities for small and

medium-sized enterprises in Northern Ontario.

Training nurses where they're needed – FedNor and Thunder Bay's Confederation College hope to attract and train local nursing students with an

interactive pilot project aimed at addressing the nursing shortage in Northwestern Ontario.

