

**NEED
INTERNET
ACCESS TO
HELP
START
YOUR
BUSINESS?**

ASK US!

**RAINY RIVER
FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION**

608 Scott Street
Fort Frances, Ontario
P9A 1H6

Phone: 807-274-3276
Toll Free: 800-465-8502
Fax: 807-274-6989

Email: info@rrfdc.on.ca

We're on the Web!
www.rrfdc.on.ca

Working for your future...

FedNor
Canada



**RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
A Community Futures Development Corporation



WORKING TOWARDS AN ABATTOIR

The Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Inc (RRDRA) is a not for profit organization which was formed April 4, 2006. A nine member Board of Directors was elected from the membership of 95 area producers and local businesses. The Board is comprised of President—Steve Loshaw, Vice—Trish Neilson, Secretary—Bill Darby, Treasurer—Aarne Hahkala, and Directors—Ken McKinnon, Peter Spuzak, Todd McLean, Dennis Brown, and Clayton Teeple.

The Rainy River District Regional Abattoir Board was formed to establish a community abattoir which would service the livestock producers of the Rainy River District and provide opportunity for the slaughter, process and sale of locally raised species. On August 11, 2006 Letters Patent were issued by the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services registering it as a not for profit

corporation, Ontario Corporation Number 1701650.

The main objective of the RRDRA is to complete construction of an abattoir in the District, which will meet the needs of its members. A proposed date of June, 2008 is the target for start up. The Board has been undertaking to research regulatory restrictions, available sites, current and potential daily livestock supply and available funding. Advertising is currently under way seeking Expressions of Interest for the lease of the facility. Two options of operation include the lease of the facility to an independent operator or management by the Board with employees. This decision is expected to be made by December 2006.

The RRDRA was formed as a not for profit corporation in order to seek government funding

assistance from provincial and federal sources. Ideally, the private member funds raised will be matched by both government sources in the form of forgivable grants, two dollars for each private sector dollar. Membership fees were set at \$500 non refundable and a minimum \$2,000 loan to RRDRA, with no interest and no guarantee of repayment. This good faith money will be used to seek matching grants. Currently only the \$500 membership fee has been collected from members. Additional monies are in the form of grants. \$2,000 loan agreements will be made with members by February, 2007.

The original proposal to members included construction of a facility which could accommodate 20 animals per week and run under provincial license. This would require public sector contribution of \$600,000 matched by \$1.2 million in grants. A formal business plan will be developed following the decision of operation under lease or Board management.

"In the business world, the rear view mirror is always clearer than the windshield". ...Warren Buffett

**RAINY RIVER FUTURE
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Fall 2006

FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Feature Business— La Flambe</i>	2
<i>Congratulations Geoff!</i>	2
<i>New Board Members</i>	2
<i>Immigration Report</i>	3
<i>SEB Program</i>	3
<i>District Abattoir</i>	4

2006 RRFDC CUSTOMER SERVICE CHAMPIONS

It was another successful year for Rainy River Future Development's Customer Service Champions contest.

Each participating business was 'shopped' 3 times by 3 different shoppers. With 37 businesses signed up, our mystery shoppers were extremely busy experiencing the great customer service we have to offer throughout the Rainy River District. We would like to congratulate all the businesses who took up the challenge this year, and thank our shoppers for their fair and unbiased shopping.

The following 10 businesses (listed in alphabetical order only) were named the district's 2006 Customer Service Champions at the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce' Business After Hours on May 17 at La Place Rendezvous:

- Cloverleaf Shop Easy Foods

- Crozier Warehouse & Bay Rentals
- Curves for Women
- Dr. Lidkea, Elliott & Lidkea
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Fort Frances General Supply
- Fort Frances Volunteer Bureau
- La Place Rendez-vous Hotel
- Super 8 Motel
- Rainy Lake Sports & Tackle
- Rainy River True Value
- The Corner Closet
- The Great Bear
- Warehouse One Clothing

We hope that truly great service makes the customer feel special — so much so that they remember your business, and come back for more.

We also recognized an additional 10 businesses with Honourable Mentions. They were:

- Green's Countrywide Furniture & Appliances
- Mark's Work Warehouse
- New Life Clinic
- Norlund Oil
- Northwoods Gallery & Gifts

Look for our 2007 Customer Service Champions sign up sheet later this year.

AND REMEMBER TO REWARD GOOD SERVICE BY SHOPPING AT THESE DISTRICT BUSINESSES.



**La Place
Rendez-vous** **Fort Frances
General Supply** **Home Health
Care**

A FEW OF OUR WINNERS

THE CHEBLAOUI'S LA FLAMBEE

"OUR AIM IS TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS."

*Anne & Achour Cheblaoui,
LA FLAMBEE*

Achour and Anne Cheblaoui purchased the restaurant now known as La Flambe. We asked Achour some questions about being in business and his experiences so far. This is his response:

What made you decide that you wanted to go into business for yourself? Or what made you decide to purchase and run the restaurant?

Since I left school I always wanted to have my own business. That drive stayed with me until this opportunity came along. I chose this business because of my experience and many years of practice. I also chose to go into this business on my own so that I could make my own decisions and support my family.

What has been the biggest challenge so far? And/or what

would you have done differently?

There have been several issues such as parking, and unreliable help have been the biggest challenges.

What is the best part of being in business? Is it any fun yet?

Yes it is fun. The best part is that it is 'mine, mine, all mine' (haha!). I've also met a lot of people and made a lot of friends here and I'm still making new friends every day.

Any advice you could give to someone just starting out?

As a new business owner, be on your toes at all times. Make sure that your first time customers are happy with the

products and the service, because you will get no second chance.

Any customer service advice you'd like to pass along?

As our slogan goes "OUR AIM IS TO EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS". Have your customers pleasantly surprised with your products. Build up a slogan that suits your business.



GEOFF GILLON, Ec.D. (F)

The Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) presented Geoff Gillon with his Certified Economic Developer—Fellowship at a ceremony at their annual meeting in Thunder Bay in September. Having satisfactorily fulfilled all the requirements of the Economic Developers Association of Canada Professional Certification Program, he was adjudged qualified as a Certified Economic Developer—Fellowship Ec.D. (F), in accordance with the By-Laws of their Association. He is now one of only thirty-one in Canada to have attained this certification. Congratulations Geoff!

RRFDC WELCOMES A NEW BOARD MEMBER

The 24th Annual General Meeting of the RRFDC was held on June 21st at the Emo-LaVallee Community Centre. Besides the normal business of activity reports and audited financial statements, an election was held for three positions on the Board of Directors. Returning to the Board for an second three year term was Eugene McPherson and George Emes. In addition the RRFDC welcomed new Board member, Kim Williamson, from the local Skills and Employment Source office. Retiring Board members, John McTaggart, Telford Advent, Dick Lyons and Christine Jourdain were recognized with a small token of appreciation for their past service, as was Jessie Zhang, the Economic Development Intern, whose contract was coming to an end.

RRFDC'S BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
2006-2007

Russ Fortier, Chair
Ken McKinnon, Vice
Dick Trivers, Treasurer
George Emes, Secretary
Martin Dufresne
Catherine Hoszowski
Brian Kahler
Eugene McPherson
Kim Williamson

IMMIGRATION REPORT—EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jessie Zhang, RRFDC's Economic Development Intern, conducted an extensive Immigration Survey as part of her duties while employed at RRFDC. The following is the Executive Summary of her report. The report is still considered 'draft' as it has not as yet been adopted by the RRFDC. We welcome your comments.

The Rainy River District (RRD) is experiencing the problems of economic stagnancy and population loss. Meanwhile, as one of the biggest immigrant recipient countries, Canada is facing the challenge of over concentration of immigrants in limited urban centres. Both the internal and external environments trigger the District's interest in exploring the possibility of introducing immigrants to the community for its sustainability.

A review of federal and provincial governments' recent immigrant dispersal initiatives justifies the

policy feasibility for small or remote areas like the District to initiate an immigration campaign. Our surveys and interviews with stakeholders in the District reveal local opinions on recruiting and retaining a larger number of immigrants. While the community supports such an initiative in general, several concerns are raised:

- 1) Insufficient job opportunities for a large influx of population will diminish the District's ability to recruit and retain immigrants;
- 2) Lack of government support for encouraging immigrants to move to Northwestern Ontario will further reduce attraction of this area;
- 3) The District is inexperienced in dealing with complicated immigration issues.

Based on the understanding of local situation, we investigate four types of potential target immigrants for the District. Additionally, we conduct a series of case studies on small or remote

areas with successful immigration experience. Finally, recommendations regarding developing an immigration strategy for the RRD are provided. All of them are preliminary and open to discuss. Short term strategies are as follows:

- 1) Establish a regional immigration committee.
- 2) Involve the community to brainstorm.
- 3) Start with a pilot project focusing on self-sustained immigrants. The primary target group is European farmers, especially from Switzerland, Germany, Austria, and the Netherlands. International students are the other target group.
- 4) Actively participate in related government immigration programs.
- 5) Ensure the delivery of positive message about the District.

In the long term, the District should:

- 1) Ally with other Northern Ontario communities;
- 2) Lobby provincial and federal governments for incentives for immigration to Northwestern Ontario;
- 3) Collaborate with local employers and business owners to identify specific labour needs and business opportunities;
- 4) Launch multiple marketing initiatives;
- 5) Establish a visible and consistent service centre;
- 6) Educate and involve the public.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (SEB) PROGRAM

SEB is a program, running up to 52 weeks, of self-employment assistance with financial support for people who are on or have been on employment insurance (EI).

SEB is a tool that will help individuals create jobs for themselves through self-employment by providing them with various types of support during the period when they start up a business. Assistance can include coaching, ongoing technical advice and financial support. Coaching will be tailored to individual needs and can include subjects such as business plan development, accounting,

marketing, etc.

Who can apply? You must be unemployed and have an established EI claim, or one that has ended within the last three years. Or have received maternity or paternal benefits within the past five years after which you remained out of the labour market to care for the child and are now seeking to enter the labour force.

You must first complete an employment assessment with Skills & Employment Source (274-2084) and then attend an orientation session at RRFDC. During the orientation you will

assess your own abilities in terms of becoming self-employed. If it is determined that self-employment is a viable option for you, it will be time to identify a business opportunity and prepare a business concept and then a business plan. You should be prepared to provide a business plan within a reasonable period of time, showing potential for long term self-employment. The staff at the RRFDC can coach you through the business plan process. Call Angela Halvorsen for more information at 274-3276.

**WATCH FOR
OUR UPCOMING
SEMINARS ON:**

**FINANCIAL
MANAGEMENT**

E-COMMERCE

**HOW TO START A
SMALL BUSINESS**

Phone RRFDC at
274-3276

for more information
or
check the website for the
latest updates

at:
www.rrfdc.on.ca