



BUSINESS BRIEF

Chamber to Honour Seven Businesses

By Andrew Lake

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce will honour seven local enterprises during its Small Business Week awards luncheon in October. The nomination period for awards is open until Oct. 4.

To highlight the importance of small business, the chamber is hosting several events in Truro and the surrounding area in October, bringing the business community together to share achievements, network and showcase information and supports for local entrepreneurs.

"Small business is the backbone of our economy, contributing 98 per cent of employment in the private sector in Canada," said Andrew Lake, Chamber president. "Many are growing and creating jobs, which contributes to the prosperity of the region.

The Chambers' small business awards program is an opportunity to celebrate those businesses that are leaders among their peer group."

To nominate a business, visit the Chamber website www.trurocolchesterchamber.com or Facebook page to download a form, or stop by the office at 605 Prince St. to pick up one up. To request a nomination form via email, contact oa@tcchamber.ca.

The awards luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn on Wednesday, Oct. 19, beginning at noon. (12 p.m.) Reserve your seat in advance by calling the chamber office, 902-895-6328; tickets cost \$25 for chamber members and \$35 for future members (plus tax).

This year's guest speaker at the awards luncheon is Rodney Small, Business Development manager with Halifax-based Common Good

Solutions. A resident of Halifax, Small has been an active volunteer in his community and is a graduate of Dalhousie's Bachelor of management program with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. He is a highly motivated leader with a passion for entrepreneurship, community and people development.

Awards will be presented in the following categories: New Small Business of the Year, sponsored by Community Credit Union; Small Business Achievement, sponsored by PWC; Export Achievement, sponsored by Nova Scotia Business Inc.; Small Business Innovation, sponsored by RBC; Excellence in Community Development sponsored by the Town of Truro; and new this year, Agriculture/ Agri Business of the year, spon-

sored by WBLI Chartered Accountants and Small Business Growth Award, sponsored by BDC.

As part of the Chamber's small business week celebrations, a Women's Business Breakfast will be held on Oct. 17 sponsored by BDC and Grant Thornton, an entrepreneur expo will be held on Oct. 18 at the marigold Cultural Centre, a speed networking social event will be held at Warmth By Design's new location on Oct. 20 and a lunch and learn with special guest Dr. Ryan Sommers speaking about the economics of health will be held on Oct. 21, sponsored by MacQuarries Pharmasave and Grant Thornton.

Watch the chamber website and Facebook page for updates a full schedule of Chamber-hosted events and details on other small business week events in the area.

For more information about any of our events, Chamber benefits programs or membership call 902-895-6328 or email ec@tcchamber.ca.

Andrew Lake is president Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce

Brian Patton

NOBL's Business Analyst

Brian Patton's engaging story telling is a rare gift that makes for workshops and seminars that are both memorable and understandable as he works to help businesses using the services of NOBL throughout the counties of Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish.

Brian's personal self employment experience dates back to 1974 when at age 16 he started painting houses. Since then he has owned a consignment store, an ice business, a financial planning practice and now a business training company.

Since May of 2002 Brian has been working for Northern Opportunities for Business Limited as a business analyst. In this role he has enjoyed the privilege of coaching and supporting entrepreneurs looking for financial assistance as they reach for new business heights. The role has provided



Brian Patton, business analyst for NOBL meets business' needs in Colchester County. (Submitted)

the opportunity to engage with hundreds entrepreneurs in dozens of industries.

He has helped plumbers, restaurateurs, consultants and web designers, everything from welding to wool.

Brian Patton is Business Analyst for CBDC-NOBL. He can be reached at: (902)867-6625

NOBL is one of 13 CBDC's in Nova Scotia

By Maurice Rees

Northern Opportunities for Business Limited (NOBL) is part of the Canada Business Development Corporation (CBDC) network of 41 offices throughout Atlantic Canada with provincial associations operating in each province. In Nova Scotia there are 13 individual CBDC's operating under the umbrella of Nova Scotia Association of CBDC's.

Northern Opportunities for Business Limited (NOBL) was formed in 1986 as Pictou County Business Opportunities Limited. Since the beginning of 1997 NOBL has operated in the three Counties of Antigonish, Pictou, and Colchester run by a volunteer Board of Directors supported by three Investment Committees (one for each County) and a six-member professional Staffing complement.

NOBL's mandate was set at that time and continues today and includes: To actively pro-

mote, encourage, and assist economic development in our geographic area; To encourage the concept of small business development as a method of creating local employment opportunities; To encourage employment diversity and stability in the community through self-employment, individual ownership, partnerships, corporations, co-operatives, worker collectives, non-profit organizations, job sharing, part and full-time work or any other appropriate structure; To administer funding received from government and private sources from which the Company will provide direct financial assistance to selected business projects in our geographic area, in a manner and under terms as may be established from time to time; and to co-operate with all existing private and public agencies with similar objects in an effort to provide solutions to community problems

and to avoid duplication of services.

CBDC/NOBL has many partners in the business support arena. We share many clients with ACOA and Service Canada. We work with the RDA's and Nova Scotia Business Inc. to find potential entrepreneurs as well as businesses looking for financial assistance. And we have recently signed an agreement with the Business Development Bank of Canada which gives our joint clients more speedy turnaround on their financing decisions.

Services to business is varied with an offering of a variety of services to business, including small business loans, counselling, planning, loans and financial help. The NS Association of CBDCs is a network of autonomous, not for profit corporations. CBDCs work in cooperation with government and the private sector to meet the needs of small businesses.

In Nova Scotia, the Association is an umbrella organization that works on behalf of all CBDCs in Nova Scotia. The Association employs two full time staff at its office in Elmsdale.



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The Municipality of Colchester is pleased to provide networking and advisory assistance to businesses and not-for-profit organizations, plus mentorships and referrals for new and established businesses. Prime business lots await the right development opportunity in Debert - let's discuss.

We value feedback from businesses and the wider community as we work together to grow our economy. For further information please contact:

Economic Development Officer
Joy O'Neill

Email: joneill@colchester.ca
Phone 902.956.3239