

The Business Connection

Quarterly Newsletter from your local Business Centre—GEDC

QR 4 - 2019



Grand Opening on Main Street

A local business has expanded to the former Bestway Dry Cleaners building located at 1229 Main Street. With recent renovations and retrofits, Joel Godbout, owner of Greenstone Welding, has brought new life to the commercial property. A series of 4 paintings presented by the Métis Nation of Ontario adorns the south facing side of the building. The grand opening took place this Friday, November 15th, 2019.



new location.

Greenstone Economic Development Corporation's (GEDC) micro-lending program provided support for the business expansion. GEDC assists businesses get off to the right start with business counselling and lending solutions. To find out more, contact GEDC's Business Outreach Officer at 854-2273 ext. 22 or visit www.gedc.ca.



The building now showcases a tackle shop that will carry fishing, hunting and camping supplies, an office for Greenstone Welding, and a repair shop. Joel Godbout says he has wanted to open a tackle shop for a long time, and is excited to share his passion with the Greenstone community, tourists and visitors from near and far. Drop in and check out the



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What is GEDC?

Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) is your local Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC).

We provide FREE services to both the business community and inspiring entrepreneurs.

We assist with all your business needs. Check out our website for more information: www.gedc.ca

MISSION

Foster and encourage the start-up and operation of successful enterprise in all economic sectors within the Greenstone Service Area.

MANDATE

- Strategic community planning and socio-economic development
- Support for community based projects
- Business information and planning services
- Access to capital for small and medium sized businesses and social enterprises

Business Development

GEDC offers flexible financing tailored to your specific needs!

Micro Loans: \$500 - \$10,000

These loans are ideal for smaller businesses looking for help with start-up and other costs.

General Loans: \$10,001 - \$150,000

GEDC's general loans can help Greenstone businesses of all sizes reach their maximum potential.

Pool Loans: \$150,001 - \$500,000

These loans are available through the CFDC's Northwestern Ontario Investment Pool.

GEDC's 3-Tier Lending Program was developed to assist new and existing small to medium enterprises (SME) to finance start-up, maintenance, expansion, purchase of assets or working capital.

GEDC hosts Small Business meet and greet.

April 24, 2019 GEDC Business Centre hosted Member of Parliament Patty Hajdu for a small business meet and greet. The session provided businesses an opportunity to discuss the successes and challenges for entrepreneurs in the Greenstone Region. Honourable Patty Hajdu, Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North and Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour led a round table discussion with the attendees gaining insight about regional issues; while providing information on programs and incentives.

Topics of conversation included but no limited to: availability and timing of appropriate skills training, workforce supply versus demand, difficulty with retention and recruitment of professionals, infrastructure needs, lack of broadband internet, Succession Planning for retiring business owners, transportation costs of goods and services, lack of local trade apprenticeships, issues with accessing and receiving follow through on regional support programs, attraction and retention of newcomers to area, lack of suitable housing, and lack of family oriented activities for newcomers. In response to some of the issues and conversation pieces the following programs / incentives were mentioned for consideration: Business Tax Reduction percentage, Rural Economic Development Broadband Expansion funding, FedNor Growth Strategy, Universal Child Benefit Incentive, Climate Change Incentives, Immigration Pilot, Matchmaker program, Apprenticeship Strategy, Guaranteed Income Supply (GIS) for Seniors, and Home Buyer Incentives Program. For assistance and navigation of information you can contact her MP office toll-free at 1-888-266-8004. In closing it was noted that there is opportunity here, and finding creative solutions (thinking outside of the box) to grow the community will keep people here. Time, Talent and Resources are what's needed to succeed.

GEDC pursues projects and activities based on community needs and priorities. We develop and maintain partnerships to support growth and sustainability of the region. Visit our website www.gedc.ca for more information.



Business Development

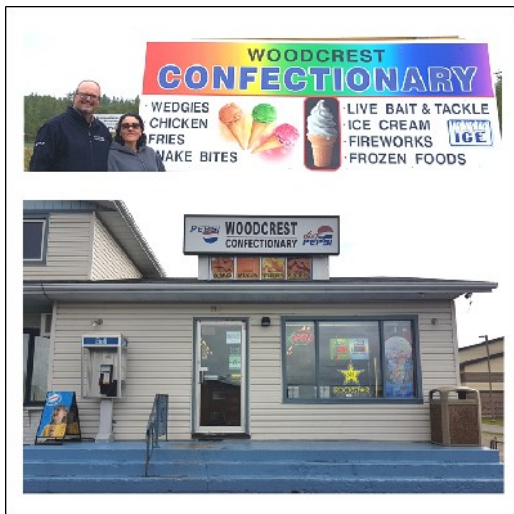
GEDC Spotlight—Woodcrest Confectionery Inc.

Prepared by Lake of the Woods Incentive Corp. (LOWBIC) Community Future Development Corporation (CFDC) as part of their individual CFDC Business Spotlights. Full article can be viewed at <http://www.gedc.ca/spotlight-october-2019>

Julie and Mario purchased Woodcrest Confectionery less than one year ago when they decided they needed a new challenge in their life. They've always been interested in running a small business. Woodcrest Confectionery seemed like the perfect opportunity, "take a chance and follow your dreams."

Woodcrest Confectionery sells products such as fryer food, frozen food, munchies, beverages, bait and so much more. The new owners, Mario and Julie note that the best part about their new adventure is the customers and the friendships that have been created.

Like and follow @Woodcrest Confectionery Inc on Facebook and Instagram.



"Greenstone Economic Development Corp (GEDC) helped us with the process from beginning until now. The advice and insights given have been priceless!!"

- JULIE LAUZON, CO-OWNER OF WOODCREST CONFECTIONERY

HOW DO YOU THINK BEING A BUSINESS OWNER HAS TURNED YOU INTO A BETTER PERSON?

"We now have a different outlook on other local businesses. We keep improving and perfecting various skills to help us during every phase of our life."

- MARIO CLOUTIER, CO-OWNER OF WOODCREST CONFECTIONERY



Community Development

GEDC Business Centre Hosts Proposal Writing Workshop



Left to right: Carmen Wheeler (Presenter—KATWO Consulting), Cheryl Lesperance (Manager, Indigenous Relations—Greenstone Gold Mines), Horis Mansuri (Business Outreach Officer—GEDC), Dan Munshaw (Presenter—KATWO Consulting)

The Greenstone Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) held a Proposal Writing Workshop on Friday, October 25th at the Centre culturel francophone de Geraldton. The event was attended by community leaders, representatives of local businesses/organizations and those who were interested to learn more about proposal writing.

The session was presented by Dan Munshaw and Carmen Wheeler of KATWO Consulting, based in Thunder Bay. Dan and Carmen shared their knowledge and over 60 years' experience in management and procurement. The workshop focused on tips and techniques in proposal writing as well as strategies to approach potential opportunities across all industry sectors.

GEDC would like to thank Greenstone Gold Mines and the Entrepreneur Center whose support made this event successful. GEDC is a bilingual, non-profit, community based organization led by a volunteer Board of Directors servicing communities in the Greenstone catchment area. For more information on upcoming events or news, please visit www.gedc.ca.



GEDC Holiday Hours

Closed December 24, 2019 at Noon to December 27, 2019

Open Regular Hours December 30, 2019

Closed December 31 at Noon to January 1, 2020

Open Regular January 2, 2019 onward.

Have a happy and safe Holiday Season!!!

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