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Networking? No sweat!

Entrepreneurship, to many people, means running your own business to make a living. But thinking in an entrepreneurial way infuses innovation and opportunity into all aspects of life.

That was the main message to nearly 80 Secondary students from English schools from across the Montérégie, who recently participated in a youth entrepreneurship symposium designed to get them thinking about their futures in an entrepreneurial way.

The Eastern Townships, South Shore and South West Quebec CEDECs (Community Economic Development and Employability Committees) led the organization of this event in partnership with their respective school boards in each region.

This unique hands-on learning experience, held at Bishop's University in Sherbrooke, was organized to raise the youths' awareness of entrepreneurship opportunities and to encourage networking among students and staff across school board territories.



Undertaking a "networking challenge", students over the lunch-time period were required to meet new students from other schools and

school boards.

Caroline a Secondary V student from Chambly Academy High School (Riverside School Board) appreciated the opportunity to network with students from across the Montérégie. "I was very surprised by how open everyone was. We were all focused on meeting other people and everyone there seemed to be a hard-working student."

Suzanne Dery, G.O.A.L./School to work agent, has already seen signs that this approach is working. "Students found the networking with students from other High Schools and School Boards, to be a real opportunity for continued communication with them," said Dery.

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Meet : Scott Kessler—

LLL CEDEC Youth Ambassador

By Melissa Whelan
Youth Contributor

Meet Scott Kessler, a young 22 year old volunteer with a lot to say, making his career choice as a public speaker a natural fit for him. "Scotty", a youth volunteer with the Laval-Laurentians-Lanaudière CEDEC, grew up and went to high school in Two Mountains.

Always the centre of attention, Scott dreamed of becoming a stand-up comedian until his first experience attending a leadership conference at fourteen years old. For the first time, he saw a motivational speaker and was inspired. He began practicing in front of classmates and turned tragic stories into a more positive tone.

For instance, at the age of twenty, Scott was involved in a devastating car accident caused by a young drunk driver attempting to commit

suicide at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Though this was not one of Scott's happiest moments, he realized that the result could have been worse and he told his story with enthusiasm and laughter that it didn't seem as bad.

His career had finally launched when a former classmate remembered his enthusiasm and positive attitude back in high school. The classmate's mother, who also happened to be Valerie Glover-Drolet, Director of the LLL CEDEC, was searching for a speaker to help kids present their ideas. Scott accepted the offer and from that point on doors began opening for him, moving him forward into his career.



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"Scott shares his experiences and his motivational expertise to role model how to take charge and effect change with community and especially youth.

He's truly a community leader and role model who 'walks his talk' and really practices what he believes in."

-Valerie Glover-Drolet
LLL CEDEC Director

South West Quebec CEDEC

Entrepreneurship Support Network expanding to South West Quebec region

After several months of discussing the needs of English-speaking entrepreneurs in the South West Québec region, a contract was signed to expand *The Entrepreneurship Support Network*, which originates from the Eastern Townships region. The contract solidifies a partnership between the *Fondation de l'entrepreneuriage*, the Dobson-Lagassé Entrepreneurship Centre, *Centre d'aide aux entreprises* (CAE) or *Société d'aide au développement des collectivités* (SADC) (depending on territory) and the South West Quebec CEDEC.

The goal of the partnership is to build upon Dobson-Lagassé's existing support network model and entrepreneurial mentoring programs offered at the local SADC or CAE, to offer quality mentoring to English-speakers in the region.

Next steps for this project include bringing entrepreneurs together in a series of local meetings to showcase entrepreneurial resources and brainstorm the creation of a regional support network. Key people also need to be identified who can play a leadership role in the development of the network and survey the needs of English-speaking entrepreneurs in the South West Quebec region.

Representation at the Forum jeunesse de la Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent

CEDEC Director Stacey Dakin has been named as one of two representatives for the MRC le Haut Saint-Laurent on the Forum jeunesse Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent. The FJVHSL is a consensus-building organization that participates in the sustainable development of the Vallée-du-Haut-Saint-Laurent. Representing young people, 35 years and under, with the decision-making bodies of the region, the committee works towards improving the social, economic and cultural conditions for youth in the region.

Participation in the National Rural Youth Network

On February 12, 2007, CEDEC Director Stacey Dakin participated in a meeting of youth stakeholders hosted by the National Rural Youth Network in Ottawa.

The meeting included a panel discussion followed by small group discussion pertaining to youth leadership. Dakin, who was a member of the Reviewing Committee for Third Young Leaders in Rural Canada Award, also attended the awards ceremony honouring the winners.

Call for nominations for the Fourth Young Leaders in Rural Canada Awards

The Rural Secretariat is seeking nominations of young rural Canadians (18 to 29 years old), who have demonstrated in 2005 and/or 2006 outstanding achievements and contributions to rural, remote and northern Canada, for the fourth Young Leaders in Rural Canada Awards (YLRCA). A commemorative Award will be presented in each of the following categories: **INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP** and **PARTNERSHIP**.

[Click here for more information](#)

Scott Kessler cont'd

"Scott shares his experiences and his motivational expertise to role model how to take charge and effect change with community and especially youth," said Glover-Drolet.

"His goal is to support youth to develop their capacity to reach out and benefit from mentoring, networking and trying something new."

His primary target is teenagers, but Scott goes beyond that age group and

speaks to many people about all sorts of topics including business, stress, responsibilities, drinking and driving, self doubt, and much more. His goal is to change people's perceptions about negative experiences.

This "Jack of all trades" currently teaches in the Sir Wilfred Laurier School Board and continues to help his community simply with words and a positive attitude. He is a youth facilitator

and tries his best to help kids bring their ideas a step further.

He has helped the CEDEC in his free time and they as well have supported him in reaching his personal goals, putting him in contact with key people who could mentor and guide him, such as the Dale Carnegie Business Group, as he builds his personal resumé and work experience as a motivational speaker.

Glover-Drolet says she was not only happy to help Scott get connected with mentors but pleased that she could contribute to developing Scott's leadership potential. "He's truly a community leader and role model who 'walks his talk' and really practices what he believes in."



Facilitating a group discussion with local youth.

Cross-border learning leads to tourism opportunities on the Lower North Shore

By: Vicki Driscoll, CEDEC Director

Following the March 2006 Community Celebrations, a series of community forums held in five municipalities along the Coast, it was identified that the Lower North Shore of Quebec and the Labrador coast of Newfoundland need to build a stronger relationship. Labrador has already laid the foundation for a tourism industry and the Lower North Shore could complement and share in their success.



From November 14-17, the Quebec Labrador Foundation organized a "Cross-border tourism forum" which began with a bus tour from Old Fort (Quebec) and concluded in Red Bay (Labrador) visiting various attractions and historical events along the way.

The objectives of this forum was to begin building a partnership with our neighbors, and to create awareness of the similarities of both regions and to identify the opportunities and challenges that could be overcome and developed in a joint effort.

There were presentations by different organizations and government departments, including the Lower North Shore CEDEC and the Regional Social Development

Council, which demonstrated how community capacity building and community economic development relate to developing a tourism industry.



Some possible outcomes of this emerging collaborative relationship include joint marketing efforts and shared resources such as training and promotion of student employment opportunities.

[Read more about the LNS CEDEC in their winter newsletter.](#)

Socio-economic profile in Magdalen Islands

As the Magdalen Islands CEDEC continues its process of renewal, progress is being made on several objectives of its CEDEC Action plan for 2006-2008 related to gathering information and building profiles to support the CEDEC and the community in its community economic development efforts.

Industry Canada recently approved a funding proposal to produce an in-depth socio-economic profile of the English-speaking community of the Magdalen Islands. Through this process, government departments will have more up-to-date information about this community, and the CEDEC will be able to use this information as it moves forward in its efforts of encouraging the community to build its capacity for community economic development. A researcher has been working in the community since November 2006.

More recently, Service Canada has indicated that it has accepted a proposal for a youth profile which would evaluate the English-speaking youth population of the region, the services offered to English-speaking youth and existing social structures as they relate to youth.

This information will be key to future youth community planning.

LLL - Entrepreneurial support

English-speaking entrepreneurs in the Lanaudière area now have a place to network and build partnerships as well as to support prospective entrepreneurs as they develop their ideas.

In November 2006, LLL CEDEC Director, Valerie Glover-Drolet joined Normand Lemay of the "Centre local de développement" to undertake Phase III of the Entrepreneurship Network, local entrepreneurs met for the first of many breakfast networking sessions to discuss their plans and make contact with one another.

This type of event is already a popular monthly occurrence for French-speaking entrepreneurs, who meet on the first Wednesday of the month in St. Eustache. Five members of the French network participated in the English network including people who had already contributed to or been present during Phase I & II, which included development of English content on the CLD website and bringing English-speaking entrepreneurs together for an information night.

The networking initiative is already starting to pay some dividends as entrepreneurs with like-minded interests have joined forces to form an arts and crafts cooperative.

Local area entrepreneurs interested in participating in the breakfast networking session should contact the [LLL CEDEC](#) to reserve a seat.



Building bridges and opportunities for Anglo Community

By Thierry Haroun, SPEC Newspaper (article reprinted with permission)

On November 17 & 18, the Town of Percé played host to the Gaspesian CEDEC Second Annual Community Consultation. During this convention, community leaders from Matapedia to Gaspé provided updates on several local and regional initiatives supported by CEDEC. Building bridges between the French and the English communities is an objective we should always keep in mind for a better future, said many of the participants.



Former Program Coordinator, Angela Wolff, presenting summary of the revitalization of Fleurant Point Community Hall. Community Consultation, Percé, November 17-18, 2006.

Conference speakers during the Percé reunion included Georges Mamelonet, Mayor of Percé, and Martin Couture, General Manager of LM Glasfiber's plant in Gaspé, who presented an overview of his company's operations in the production of wind energy components. In addition, representatives from community bodies such as Heritage New Carlisle, Fleurant Point Community Center, the Gaspesian British Heritage Village, the Brilliant Cove Fishermen's Association, Camp JE and Youth Turn were also on hand.

Lisa Annett, a teacher at Belle Anse Elementary School, was asked to summarize the Gaspé Youth Turn Forum she attended in Pabos last May. During the Pabos Forum, which included people from 18 to 35, the French and the English-speaking communities and people from Listuguj were asked to come together, talk, and get to know one other, pointed out Ms. Annett. Many topics were discussed, such as training and education, employment, cultural differences, attitudes and language barriers.

Don Bourgouin, president of the CEDEC says he's quite happy with the turnout of this event. "We wanted to get the English community out and to see what is being done. This community is battling to survive and to make its way in society. We have to take control of our own community, get people together, mobilize and take our place. We must realize that there are opportunities out there."

The essence of Martin Couture's presentation was to show the English speakers that jobs are available in the wind energy field and that the English language is, in this case, considered to be a major advantage. LM Glasfiber employs 210 people in Gaspé, of whom some 50 are English-speakers. "Our community," adds Don Bourgouin, "is looking for opportunities for our youth to return to the region and LM Glasfiber is a good example."

Encouraging young people to return to the Gaspé is precisely what the *Fondation communautaire de la Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine* does. But this organization is just starting to listen to the English community, admits spokesperson, Marylou Nadeau. "I came to this forum especially to have a better understanding of the difficulties and realities of the English community," says Ms. Nadeau. "I have learned a lot and, frankly, our Foundation did not take the time to discover the Anglo-phones of the Gaspé. That being said, we are now translating all our documents so they are accessible at all times to this community. After all, it's all about building bridges," concludes Mrs. Nadeau.



Some of the participants in the "Youth" workshop at the Community Consultation held in Percé, November 17-18, 2006. From left to right: Ana Mattos, Project Manager, Mi'gmaq Organics; Mary-Lou Nadeau, Fondation Communautaire; Guillaume Dufour, Biologist, Conseil régional de l'environnement; Lisa Annett, Teacher, Belle Anse School.

Special thanks to the Rural Secretariat!

On February 22, 2007, the Rural Secretariat provided training to employees of the Community Table to build our network's capacity to use the Community Information Database.

<http://www.cid-bdc.ca/>

Thank you to the Rural Secretariat for organizing this "train the trainer" opportunity for the Community Table. It is indeed a valuable capacity-building exercise as our 12 CT trainees who will be well-placed to share this knowledge within our network and in the community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

National Committee meeting (Orford)

- March 29, 2007

CCEDNet Conference (NFLD) -

April 18-21, 2007

Industry Canada Consultation -

May 1st, 2007

Foire à l'emploi (Quebec) -

March 23 and 24, 2007

CEDEC and RDÉE Twinning for success!



Québec City and Calgary are still celebrating the 50th anniversary of their twinning as sister cities. This fraternal bond was not born by chance; the physical and economical personalities of both cities made them a natural team. Sister city relationships foster an environment in which community economic development (CED) initiatives can be implemented and strengthened, and they provide opportunities for citizens to experience and share opportunities to learn from each others successes through long-term partnerships.

With this in mind, the Québec Chaudière-Appalaches (QCA) CeDeC has reached out to the *Réseau de développement économique et d'employabilité Alberta* (RDÉE), to explore the possibility of developing ties between our official language minority communities. This twinning endeavour would serve as a great learning opportunity for both organizations, complementing our objective of developing volunteer capacity.

Among other objectives, it is hoped that stakeholders in Calgary will be socially, economically and culturally involved in the 400th Anniversary of Québec celebrations in 2008 and that the communities in both cities will develop stronger ties resulting in new and lasting business ventures and community economic development.

For more information about this initiative, please contact the Québec Chaudière-Appalaches CEDEC at 418.681.2345 or qcainfo@cedec.ca.

Networking? No sweat!

Youth leaders emerge at regional entrepreneurship gathering

"In fact, after last year's event one of our students (from the Eastern Townships) was in regular contact with a student from Heritage Regional High School (St. Hubert, QC) as a result of that day."

Additional partners involved in this event include the *Carrefour jeunesse emploi des Cantons de l'Est* (CJE), Francis Scardera of the Student Stock Exchange, Dobson-Lagassé Centre for Entrepreneurship and ACE*Bishops (Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship).

Representatives from the CJE explored with students how the concept of entrepreneurship can be applied beyond business development to be included in all facets of life including the home, school and the community.

Francis Scardera, of Loyola High School, using many examples of his own students involved with the Student Stock Exchange, elaborated on the importance of market research in developing a successful company. Students' knowledge and business-savvy were



put to the test as they developed a fictional marketing and advertising campaign for a famous night club.

Students from ACE*Bishop's lent their expertise by delivering workshops on financial literacy, how to market yourself and how to recognize opportunity.

"It is very exciting to be among High School students who are participating in workshops given by (ACE*Bishop's) University students," said Dery. "It makes it very credible for them as the age gap is very narrow."

Founded in the mid-1980s, ACE is a national, not-for-profit organization that works in partnership with business and higher education to motivate teams of university and college students to practice and teach others the principles and values of entrepreneurship and market economics. ACE*Bishop's involvement in the Youth Entrepreneurship Symposium follows other community contributions for example through its involvement in an Entrepreneurial Support Network for the English-speaking community, first started in the Eastern Townships region, and currently in expansion in South West Quebec.

The teachers and school board employees at the event also had an opportunity to formally meet in a workshop setting to share their challenges and successes in introducing entrepreneurship to their classroom setting. Teachers, in particular, expressed that they see value in introducing entrepreneurship to

Cont'd from front page

their students, however, they could use extra support in doing so.

"The range of perspectives expressed in the afternoon staff discussion highlighted the good possibility of integrating community resources, including the CEDECs, in the process of building youth entrepreneurial capacity in the schools," said Martha Crombie, Eastern Townships CEDEC Director. "Overall I was impressed by the tremendous contribution of all of our partners and the participants' willingness to share throughout the day."

Partners who contributed to this successful event:

ACE*Bishop's

<http://www.ace-bishops.ca/>

Dobson-Lagassé Entrepreneurship Centre

<http://www.ubishops.ca/dobson-lagasse/home.html>

Student Stock Exchange (Loyola High School)

<http://www.studentstockexchange.com>

Carrefour jeunesse emploi des Cantons de l'Est (CJE)

<http://www.passage.qc.ca/>

Riverside School Board

<http://www.rsb.qc.ca/>

New Frontiers School Board

<http://www.csnewfrontiers.qc.ca/>

Eastern Townships School Board

<http://www.etsb.qc.ca/>

I'm sure you all heard by now that Microsoft launched its new flagship operating system called Vista. Many might be considering upgrading or buying a new system. Be Warned: If your computer is older than 2 years, your only economical option is to buy a new computer system as Vista requires considerable computer resources that older systems do not have. So what do you do with your old system?

First, you may want to hold off on an upgrade. There is no need to upgrade unless you are among the 10% of consumers who want the newest of the new, the soonest. Windows XP and earlier versions will still continue to work. I suggest you get the most of your current system and when it is time to move on to Vista pastures, then purchase it in a new computer package.

As for your old system, might I suggest you try Open Source Software? You can get FREE operating systems and software from various vendors on the internet. Ever heard of Linux? How about Fedora? Perhaps Ubuntu? These are just three of the many difference versions of Open Source Operating Systems. My personal computer runs Ubuntu as I do not have to worry about viruses, paying for software or security holes. These systems are compatible with both Windows and Macintosh and have low system requirements – Pentium II or higher. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.opensource.org/docs/products.php>

<http://www.linux.org/>

<http://www.ubuntu.com/>

<http://fedora.redhat.com/>

Outaouais CEDEC

In January 2007, CEDEC members and invited guests from the Pontiac Region participated in a study tour of the Thetford Mines region, to learn how that community dealt with the complicated issues associated with mine closures.

The tour was organized by the Outaouais CEDEC in collaboration with Luc Baillargeon, local representative of Service Canada, to demonstrate how a community, through effective communication and partnership building, can build stronger ties between the community and political representatives.

“Changes in one municipality can affect other bordering municipalities and they need to develop closer ties,” says Tina Michaud, Outaouais CEDEC Director.

Since 2004, the forest industry in the Pontiac region has shown steady signs of decline. Along with job losses that happen in the processing sector, it also affects employment in related industries.



“The clear message we got on this trip was communicate, communicate, communicate. We saw how the Thetford Mines community broadened their reach and became more inclusive of community members throughout the entire region.”

The tour included numerous presentations and site visits of services and organizations such as *Centre de Ski du Mont Adstock*, *Coopératif Développement Régional*, *Tourisme Amiante*, *Sentiers Pédestres des 3 Monts* as well as *Société de développement économique de la région de Thetford*, known as CLD in other areas.

Community members and municipal representatives from five different communities in the Pontiac participated on this study tour, including Rodney Meilleur, a former millworker who lost his job a year and a half ago and has since been working with the CEDEC to identify and build upon ideas and opportunities coming from other affected community members.

“This whole CEDEC experience from Day 1 more than a year ago or more, starting at that first meeting in that dingy arena hall for me has been a great experience, and I just hope we can continue to evolve and keep making positive change in our communities.”

“For me, the Study Tour to Thetford Mines captured the true essence of community,” said Meilleur. “The openness in sharing their rebuilding process in such an inviting way is something I have never experienced before. This was an experience I think we can all use as a learning tool as we go forward in the building process of our own community.”

Next steps following this tour include formally sharing the learning from this event with the community and other elected officials to encourage broader participation, interaction and mobilization to addressing local economic crises related to industry closure.

An in depth summary will be published in the upcoming Outaouais CEDEC Newsletter.

MONTREAL CEDEC



Youth Profile— Phase 1: Feasibility Study

The Montreal CEDEC is a participating member of the *Table des partenaires du Centre-ville* which is looking at the feasibility of profiling Montreal's youth in the city's highly diverse and transient downtown core.

An initial study was undertaken by a research team from UQAM under the direction of Sylvain Lefebvre, Director of Studies, Geography Department, and this study was subsequently presented to the members at a recent meeting.

The next steps include clarifying the objectives, socio-economic or socio-demographic groups and defining the roles and responsibilities.

In its continued efforts to facilitate and support the Little Burgundy community organizations and partners, the Montreal CEDEC is assisting in developing the pre-entrepreneurship phase of *Burgundy eMotion* and is preparing to launch this project's proposal to potential funders in March 2007.

The *Burgundy eMotion* project will provide an opportunity for participants to develop pre-entrepreneurship, entrepreneurship and life skills to the point that they can then apply these skills in the creation of self-employment initiatives, the establishment of their own cooperative venture or to find a job.

Inspire to Empower! A Volunteer Experience November 4, 2006

The "Inspire to Empower!" experience and approach to volunteer development was the first intra-CEDEC event organized and hosted with our volunteers in mind. Volunteers and friends were invited to attend this valuable information, training, and celebration session that focused on the fundamentals of volunteering in a community capacity building initiative.

Key note speaker, Sid Stevens of the Sun Youth Organization, enlightened the crowd with his passionate address while sharing his devotion to volunteering.

The inspirational sharing of community successes and the networking among volunteers served to strengthen the grasp of key concepts, beneficial practices and orientations. While some participants gained new personal perspectives and insight; some were re-invigorated and empowered to continue volunteering in their communities.

The day's success is thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Montreal, South Shore, Laval-Laurentians-Lanaudière, Eastern Townships and South West Quebec CEDECs.



Alison Stevens of the Volunteer Bureau of Montreal, facilitated two training sessions which addressed the general principles of volunteer involvement and sustaining motivation.

Community Table Staff announcements

The Community Table is pleased to announce the new Director of the Magdalen Islands CEDEC, [Samantha Goodwin](#), effective December 11, 2006. Ms. Goodwin brings with her experience and knowledge from her previous position as Executive Director with the Council for Anglophone Magdalen Islanders (CAMI). [Click here for the official press release.](#)

Welcome back to **Stacey Dakin**, who returned from maternity leave to resume her position as Director of the South West Quebec CEDEC. Thank you to **Patrick Brault**, who stepped down temporarily as a Community Table Board member and Chair of the Montreal CEDEC to take on the Interim Director position at South West Quebec CEDEC for several months until Stacey returned from her leave.





Community Postcards



Changing Times

Community forum

COCO, the Centre for Community Organizations, is organizing a province-wide Community Forum on March 22nd and 23rd 2007 called Changing Times. This Forum invites English-speaking, bilingual and ethno-cultural non-profit community groups to come together and think critically about what is going on in our communities and in our broader political contexts to develop strategies for positive growth in our sector. This event hopes to gather a large number of individuals working and volunteering with non-profit community groups all over Quebec to talk about changes in funding, volunteering, how to adapt to demographic changes as well as other trends affecting our work.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information! The event will be free. Travel subsidies will be available to people traveling from the regions, and some portions of the event will be filmed and streamed on COCo's website after the event for those who cannot travel in. For more information and to register, contact the COCo office at 514 849-5599 or michelec@coco-net.org.

Visit COCo online at
<http://www.coco-net.org/>

VALUES>ADDED

A new program has just been launched. It's a shared effort among Canadian charities and nonprofits to inform and educate the public about this sector's incredible contribution to quality of life. Learn more about Values>Added here:

<http://www.valuesadded.ca/>

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Tel.:(819) 797-6759
(866) 797-6759

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Tel.:(418) 986-2940

Eastern Townships
Tel.:(819) 566-7228

Montreal
Tel.:(514) 938-8118

Gaspesian
Tel.:(418) 752-3284
(888) 966-3284

Outaouais
Tel.:(819) 647-2007

Laval-Laurentides-Lanaudiere
Tel.:(450) 472-3100
(877) 559-3100

Quebec Chaudière-Appalaches
Tel.:(418) 681-2345

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Tel.:(450) 264-5558 ext. 229

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