

Choose Cornwall

The Quarterly Newsletter of Cornwall Economic Development

Job Fair Attracts 3000 Job Seekers

Over 500 new jobs will be created in 2010 across a variety of sectors

Cornwall's job market is heating up, and there is no better evidence than a recent job fair that attracted 3,000 people to the Cornwall Civic Complex.

The job fair featured over 25 local companies currently promoting employment opportunities across a wide variety of sectors. Available jobs ranged from manufacturing and call centre positions to high-skilled occupations in engineering, finance and health care.

"We are aware that a minimum of 500 new jobs need to be filled in the area this year", said Mark Boileau, Manager of Cornwall Economic Development. "The job fair provided people with an opportunity to speak directly with company recruiters and figure out which opportunities were right for them."

The two high-profile employment opportunities at the job fair were the 130 positions that will be created at the new Shoppers Drug Mart Distribution Centre, and the 177 jobs associated with the Cornwall Service Canada office. Both operations are expected to open during the summer.

Other companies looking to hire included StarTek, Olymel, SigmaPoint, SCM, Benson, Teleperformance, Kraft Canada and Farley Windows.

"We collected over 500 resumes, meeting people from Ottawa, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto and Burlington," said Denis Lapierre from the Benson Group of Companies. "The job fair more than met our expectations."



Heather Juijas and Shelly Harding from Olymel were part of a group of over 25 exhibitors.

The Job Fair was a collaboration between Cornwall Economic Development, the Eastern Ontario Training Board (EOTB) and a variety of other local organizations.

"We like to take a team-based approach towards meeting the labour market needs of both employers and employees", said Denis Thibault, EOTB Executive Director. "The local economy continues to show strong growth."

A robust economy has meant an increased emphasis on resident attraction. As local companies hire more people, new families are attracted to the area to take advantage of the opportunities.

The ChooseCornwall.ca website has a special page that links directly to local employment opportunities.



Thompson Rosemount Group Joins GENIVAR

Move helps to improve GENIVAR's ability to compete for new work in Ontario

Cornwall's largest engineering firm, Thompson Rosemount Group (TRG), has joined forces with GENIVAR, a leading Canadian consulting engineering firm. The acquisition is expected to create new opportunities for TRG and its staff of 100+ professionals.

"This is a good news story, for TRG shareholders, staff and most importantly our clients," said Mark Smelko, President of The Thompson Rosemount Group.

"Senior TRG staff will play the same key roles they had prior to the transaction. We continue to leverage the expertise in the local team as we build a significant center of excellence in Cornwall."

The Thompson Rosemount Group has award-winning expertise in civil, electrical, mechanical and structural engineering - as well as architecture. It is currently working on a number of major development projects in Eastern Ontario,

including several in the water/wastewater treatment field.

"GENIVAR's locally focused spirit and an appreciation that consulting is about relationships is why we selected GENIVAR over the numerous firms that have approached us over the past few years," added Mr. Smelko. "This acquisition helps GENIVAR reach another stage of our growth in Ontario by topping the milestone of 1,000 employees."

Investment in SigmaPoint will create new jobs

New high-speed line will mean extra jobs

SigmaPoint Technologies has received \$918,500 to expand their production line. The funding comes from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

"Our government is committed to immediate job creation and economic growth right here in Cornwall," said local MP Guy Lauzon. "We are providing funding for the development of local businesses and organizations because we understand the positive impact they have on our communities."

The investment will fund a new high-speed production line to allow SigmaPoint to compete in different segments of the contract electronics manufacturing sector. Funding will also go towards planning and testing for implementation.

"We are grateful for the FedDev Ontario contribution, which will assist our much-needed expansion plans," said Dan Bergeron, President of SigmaPoint. "This will enable us to create a second facility with state-of-the-art automated equipment, to continue our quest for World Class LEAN Manufacturing Certification, and will let us compete favourably, giving our customers the partnership they seek."

The investment comes at a time when customer orders are increasing and doors to new markets are opening for SigmaPoint. To accommodate the new production line, SigmaPoint will be renovating space in an adjacent manufacturing facility on Marleau Avenue. Over 16 new jobs will be created.

SigmaPoint has experienced solid growth for several months, spurred on by investments in new technology. In July of this year, the facility is expected to become fully certified under the LEAN quality control system for manufacturers, making it one of the most efficient facilities of its kind in North America.



Construction Activity Breaks Records

Cornwall is in the midst of a major building boom. Construction activity is evident throughout the city with several major projects at various stages of development.

Building permits issued in 2009 by the City amounted to over \$190 million — a figure that is greater than the sum of the values of the previous four years (2005-2008) combined.

"2009 was a breakthrough year for Cornwall - and it looks like 2010 will be just as good," said Mayor Bob Kilger. "Building permit values represent a measure of economic activity in a community, and we have seen growth in the City's residential, commercial and institutional sectors."

One of the more anticipated projects that is scheduled to be completed mid-year is the \$60 million Shoppers Drug Mart Distribution Centre. The 550,000 sq.ft. facility will employ 130 people by year's end.

Another facility with a similar construction timeline is the new 33,000 sq.ft. office for Service Canada, also being built in the Cornwall Business Park. Over 175 new positions will be created with the completion of this modern building.

The City's busiest street, Brookdale Avenue, has also seen its share of construction. A new \$1 million Pizza Hut restaurant has opened to rave reviews, and Shoppers Drug Mart will soon open its new store in the Harden Group's 70,000 sq.ft. commercial plaza. Villarboit Developments are also planning to break ground on their own commercial development project at the corner of Brookdale and Tollgate.

Looking to the west, Carstar has relocated to expanded premises on Rosemount



Avenue and the Cornwall Hospice opened its doors in late 2009. Steel is now being erected as the Cornwall Multi-Sport Facility begins to take shape.



Work has been fast and furious to get the new \$8 million OPG Visitor Information Centre ready for the summer tourist season. This showcase facility on the banks of the St. Lawrence River provides

an additional asset to the city's arts and culture scene.

Of course, development activity has not been absent from the heart of the city either, with new restaurants and other businesses opening in the downtown core.

Work continues on the \$120 million redevelopment of the Cornwall Community Hospital. St. Joseph's Continuing Care Centre wrapped up their \$40 million project in 2009, and the Seaway Health Centre is scheduled to open in the fall of 2010.

Along the waterfront, St. Lawrence College has begun work on their \$10 million renovation project, and work has started on the Cotton Mill Lofts.

"All of these projects have created dozens of construction jobs, but the real value is also in the long term investment in our City's infrastructure," added Mayor Bob Kilger. "We expect this positive activity to continue in 2010 and on through 2011. It is an exciting time for Cornwall."





Waterfront Receives Funding

Boaters in the Cornwall area will benefit from an investment of over \$1.5 million in Cornwall's waterfront, specifically work around Marina 200. The downtown marina offers a number of transient docking services to boaters traversing the St. Lawrence River. The money is being invested by the Federal Government.



Chamber Celebrates 120 Years

The Cornwall Chamber of Commerce is celebrating 120 years of business advocacy, reinforcing the fact that Cornwall is one of Canada's oldest settled communities. The modern day Chamber boasts over 700 members, maintains a popular website, and organizes several events throughout the year.



Cornwall Filmmakers Release Documentary

10 Days Across Canada opened up in 16 theatres across the country to rave reviews. The film is a project of Cornwall's Fishrizzo Productions, and includes interviews with actresses Geri Hall and Sheila McCarthy, astronaut Marc Garneau and former governor general Adrienne Clarkson.



Cornwall Truck Centre Wins Award

Kemptville Truck Centre, the parent company of Cornwall Truck Centre, has been named one of Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies. Cornwall Truck Centre sells and services International trucks, and its facility includes a showroom, 10 truck service bays and a parts warehouse.



Entrepreneurs Go Green

Local entrepreneurs are turning heads across Canada with their innovative and eco-friendly products. Ground Soap offers a selection of hand-made soaps made from natural ingredients, while Steward Bags is helping consumers to keep fruits and vegetables fresh.



Mad Moose TV Lands Contract

Mad Moose Television has begun hiring to fill positions at its Cornwall studios. The company has landed a contract to develop an online television channel for the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. Mad Moose TV is new to Cornwall, yet comes with dozens of years of industry experience.



Villarboit Development Project

Villarboit is proceeding with plans to develop a new commercial plaza at the northeast corner of Brookdale and Tollgate. The high profile location is expected to be home to over 75,000 sq.ft. of new retail space, attracting national retailers in the electronics and clothing sectors.



Information Radio FM 107.7

Listeners along Highway 401 can now tune to Cornwall Information Radio for up to the minute weather, traffic and community event reports. The new commercial-free radio station is expected to reach over 17,000 vehicles travelling along Canada's busiest highway each day.