



Keeping the P.A.C.E.

P.A.C.E. – Feature Business

PACE recognizes and applauds Cloverbelt Country Meats Cooperative as our quarterly feature business.

The Co-op president came to us in the summer of 2018 with the hopes that PACE could help fund the upgrades to the former Griffiths Country Meats abattoir. The abattoir had been in danger of closing when the owners decided to retire but were unable to find a buyer. The concern for the owners was that if no one purchased and it closed, it would be difficult to re-open due to OMAFRA meat plant licensing requirements. The CCM Co-op was then formed by a group of local farmers to keep the facility running and avoid permanent closure. The facility, however, needed upgrades to meet new OMAFRA standards. Some of the upgrades included new drainage systems, equipment and integration of new technologies and computer software. These enhancements increased efficiency and production capacity while lowering operating costs and improving energy efficiency. The co-op was the recipient of an approved NOHFC grant

from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to help with the expansion and revitalization. In order to receive the grant funds, purchases had to be made first and then receipts submitted for reimbursement of the grant funds. PACE stepped in to help bridge the financing to start the project's first phase in order for the grant funds to start rolling in for the next project or equipment purchase. It was not always easy to get the work completed quickly with weather, labour shortage and waiting on parts for various jobs, but the abattoir is now functioning and has seen great improvements in the efficiency of operations so far.

A significant portion of the local area residents access the abattoir as well as producers and consumers from across the region. While it is difficult to estimate the exact number that will benefit from the completion of this project, it is fair to say it could be in the thousands. Between farming, First Nations and tourism communities, hundreds of people rely on the abattoir to process livestock and wild

game. As a whole, the success of the expansion and revitalization will ensure local farmers are able to continue their way of life and pass on these family farm businesses to the next generation.

The outcome and benefits of this project included the retention of 3 full time, 8 part time, and 2 seasonal employees plus created 1 full time and 5 part time jobs.

We wish the Cloverbelt Country Meats Co-op much success upon completion of this important project and the future of the abattoir. We thank them for their business and contribution to economic development in the PACE catchment area with creating jobs and investing in this necessary infrastructure.



BDC– Noreen Cox & Board President Roger Griffiths



The Abattoir's state of the art Smoker
Submitted by: N. Cox B.D.C.

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Executive Director's Report ~ Caroline Goulding

Happy New Year!

It has been a busy few months! I attended a workshop in Sioux Narrows that was focused on starting to develop an RV/auto touring route through Northwestern Ontario. This exciting initiative has the opportunity to increase the number of tourists visiting the region and provide a framework for tourism businesses to grow and expand.

We have been hard at work completing all of our end of year reporting. In April we will have our Annual General Meeting, we hope to see everyone there. If you cannot attend the AGM, look for our Annual Report which will be posted online!

I also attended the recent REDO

meeting. At the meeting various stakeholders in economic development met and discussed their current initiatives and also heard presentations from the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre and Destination Northern Ontario

Along with the managers of LOWBIC and Chukuni Communities Development Corporation I met with our new MP Eric Melillo in Kenora. At the meeting we outlined the Community Futures Program and discussed the role of CFDCs in supporting our local economies.

We launched our new social media campaign #BusinessTipTuesdays. Every Tuesday check out our Facebook page for a new business tip!



Submitted by: C. Goulding E.D.

Christmas Cheer ~ Giving Back to the Communities We Serve

Here at P.A.C.E we feel that it is important to give back to the communities that we serve. For several years now we have joined the Christmas Cheer Board to donate non perishables and gifts in an effort to do our part for the community we live in.

The staff contributes each week with dress down Jean Fridays. With the money we raise for the year we are able to shop and fill a hamper and purchase gifts for a boy and a girl or small family.

During the month of December the

staff at P.A.C.E., organized and shopped for the occasion...Everything was delivered to the volunteer board to help others during the holiday season. This year P.A.C.E. was able to donate 2 gifts each, for one boy and one girl including non perishables for a total of \$260.00 dollars.

P.A.C.E. would like to also recognize the people of the Christmas Cheer Board who put out the call to the community and then take the time to make sure that all items that are received reach those who need it most.

The volunteers and Cheer Board are the true "Santa's" of the north, making sure everyone enjoys the Christmas season and P.A.C.E. feels lucky and honoured to be part of this worthy cause.



PARO Partnership



For Women's Enterprise
pour l'entreprise des femmes

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PARO Centre for Women's Enterprise is one of Canada's most successful business support and networking organizations. 'PARO' is Latin for "I am Ready".

As a not-for-profit social enterprise, they collaborate to empower women, strengthen small business and promote community social and economic development across different regions of the province.

Since 1995, PARO has provided assistance to thousands of women, through innovative business services, peer support and inspirational events. Many have successfully launched profitable businesses and others are creating collaborative workspaces or social enterprises to enhance their communities.

PACE works closely with PARO to enhance their programs and assist where needed in partnership with lending for their Women's Circles.

For more information about PARO and their programs, they will be part of the Funder's Forum in March and will also hold a networking event the evening of March 10th. Stay tuned for more details.

Business Tips and Tricks

BUSINESS Tips

Here are some more tips and tricks. As always please feel free to share any ideas or topics that you have found that have worked or not. Success comes from hearing both good and bad ideas.

Are You Insured Under EI: Many small business owners know that they aren't insurable under EI, but did you know relatives working for the family business also might not be able to

access EI?

Windows 7: Do you have any computers still running Windows 7? If you do, your business is at risk! Microsoft is no longer offering free security updates for these systems, consider either purchasing extended protection (good for up to three years) or new systems and keep your business safe!

Job Training: Do your employees need training from a school, college, university, or union-based training centre?

You could be eligible for the Canada-Ontario Job Grant that could cover 5/6ths of the training cost up to \$10,000/trainee! For more information go to Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities webpage.

Canada Summer Jobs Program:

Do you employ less than 50 people and are you planning on employing someone between the ages of 15-30 this summer? The Canada Summer Jobs grant is open for applications! Through the grant you could get a wage subsidy for half of minimum wage. Check out their website for more information and if you need any help, give us a call 807-221-3293!

Upcoming Funders Forums ~ March 10th, 2020

PACE will be hosting another Funder's Forum in our communities in early March. These forums highlight different lending institutions and what they can offer a start up or expanding business in the region.

We generally invite the Financial Institutions including BDC to provide information and guidance for businesses that are looking for funding, and organizations that can assist with grant programs and creating a business plan.

The forums will run for approximately two hours in a trade show like setting and anyone interested can visit each

organization's display and discuss their business needs. Details are still being confirmed but to date, one forum will be held at the Best Western in Dryden on March 10th from 10am to 12pm and another will be in Pickle Lake on March 16th from 6pm to 8pm at the community hall.

Please visit our website and Facebook page for more details on the other locations, dates and times.

We hope to see you there!



Office Rentals-P.A.C.E. Office



With all the recent changes and upgrades that our board room has received., we here at PACE thought it would be a great idea to share the space with different user groups.

One of the upgrades includes a Polycom video conferencing system. With a simple download of the program, users can video in from any device with a camera and the software. Distance is no longer an issue when it comes to wanting to meet "face-to face".

The board room is available Monday to Friday during regular business hours.

If the board room seems too big and you just wish you could escape to a private office for a day or a couple of hours, we have that too !!

To find out more information about any of the options we have please call 221-3293 for availability and rates.

We look forward to helping you with your needs!



P.A.C.E.

Patricia Area Community
Endeavours

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*Wishing you
the joy of family, the gift of friends and the best of
everything for this New Year!
Happy New Year from: Caroline, Noreen & Sandra*

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P.A.C.E. Patricia Area Community Endeavours

Patricia Area Community Endeavours Inc. (PACE) is committed to promoting economic growth within the Patricia Region of Northwestern Ontario. Our purpose is to encourage local community and economic development through provision of small business loans, non-profit funding, counselling and support to entrepreneurs and community groups.

We serve a broad range of communities, including Dryden, Eagle Lake first Nation, Machin, Pickle Lake, Sioux Lookout, Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation, and all areas located in between.

**“Giving Back to the Communities it
Serves”**



Our Annual General Meeting will be announced soon; plans are being made for early spring.



Congratulations to **Dave Burch**, the winner of our Small Business Week draw held in October 2019.

Welcome Back Roger Gould

Roger is a returning member to the Board of Directors, PACE welcomes his return, participation and business experience to the Board.

Board of Directors Recruitment

PACE is looking to add to our Board of Directors!

Please get in touch with our office if you are interested and we can provide you with any details you might require and forward your interest to our Chair.