

# futurescape

Growing communities one idea at a time.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Women In Business Conference

December 2008



Visions North held its 1<sup>st</sup> Women In Business Conference in La Ronge in the fall of 2007. It was a success and demand was that we make the conference an annual event. We were proud to unveil our 2<sup>nd</sup> Women In Business Conference on September 9, 2008, LIFE IN GENERAL, BUSINESS & EVERYTHING! at the La Ronge Hotel and Suites. Given the response there will definitely be a 3<sup>rd</sup> conference in the fall of 2009.

The conference was opened by Joan McCusker, Olympic Gold Medalist. Joan shared her observations of successful people. She talked about ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

After lunch the audience was treated to a presentation by comedian Kate Davis who offered a Workshop on how to use humour to balance both life and career when feeling completely stressed out. Kate told stories from her own home life and career to show how similar we all are when it comes to learning what stresses us out and what we could do to help us cope.

The final speaker of the day was Michelle Ray – The Attitude Adjustor. Michelle's workshop dealt with the biggest obstacle that we all encounter on the road to pursuing our dreams and that would be ourselves. More specifically that would be our attitudes that have always derailed us. If we think we are going to fail we probably will but if we have a positive attitude about ourselves we begin to feel better but also the people around us react differently to us because of this new found attitude.

Michelle was able to combine theoretical reasons to stay positive with real life stories. These stories made the participants laugh but more importantly they made them think about how their own behavior may be sabotaging them from achieving important goals.

At lunch we were honoured to have both Chief Tammy Cook Searson of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and Joceline Schreimer, SK MLA and Legislature Secretary to the Minister of Health for Addictions, give brief addresses encouraging the participants to follow their dreams and passions.

Thank you to Joan, Kate, Michelle, Tammy and Joceline for coming to our conference and making us think about the things that we should be thankful for and what we can do to improve our lives. Thank you to Susan Folkersen for doing another great job of emceeing our event. Of course, none of this would have been possible without our sponsors: Saskatchewan Northern Affairs, AREVA, Cameco, Conexus Credit Union, SaskEnergy, SaskTel, SaskPower, Transwest Air and Northern Lights Casino. Many thanks to Shirley Harder, Yvonne Meekel, Kristen Bunz, Sheila Brown and Linda Collins and congratulations to Jean Powell for a well organized event.

Photograph: Joan McCusker and participant

Photograph by Gill Gracie, La Ronge, SK

### IN THE NEWS:

Paul Trottier of Visions North CFDC Won this year's Volunteer of the year For the Saskatchewan Community Futures Association. Congratulations Paul and thank you for all your hard work.

The Federal Election was held in October and returned Rob Clarke as the representative for the Desnethé-Missinippe-Churchill River District which includes La Ronge and Air Ronge.

The new reorganization of the southern regional economic development agencies will be implemented April 1, 2009.



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#### VIDEO CONFERENCING

Network Rental Rates

Bookings must be made one week  
In advance,

Regular Business Hours  
\$50/hour/site

Weeknight (after 6 pm)  
\$120/hour/site

Saturday (by request)  
\$140/hour/site

Sunday – Closed

#### LENDER'S TRADESHOW

3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Lender's Tradeshow,  
La Ronge on May 7, 2009. For further  
information contact Sheila Brown.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The long awaited announcement for  
funding for a visitors centre for La  
Ronge, Air Ronge and the Lac La  
Ronge Indian Band was made on  
December 9, 2008, at the Pahkisimon  
Nuye Ah Library by Minister Lyle  
Stewart. He is the Minister for  
Enterprise & Innovation,

#### NEXT ISSUE

January 20, 2009, Robert Laboucane  
of Ripple Effects Ltd., will be in La  
Ronge offering a workshop on  
Outreaching, Recruiting, Hiring and  
Retaining Aboriginal Employees. For  
further information contact Jean  
Powell.

#### PETER KENYON'S WORKSHOP....

Peter Kenyon of the Bank of I.D.E.A's of Australia was in La Ronge on June 2, 2008, to present a workshop on what are the basics of a successful thriving community.

Peter's basic message boiled down to the most important element in the heart of any thriving small or large community and that is its people. Peter stressed that the most important thing to remember was to listen to all the people of each community not just the politicians or the business leaders but also the homemakers, the social groups, the volunteer agencies and most importantly a communities youth population. You may be surprised where the next great idea comes from!

Peter's message was clear and concise and backed up with stories from communities that were once down and out but are now making remarkable comebacks.

Peter Kenyon is a social entrepreneur and community enthusiast. Over the last decade he has worked with over 1000 communities in rural Australia and overseas. He is motivated to create healthy, caring, inclusive, sustainable and enterprising communities. He believes communities must be built from within and not top down.

Thank you Sheila for your hard work in organizing this event.

#### UPCOMING EVENT: "Plan Your Future" Youth Conference

The success of our 1<sup>st</sup> Youth Conference in 2008 has inspired us to do a 2009 version in April in Air Ronge. This year's event will include Joan McCusker, Gold Medal Olympian, James Cunningham and his Mad Money presentation and Troy Payne who will act as emcee and present workshops on Resiliency, Portfolio Development and Professionalism. Our evening entertainment will be provided by Codie Prevost the 2006 Saskatchewan Country Music "Rising Star" singer/songwriter.

For information contact Jean Powell

#### BUSINESS PROFILE...Harold Johnson

Having friends and support in the neighborhood has really helped Harold Johnson launch his law office in La Ronge. Johnson established his office in the picturesque northern town two and a half years ago, with startup financing provided by Visions North CFDC. "Right from the start Visions North believed that La Ronge needed a law office that provided a wide range of services, and put their resources into ensuring we were successful," Johnson says. "Visions North also provided the law office with space on the other side of the building. Still, establishing a law office wasn't always easy. Another lawyer advised Johnson that the first six months would be slow. "He also said that after eighteen months we would have so much work we'd wish we were back in the first six month. His forecast has proven accurate almost to the day," Johnson chuckles. "We're grateful for all the support both financial support and the personal support of Visions North staff – from the beginning." In addition to his law office responsibilities, Johnson has researched and written papers for the research arm of the Native Law Centre of Canada, on topics such as the impact of the Youth Criminal Justice Act on Aboriginal peoples, an intervention on behalf of the miners in the licensing of the McArthur River Uranium mine and a history of aboriginal peoples in Prince Albert National Park.