

Success Stories

The Voyageurs' Lodge & Cookhouse



In 2003 Frank and Gail O'Connor moved from London Ontario to Batchawana Bay where they purchased an existing building along Highway 17 just north of Sault Ste. Marie. In 2003, They approached the Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie & Area (CDC) and other financial institutions for assistance to purchase the property and opened The Voyageurs' Lodge & Cookhouse (Restaurant and 9 Unit Motel). A year later, they expanded their business by purchasing the neighbouring restaurant and motel and began operating it as a general store and adding to the amenities and services that they could offer.

The Voyageurs Lodge & Cookhouse is a family operated establishment with their menu items ranging from homemade burgers to the famous locally caught fresh Whitefish and Laketrout dinners.

Looking to build on their success they approached the CDC of SSM again in 2008 when they were expanding their business for renovations to house a LCBO agency store as well as the addition of a gas station.

Since the opening of the business, the Voyageurs' Lodge & Cookhouse have received the 2015 Certificate of Excellence through Trip Advisor. In 2014, they were awarded "Best of the Lake-Fish Dinner" and "Best of the Lake-Staff." Through the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, they were awarded Entrepreneur/Business of the Year. Tourism Sault Ste. Marie awarded them with Business of the Year. Northern Ontario Business awarded them Company of the Year (1-15 employees). A good measure of the business' success is due to the team's focus on providing high quality service through experiential tourism.

"We couldn't simply stand by and wait for customers to come to us...we had to create the destination," says Frank. Through extensive renovations, canoe adventure tours, the theme of the Voyageurs and the Fur Trade, as well as delivering exceptional customer service, Frank and Gail created the destination for travellers.

The business currently has seating for 60 patrons and employs over 40 staff throughout the spring and summer season.

“The CDC was there to help us initially start up our business venture, and several years later, when we needed more infrastructure capital, they were there again. They have been a vital partner that have been instrumental to our success,” says O’Connor.

The CDC wishes The Voyageurs’ Lodge & Cookhouse the best of luck with any future plans.

Be sure to “Like” The Voyageurs’ Lodge & Cookhouse on Facebook and visit their website <http://voyageurslodge.com/>

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