

Jp2g Gets An Energy Boost

Firm innovates with 100 year old technology

By: Jennifer Layman
jenn@ovbusiness.com

Kyle Dixon says he's the kind of guy who is always looking for something different to do. So when the provincial government's Micro Fit Program was introduced, Dixon brought it forward to the staff of his work, Jp2g Consultants.

"Even though this was new to us," said Dixon, "I thought why not get into this at the bottom."

While Dixon admits that solar and wind power has been around for 100 years, the experience of setting up his own solar energy program was new. After applying for, and being approved for the Micro Fit program, Dixon and Jp2g got to work setting up the four arrays on the corporate property, as well as a system at Dixon's house and that of Jp2g president, Joe Janota.

"We became generators of



Kyle Dixon and Joe Janota of Jp2g with their solar project.

electricity," says Janota.

Despite what people think, Jp2g doesn't use the energy for itself; it is immediately returned to the province. The panels lead to lines, which lead to inverters which convert direct current to alternating current. This goes through the breaker box and into the meter that tells you how much energy you have produced, as opposed to how much you have used. From there, the

energy goes out to the power line and up the pole and to the transformer.

Jp2g still gets a hydro bill where they pay around 12 cents per kilowatt hour. But they also get a cheque where they earn 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour. Not a bad trade; that has irked some people. After all, how can the province make money buying at 80 cents and selling at 12 cents?

"The thing that people forget," says Janota, "is that non-renewable fuels started the same way. They were subsidized by the government. Now, non-renewable fuels are a well-established producer. They are a big chunk of our economy. Where we are with renewable energy is at the beginning."

Jp2g has four arrays, each with 720 solar panels. The panels weigh about 50 pounds each. It took some work, and some expense, but it was a good experience and something in line with their corporate thinking. Interestingly, they don't offer solar panel programs as part of their work.

"We are not contractors," says Janota. "We've had people call and we put them in touch with installers. What we do deal with are projects that require engineering, and questions of structure."

Continued on Page 8

ZOOMER

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Ottawa Valley Business (OVB) is a monthly publication covering business news and events throughout Renfrew, Lanark and Pontiac counties, as well as within the surrounding areas. OVB is published by Forward Thinking.

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News, article suggestions and letters to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. Content will be edited to fit the space available. We welcome press releases and news from our local business community to be published free of charge. There is also no charge for posting business events on the events calendar.

CONTACT US:

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HCM Councilors Fail to Disclose

The Ontario Municipal Elections Guide states that municipal candidates who do not file a financial disclosure form are ineligible to hold municipal office in Ontario for the period up to and including the next regular election. It further states that a sitting member of council who does not file on time forfeits their office and is barred from holding office or even running in the next municipal election.

In the Township of Head, Clara and Maria, two sitting

members of council, Deputy Reeve Jim Gibson and Councillor Ed Aiston have failed to file disclosure forms by the March 25 deadline. This has left the municipality perplexed on how to move forward. If Gibson and Aiston continue to assist in decision-making for council, and are then forced to vacate their positions, there are questions as to whether those decisions would stand.

In lieu of the outstanding questions, Reeve Tammy

Stewart and Councillor Bob Reid left the last council meeting, feeling it was inappropriate to continue as the breach of disclosure was known. Gibson and Aiston felt they could remain at the meeting, and along with Councillor David Foote, they continued. The three represented a quorum for council.

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has reportedly advised Gibson and Aiston to seek legal advice.

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events calendar

May 7

50th Anniversary for Giant Tiger in Pembroke. Charity BBQ, live entertainment, cake cutting, fun for whole family, free gift card draws during the day and more.

May 7

Women's Entrepreneurial Fair. 10am-4pm. Zion Memorial United Church at 37 Franklin Street in Carleton Place. Supported by: FACE (Fundraising And Community Events for Zion-Memorial United Church). For more info: face.zm@gmail.com

May 11-12

OPA Trails Specialist Workshop. 8:00am to 4:00pm each day. Petawawa Civic Centre at 16 Civic Centre Road in Petawawa. To register, call 905-864-6182 or opa@ontarioparksassociation.ca. OPA Member - \$350/person and Non-Member - \$410/person. Includes lunch each day and participant ticket to the Wednesday evening pig-roast

social at Pine Ridge Park Resort. **May 14**

Deep River Science Academy 25th Anniversary. DRSA will be hosting a day-long event with a \$25 registration fee, to celebrate its 25th Anniversary. Opening ceremonies at 9:00am at the Real Hope Christian Assembly at 33019 Hwy 17, Deep River.

May 17

Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce Lunch Connections with the Workers Safety Insurance Board (WSIB). Speaker: Jason Nash, WSIB Employer Liaison Specialist. 11:45am-1:00pm. Marguerite Centre in Pembroke. \$15 for Chamber members. \$35 for guests. RSVP to Chamber office by May 15th. Call: 613-732-1492, Fax: 613-732-5793 or manager@upperottawavalleychamber.com

May 26

Speedpro Signs Grand Opening & Business After Hours. 3pm-6pm. Win a free banner, canvas print or desk wrap... you have to be here to win. Buy Local! Join us at the Grand Opening of our new location, 1982 Petawawa Boulevard beside Shaw Lumber.

May 26

Renfrew & Area Chamber of Commerce Gala. 5:30pm. Renfrew RCAF Hall at 164 Argyle Street South in Renfrew.

For information, call 613-432-7015 or visit the Chamber online at: renfrewareachamber.ca for details.

June 9-12

Expo 150! Something for the whole family including business exhibits, displays of all kinds, live entertainment and music, and so much more. For the details, see www.expo150.com.

June 14

Bernadette McCann House for Women Inc. Annual General Meeting. Marguerite Centre. 700 Mackay Street in Pembroke. 7:00pm.

June 15

Victim Services of Renfrew County AGM. 5:45pm at Barr Line Community Centre in Douglas. For information, call 613-649-2852.

Add your event to our calendar. Send the details to: admin@ovbusiness.com

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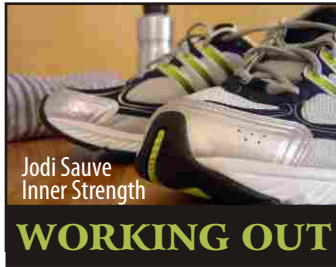
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Due to maintenance, www.ovbusiness.com will not be updated at the time of this publication. It will be updated later in the day.



Jodi Sauve
Inner Strength

WORKING OUT

After a few more snowfalls, the season seems to have finally sprung and some of us are getting a taste of "Spring Fever." What an ideal time to get outside and, as my Dad used to say, "Get the stink blown off you!"

Running is a fast growing exercise that many individuals are taking up, and some for the first time. Running provides a great way to cross train if you are already involved in an exercise program. On the other hand, starting a running program can be fun and fulfilling when done safely.

For new runners, the key is to start gradually in a run/walk program three times a week. This is a safe, gradual start. It is important to stay positive when beginning a new program, and to refrain from becoming frustrated. Here are some other tips:

1. Becoming a runner requires patience and dedication, so just go at your own pace.
2. Dress accordingly to the weather - layers work well.
3. Enlist a friend to tag along with you, the more, the merrier!
4. Keep well hydrated and drink lots of water to replenish your fluids.
5. Make sure you fuel your body before running with healthy snack choices. An empty stomach won't give you enough strength to accomplish your goals.

Running is a great way to challenge your body and get fit! And, if done properly, it can be an enjoyable routine.

Do you have a fitness question for Jodi? Send it to her at: jodi@myinnerstrength.ca

Business News Around The Valley

Town Has New Website

The Town of Petawawa's has a new website. The site was designed by Kwebdesign, a company from St. Pascal de Baylon in Ontario. This was the same company who created the former website for the Town.

White Lake Marina Competes for \$10K

White Lake Marina is competing in the Leadership category of Scotiabank's Small Business Big Impact Challenge. The contest is open to small businesses Canada-wide to highlight the contributions small businesses make to their communities. The winner in each of three categories, Employment, Products/Services and Leadership, will receive \$10,000 to help them continue to invest in and enrich their communities. Other local candidates are Fulton's Pancake House and Sugar

Bush of Pakenham in the Employment category and Carleton Place Chiropractic in the Products/Services category. Voting was done online and ended on Saturday, April 30.

National Team Has Local Athletes

The Canadian National Freestyle Kayak Team is a group of 28 whitewater athletes that will be competing at the Freestyle World Championships held in Germany from June 20th-26th, 2011. More than half of the team is comprised of athletes that either live in the Ottawa Valley or use the Ottawa River as majority of their training. Daryl-Lisa Oldham, Manager daryllisa@hotmail.com

Best Managed: 7th Time

M. Sullivan & Son Ltd. has been recognized as one of Canada's Best Managed Companies seven times in the past eight years. This year,

that consistent recognition earned them another honour: the Platinum Club Member status. Platinum Club membership is restricted to those organizations who have been Best Managed companies for six consecutive years. Canada's 50 Best Managed Companies program was created in 1993 to recognize successful Canadian companies that have proven to be innovative, profitable and responsive to changing economic conditions. The program profiles Canadian companies that have surpassed their competitors, created thousands of jobs, produced accelerated revenues and excelled in both domestic and foreign markets. The National Post, Deloitte, CIBC and Queen's University sponsor the award. M. Sullivan & Son Ltd. has 130 employees, and 250 during the summer.

Continued on Page 6

Is dementia affecting someone you know?



In the early stages of dementia, health and well-being is important for both the caregiver and for the person living with dementia. Guest House is a 12-bedroom 'home away from home' in Ottawa that offers short stays (up to 3 months) for those with the early to mid-stage of dementia. With a thorough understanding of the transitions facing both the caregiver and the individual with dementia, Guest House is here for you from the start.

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Business News Around The Valley

Rural Ramble Accepting Applications

Applications are available for the 2011 Rural Ramble, which will have four themed weekend events for this year. The weekends are: Adventure & Exploration (September 10-11), Agriculture & Food (September 17-18), History & Heritage (September 24-25) and Arts & Culture (October 1-2). Those interested in becoming a site host for the Rural Ramble, or an event sponsor, can contact Lauren at 613-732-4364 or lmcillfaterick@countyofrenfrew.on.ca.

Annual BBQ

Across Ottawa Valley
M&M Meat Shops Charity BBQ Day is happening across the country on Saturday, May 7th, 2011. Visit any M&M Meat Shops location across Canada to support the 23rd Annual M&M Meat Shops Charity BBQ Day benefiting Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada

(CCFC). M&M Meat Shops franchisees, staff and thousands of volunteers from coast-to-coast will grill hamburgers and hot dogs to meet the 2011 fundraising goal of \$1.6 million. Visit any M&M location across Canada to make your donation! Every penny raised goes directly to the CCFC to fund research to help find the cause and cure for Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

False Alarms Are A True Concern

Some businesses in Mississippi Mills are considering disconnecting their alarm systems in order to avoid a potential \$200 fine for a false alarm. While the number of false alarms is decreasing in the municipality, from 162 in 2009 to 151 in 2010, the deployment of two officers to the business becomes expensive for the municipality. Businesses are allowed two false alarms

before being charged the \$200 on the third false alarm. They then have to have one year of no additional false alarms for their record to be clear.

One Year On Strike

Workers from Commonwealth Plywood on River Road in Pembroke have been on strike for over a year. According to the union, the same 35 workers who initially went on strike are still on the line.

Researcher Seeks Opinions

A researcher from the Australian National University in Canberra, is conducting an international study on peoples' experiences of living near nuclear technology. He is seeking to interview residents with strong feelings (positive or negative) about living near nuclear facilities, and will be in Deep River from May 10th to 14th. Interviews are one hour and are strictly confidential. Further information is available on

request from Dr. Michael Edwards at michael.edwards@nshri.org.

No Tax Increase in Laurentian Hills

Taxpayers of Laurentian Hills will have no tax increases this year. The municipality decided not to raise taxes or water or sewer rates as they are receiving additional revenue from increased assessments, as well as funds from both federal and provincial governments.

New Fitness Centre May Be In The Works

A new fitness centre may be coming to Annprior. Michael Mansfield is the owner of a building on James Street in Annprior and has requested rezoning from heavy industrial to light industrial to possibly permit a fitness club. A public meeting will occur May 23rd.

Continued on Page 7

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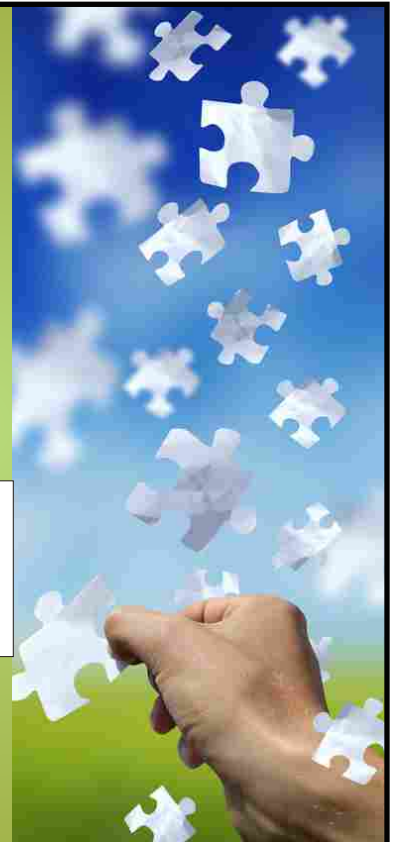
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Business News Around The Valley

Town Seeks Slogan

As part of their Expo 150 celebrations, the Town of Arnprior is seeking input from residents for a slogan to accompany the Town's marketing plan.

Renfrew Rec

Department is Changing

Kelley-Whitman McKie has been dismissed "without cause" as the Renfrew Parks and Recreation Director. Renfrew Mayor Bill Ringrose said the dismissal was due to the nature of her management style and the lack of confidence in her ability to carry on in the future. In April, Recreation Program Developer, Grant Lavallee, resigned after six months into an 18-month contract. He left due to personality conflicts with others within the recreation department.

Advance Polls Popular

9,246 people voted in the advance polls in Renfrew Nipissing Pembroke, making it one of the highest numbers in the province, and up from over 8,100 who voted early in the last two elections. Overall in Canada, preliminary figures indicate more than two million electors voted at the advance

polls, a 34.5 per cent increase from the turnout in 2008.

Business Community Exceeds Expectations

The business community of Renfrew County and those connected to it, have donated more than \$230,000 towards Expo 150. This is in addition to the \$200,000 contributed by the County, and does not include volunteer time and services. Expo 150 takes place June 9-12, at the Pembroke and Area Airport in Petawawa.

CMP Seeks Noise Bylaw Exemptions for Events

Calabogie MotorSports Park is seeking an exemption from the noise bylaw for the Township of Great Madawaska for two upcoming events. One is the IMSA (International Motor Sport Association) Gt3 Race Weekend on May 13-15, and the other is the Calabogie Cup taking place June 24- 26. The noise level bylaw stands at 45 decibels and Calabogie MotorSports is seeking permission for a level up to 65 decibels for those two events. Interestingly, Calabogie MotorSports voluntarily reimburses 50% of bylaw enforcement cost to the municipality.

Hospital Opens Satellite Chemo Clinic

On May 2nd at 2:30pm, Pembroke Regional Hospital officially opened its new Chemotherapy Satellite Clinic, which has been operating since February 28th. The Clinic is a joint partnership between the Pembroke Regional Hospital and the Ottawa Hospital Regional Cancer Program and offers chemotherapy and medical day care services such as blood transfusions and pain management. It is anticipated to accommodate up to 400 patient visits in its first year.

10th Anniversary

Play it Again Sports in Arnprior has celebrated its 10th anniversary. The business owners are Greg and Christine LeBarron.

Bowser & Blue

Kiwanis Club of Pembroke presents Bowser and Blue, Canada's Favourite Musical Comedy Duo. The event takes place at Festival Hall in Pembroke on June 4, 2011 at 8:00pm. Tickets \$37.59 at the Box Office or 613-735-2182 All Proceeds to the Kiwanis "Young Children - Priority One" campaign.



Ontarians And Owning a Home

70%

...who rent say owning a home is in their plan

54%

...rent because they cannot afford a home

52%

...rent because they don't have a down-payment

26%

...rent so they don't have to worry about maintenance

25%

... rent because they don't want the responsibility of owning a home

71%

...say the process of buying a first home is overwhelming

95%

...say the process of buying a home is expensive

70%

...find it hard to save for their first home

81%

...say owning a home is more difficult now than it was for their parents

89%

...think owning a home will be more difficult for the next generation

86%

...believe home ownership is good to build equity/wealth

79%

...believe RRSPs are good for building equity and wealth

74%

...believe savings accounts are good for building equity/wealth

Source: Ipsos Reid



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Energy Boost: Solar project draws attention

Janota refers to the Kinburn solar farm in which Jp2g has had some engineering involvement. He says their Ottawa office also has an engineer studying wind energy options as well. So how is this in line with their corporate thinking?

“We have a green office program,” says Janota. “We are having an impact on the earth and from what scientists are telling us, the earth is finite and we are having a lot of negative impact. It is important to minimize that impact on the environment. It's a sensible thing to do.”

Janota says they do all the key things- minimize electricity use, reduce paper, keep temperatures a bit warmer and cooler in the summer/winter and, of course, recycling. He says the “younger staff” was really instrumental in going forward



The four “arrays” outside the office of Jp2g in Pembroke.

with the green office program.

“It's all interesting stuff,” says Janota, referring to their green office and solar programs. “We kind of figure we should be a player in it.”

For Dixon, it's more of a personal interest. He has different systems at the Jp2g office and at his farm and Janota's home.

“All the systems are different,” he says. “We can compare the effectiveness.”

The corporate system is a manual tilt, meaning that the arrays can be tilted to attract the most sun based on the seasons. For the houses, the system is fixed and does not move. There is also a rotating system that is available.

Dixon has printed out maps from Natural Resources Canada that shows the Ottawa Valley is the second highest producing region of kilowatt hours in all of Canada, second

only to the flatlands of the prairies. He's proud to be part of his “new” technology, although he feels as though he has come full circle in a way.

“We had solar on our farm for 10 years,” he says, “not because we wanted necessarily wanted to be green, but because we needed power in the fields.”

How does that saying go...all things old are new again?



Feedback from Options 2011 Skilled Trades and Career Fair

“I got my job from there!”

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The Role of the Media

A message from one of the political campaigns



Well, it was an interesting night on the political front in this country. Congratulations to all the local candidates who, by agreeing to be a candidate, gave us an opportunity for choice in governance of the country.

Elizabeth May

I watched about two hours of coverage on election night on CBC. At the mid-way point of my watching, they went to Elizabeth May's campaign where she was just arriving. She was leading, but with only a dozen or so polls reporting. While I am not a Green Party supporter, I appreciate her positiveness and determination to introduce a new party to the Canadian people. On election night, however, she took me

by surprise. When the CBC reporter asked her for some comments, she took the opportunity to blame the media for not covering her party. And, she wasn't short about it.

She blamed the media for not inviting her to the debates, and for not promoting her party. When the reporter noted that the party chose to spend all their money on electing her, she stated quite frankly that was because the media was not going to help anyone else get elected, so it was their best chance for a seat.

First, I was surprised to hear those comments. Was she not aware that the local media covered their Green Party candidate? I did. I know the media in the Ottawa Valley did. I can only assume the same happened across the country. What about the rest of us who gave your party time and coverage?

Secondly, I had read that the

local candidates were being green by not posting signs. Then, the CBC reporter mentions, and she agrees, that they just put the party money into her personal campaign! And, her reason for doing so was because the media wasn't going to cover the party anyway.

The Role of Media

On a local, non-political level, I am asked about media coverage all the time. Why is the media not covering my event? Why didn't they write this story about my business?

Here is how media works:

1) They cover events and news that they have time for, and that they feel are relevant to producing the best media package for their customers.

2) They offer a service that, for a fee, you can use their distribution channel to promote your business or event. This is called advertising.

We are quite spoiled with

our local media who are good to provide "free" opportunities for promotion of events and happenings. Unfortunately, that seems to lead people to think it is their job to do that. It isn't. The only way to ensure that the media promote your event is to pay for it. If you aren't willing to pay for it, then you get what you get and you need to be satisfied with that.

There are many ways to promote your message that do not involve the media, and those ways usually involved a commitment of time in order to achieve. The media provides an opportunity to reach a mass audience, without that commitment of time. This is one of its key benefits in our society.

Note: I couldn't help but notice our parliament is now blue and orange...maybe that is a sign of a "forward thinking" parliament?

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A special thanks to my clients who inspire me with every project, and by their commitment to being in business; to the Canadian Youth Business Foundation (CYBF) who made it financially possible for me to pursue this business; to the Renfrew County Regional Science & Technology Fair for being my first client; to the Upper Ottawa Valley Chamber of Commerce and the members of the business community for welcoming me as an entrepreneur; to my family and friends for understanding my love for this work; and finally to my parents, who have made it possible for every dream in my life come true.

Jennifer Layman, President
Forward Thinking

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May 18

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