

# Blue Sky News



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## International Air Rally comes to North Bay



On July 22, over 100 pilots and international media personalities will be landing at the North Bay Jack Garland Airport for a 24 hour destination stop which is part of the International Air Rally (IAR). During their visit in North Bay, which will be hosted by the Blue Sky Economic Growth Corporation, pilots and journalists will be taking in the sights and unique aspects of North Bay, by attending a guided tour through NORAD's underground military base - the Hole, dining in the Canadore Aviation Hanger and concluding their evening on a sunset cruise on Lake Nipissing aboard the Chief Commanda II.

This will be North Bay's first time as a hosting city, but for the IAR organization, this will mark the fourth anniversary for this event. With this year's expansion to the Maritimes, by 2007 the IAR organizers hope to encompass all of Canada. International Air Rally is not a race! The winners of the \$30,000 total grand prize will be tested on different skills: navigation, physical skills (stress, endurance) and general knowledge (mechanic, survival, first aid). The most efficient and complete team will be rewarded, not the fastest.

The pilots will travel from Europe and the USA to compete with Canadian pilots. Members of the Media will come from farther distances, such as Japan, Germany, Italy and France. Canada's own CTV will air this fall on prime time (Saturday 6:30pm and Sunday 6:30pm) the film produced during the 2004 Air Rally edition. RDA Productions, the producers of the famous Travel-Travel series, will produce the film. It will capture the events, participants, the people, their customs and many different heritages along the way.

## Chilean Mining Partnership

On Thursday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Governor Jorge Molina Carcamo and representatives from numerous Chilean mining companies visited North Bay during their weeklong Ontario visit. During their visit here, Rahmet, a crusher service company, and Inser, a Chilean mining operation, formed an incorporated partnership that will specialize in repair of crushers and other industrial products in South America's largest mining region. With this new partnership, Marc Lacasse (of Rahmet) has seen his company expand, with the hiring of five new people and expectations of future expansion.

Carcamo said that he hopes a stronger commercial relationship will develop; this is the first step in the new relationship between North Bay and the Antofagasta Region. It is partnerships such as this, which solidifies companies here in North Bay, and Carcamo adds "It's a real move to the future that makes them one of the leading players in the mining sector here. There's a dozen North Bay companies that deal in Antofagasta, so this cluster concept is really working nicely."

After the partnership meetings and banquets, Governor Carcamo came to the Blue Sky EGC office to meet with General Manager Susan Church, and find out more about the cluster concept; the benefits and successes that this Region has realized. During this meeting Carcamo not only listened and asked questions about the Blue Sky Region, he also gave his input as well and added that he felt the Cluster concept was working very well and he looks forward to implementing this concept in Antofagasta.



Chilean Mining Delegation meets with Blue Sky Mining Industry Reps and North Bay dignitaries.

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## Forest Product Industry ‘Reinvented’ in Mattawa

March 29th, 2004 – The network of Northeastern Ontario Community Futures Development Corporations with the financial support of FedNor, hosted a “Reinventing the Forest Product Industry” Forum at the Canadian Ecology Centre on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

*“We expect this forum to launch what may be the most dramatic period of change for the Forestry industry in Northeastern Ontario”.*

*-Chris Rees*

The Forest product industry is one of the most significant economic contributors to Northeastern Ontario. The Forum was initiated to bring all the Forest Product Industry stakeholders together to discuss and plan for the future of the industry.

The Forum included world leaders in the Forest Product Industry including Lars Sandberg of Timwood AB in Sweden. Timwood is one of the world's leading consultant firms specializing in the wood products industry. Many of the world's forest industry leaders rely on Timwood's services. This gives the company a unique perspective on the state and development of the industry.

Bo Borgstrom president of CEI Bois (Confederation of European Wood Industries) was another keynote speaker on the first day of the Forum. He has been the architect of the planning strategy to “reinvent” the forest industry in Finland and to make wood based products the leading solution in Europe for structural building systems and interior system products.

There were presentations by many of Northeastern Ontario's most important Forest Industry stakeholders. Over a hundred participants attended representing forest reliant communities, industry and all three levels of government.

“We expect this forum to launch what may be the most dramatic period of change for the Forestry industry in Northeastern Ontario. We brought together representatives of the industry, communities and governments to have their say on how Northeastern Ontario's Forest Product Industry can move to a “growth agenda” said Chris Rees, Managing Partner of North Bay's Suthey Holler Associates, and Forum Director.

## Important dates approach for Project Skywire

After months of consultation with Blue Sky Net, Industry Canada seems to be poised to sign a contribution agreement with the group planning to deliver broadband Internet to unserved communities in the region. “Things have been really busy around here. We have been working very closely with the program representatives (Broadband for Rural and Northern Development or ‘BRAND’) to make sure all our ducks are in a row.” said Jeff Buell, Blue Sky Net's Project Coordinator.

In a recent communiqué to its steering committee, Blue Sky Net addressed the reasons for the “delays” in making the service available. “We made statements earlier regarding when Skywire would start construction. Our timeframe was a little optimistic, but at the time we did not know as much as we do now about the process” Buell said. “What we are doing is pretty complicated, and big in scale. Added to that is the fact that we are one of a handful of projects BRAND has funded during the pilot phase of the program. We (Blue Sky Net and Industry Canada) are basically writing the book on this. They are setting a precedent in how they wish to deal with these projects in the future.”

Project Manager Scott Mannering is equally as optimistic; “We are behind the schedule we originally set for ourselves, but the delays are in no way reflective of problems with Skywire. In fact, I would say the opposite; the delays are because we want to make sure this network delivers the best service to the most people, and that it is sustainable. From an Industry Canada perspective, they want to make sure that they are spending public funds the right way, I see no problems with that.”

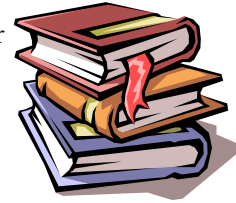
“I think that the hard stuff is pretty much behind us, all there's left to do is build this thing” Mannering said with a laugh.



## Tourism moving forward

From January 29th to May 31st (2004), the Tourism Cluster of the Blue Sky Region has held 2 meetings and have created a mandate for the cluster. The committee meets once a month to discuss issues which are affecting the region, as well as entertain proposals for special events or input on issues.

Many of the committee members have already identified many of the benefits which the cluster provides: the festivals have already sought partnerships with other committee members in order to cut down their individual costs, the individual industries have found ways to work together and use ideas from other sectors.



Collectively as a cluster they have decided that now is the time to embark on an Economic Impact Study for the Region. The Study will enable the cluster (individual operators and municipalities) to use the information and stats gathered from the study to leverage funds from the government as well as to use it as a key marketing tool.

The enthusiasm and willingness to work together is a key factor in the cluster's success, this energy will be what propels them into their projects and strive for continued success. Be prepared to see results from this rejuvenated cluster.

## New Economic Development office opens with Regional Support



*Ribbon cutting of the new Mattawa-Bonfield Economic Development Office*

Nipissing's Bob Wood, M.P. and Monique Smith, M.P.P, officially opened the Mattawa-Bonfield Economic Development office today. The office is located at 105 Landon Street in the Hamlet of Bonfield.

"One of the keys to success is working together as a team with a single goal. With the support of all the neighboring municipalities and the federal and provincial governments, the Mattawa Bonfield Economic Development Office has achieved this and is off and running," commented Mr. Wood. "The Strategic Plan was initially developed with the assistance of FedNor funding. The ideas generated from this Committee will certainly help this area continue to be economically viable

which in turn will ensure a great place to live," added Wood.

"I believe the co-operation and foresight of the townships of Bonfield, Calvin, Papineau-Cameron, Mattawan and the Town of Mattawa to unify and create a strong economic voice will pay great dividends to these five communities." said Monique Smith, MPP for Nipissing. Susan Church, General Manager for the Blue Sky Region echoed similar comments, "that all local Municipalities have to collectively work together"

David Thompson, the EDO can be reached at 705-776-2225 or mbedc@bellnet.ca

## Blue Sky EGC Board update

The Blue Sky Region has been asked by the North Bay Health Care Task Force to carry on the tasks that they have begun. In doing so, the BSEGC has adopted a Health Care Sector, which is Regional in scope. This new addition to the Blue Sky Region will allow us to create a permanent cluster where we may further discuss the issues that the Health Care profession faces.

Greg Ducharme, of Wallace Klein Partners In Law has been appointed as the new Treasurer for the BSEGC Board of Directors. BSEGC is proceeding with plans to initiate an HR Gap Analysis with the Blue Sky Region sectors. Having an HR Gap Analysis implemented for the region will allow us to determine our training/education needs.

A permanent booth in the North Bay Shopping Centre is to be the centre for festivals, which will be maintained year round as a static display.

The First Nations walleye hatchery has been a huge success, releasing over 250,000 to 300,000 one and a half inch walleye newborns into the lake this year.

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*Mobilizing the Region  
with a shared  
economic vision.*

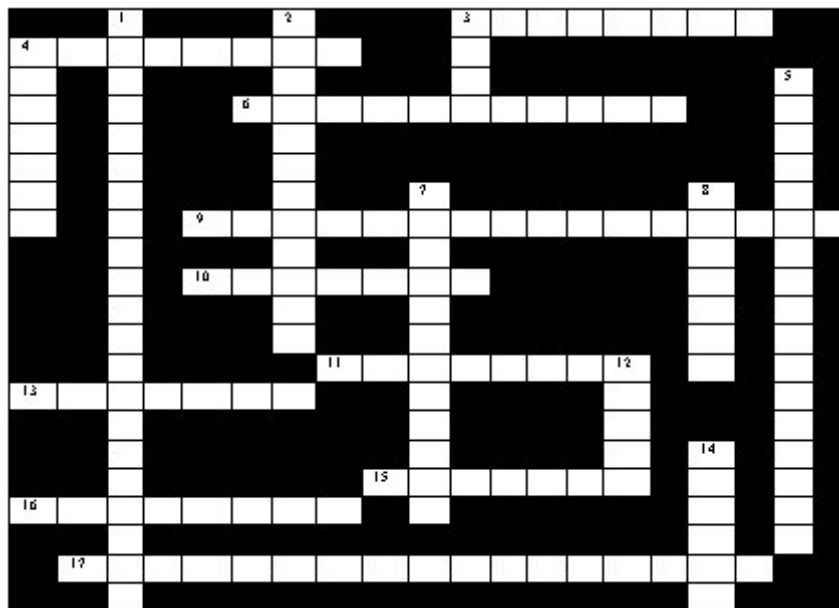
**We're on the Web!!**  
**[www.blueskyegc.ca](http://www.blueskyegc.ca)**



Blue Sky News

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## Blue Sky Crossword



Test your knowledge and see how much you know about the region:

### Across

3. Bend in the river
4. Which ex-Centennial sank a shark in 2004
6. Largest lake in Canada without an island
9. Event that began as a Mayor's Day in the Late 70's
10. "Ontario's biggest little town"
11. Type of Impact Study the Blue Sky Region Tourism Cluster is engaging in
13. Insect with a life span of 36 hours
15. Dish that Sturgeon is well known for
16. Hunt that began in South River in May and Ends June 5th
17. A golfers paradise with 7 courses to choose from

### Down

1. Competition of navigation, physical skills and general knowledge
2. Festival that celebrates heritage of Mattawa
3. Bear tamed in Burke's Falls
4. Meeting of two rivers
5. Lookout that stands 1300 ft above sea level
7. New Economic Development Officer for the MBEDC
8. Popular year-round activity
12. Recent partnership made with companies from this country
14. Restoule farm well known for their "hives"

\*\*\*Look for the link to the answers at: <http://www.blueskyegc.ca/homepage.htm> \*\*\*



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