

Rural nursing and community care facility expands

by Stella Shepard

Seniors Care



From left: Jennifer Penny, Director of Nursing, Sandra MacNeil, RN, and Douglas MacKenzie, owner of Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge. "Our community setting is a great option for those accustomed to rural community living," says Douglas. "We are one of the largest rural employers in the Southern Kings and Queens county area."

The **Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge** is a nursing and community care facility situated in a tranquil rural setting in the picturesque community of Belfast. The Lodge was started in 1987 and officially opened the following year. "It's a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation that presently employs 67 people," say owners **Douglas** and **Joan MacKenzie**.

In 1996, the Lodge expanded from 34 beds to 62 beds. Another expansion, which will be completed by early spring, will add 20 more beds. "One bed will be for palliative care, which we've never had before," says Douglas. "The expansion could create 20 more positions, depending on the licensing we will acquire."

"The new expansion will provide improved working conditions for staff and better suit the needs of the residents. It will include a state-of-the-art Alzheimer unit, a new bathing system, a modern nursing station, and a renovated kitchen."

Potential jobs

Potential full-time jobs include:

- Two Registered Nurses
- Two Junior Care Workers
- Two Licensed Practical Nurses
- Two Housekeeping staff
- Ten Registered Care Workers
- Two Kitchen staff

Entry-level positions

"Junior Care Workers (JCW) are considered entry-level positions," says Douglas. "We usually hire students for the positions. They don't need any specific training or experience, and we will provide minor training. They must be 16 years or older."

"JCW duties include transferring residents to their meals and assisting residents with daily living. These positions provide an introduction to jobs in healthcare. Many of our former JCW staff have gone on to pursue other careers in the healthcare field."

For more information about employment opportunities at **Dr. John Gillis Memorial Lodge**, contact **Douglas MacKenzie** at 659-2337.

Visit the website at www.gillislodge.com



Family-owned business keeps current with industry

by Patricia Roy

Trades



FIX Auto Central PEI. From left, is owner **Paul Weeks** and his father **Albert Weeks**, who founded the business. Front right, is Paul's brother **Mark**, employee, and cousin **Marvin Weeks**, the manager. Also are employees **Gord Garriock**, **Lyle MacMillan**, and **Jack Ray Bernard**.

About 12 years ago, owner **Paul Weeks** took over the business started by his father **Albert** in 1969. The collision repair service in Pleasant Valley, now called **FIX Auto Central PEI**, was originally known as **Weeks Auto Body**.

The family-owned car collision repair business became part of a national franchise two years ago, says manager **Marvin Weeks**, Paul's cousin.

"It's a very competitive industry. Being part of a franchise enables us to offer our customers a nation-wide warranty program. And it helps the business to be more efficient when working with insurance companies, many of which are not based on PEI."

"We also renovated the building inside and out. The renovations were necessary to accommodate new water-based car painting techniques and to meet new government standards that will come into effect this June."

Number of employees and training

FIX Auto has five full-time and two part-time employees. "We prefer to train our own staff," says Marvin. "We also work with the Cooperative program at Bluefield High School. After finishing the program, two of our employees were given full-time employment."

"We continue to provide apprenticeship training to these two employees so that they can become licensed in auto body repair and eventually earn their Red Seal."

Where to go for training

No formal training is available for car collision repair on the Island. Apprentices usually go to Moncton or Halifax to get their block training in order to earn their Red Seal.

"Our business is **I-Car Gold Class**, which means that every employee in this shop has to take ongoing training," says Marvin. "Paul and his brother Mark have earned I-CAR Platinum status, which is the highest level awarded to an individual by I-Car Canada."

Advice for entrepreneurs

Customer service is really important in any business. "You have to be aware of your customers' needs and do your best to meet those needs," he says. "You also have to stay on top of the constant changes in the industry."

"My advice for any entrepreneur is to look at your business needs. Then look at your employees' attributes and strengths and fit people to the tasks that need to be done. Hire people with different skill sets and knowledge in more than one area. This will give you a well-rounded business that can offer more services to your customers."

For more information, call 964-2678 or visit www.fixauto.com



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