

The Employment Journey

PEI's Top Source for Career Planning and Job Seeking

Bioscience company brings more jobs to Kings County

by Stella Shepard

Phyterra Yeast Inc. is expanding its bioscience operation to produce functionally enhanced yeast products used in the wine industry. The new facility will be located in the former McGowan Tractor building in Summerville, Kings County.

“The production facility will create 20 new long-term, well-paying jobs,” says Garth Greenham, President. “Hiring will begin this year, after the construction of an addition to the building is completed.”



Garth Greenham, President of Phytterra Yeast, recently announced the company is expanding its operations, which will result in long-term employment.

“We’ve made a commitment to hire locally if at all possible. PEI has a reputation of having a good workforce. Stability in the workplace is important. We feel there is great value in hiring Islanders who will make the commitment to stay long-term.”

Growing industry

“Bioscience is a rapidly growing industry,” says Garth. “Bioscience is an opportunity to add value to products from the land and the sea that produce well-paying jobs especially in these tough financial times. The provincial

and federal governments have done an excellent job and continue to support this growth. Bioscience is a relatively new sector on PEI that is going to need continuing government support.”

About Phytterra

During the production of a number of foods such as wine, spirits, soy sauce, and bread, the yeast added to these foods creates a chemical called ethyl carbamate. In 2007, the World Health Organization announced an increased health risk of this chemical. Phytterra Yeast Inc. develops and commercializes advanced yeast products that helps prevent the formation of this chemical.

“The company’s most recent development is that we added a new feature that prevents the formation of hydrogen sulphide, a by-product of wine production that can make the product smell like rotten eggs,” says Garth. “This product was developed at the **National Research Centre Institute for Nutrisciences and Health**. We have conducted successful commercial trials in the USA and Chile which have shown that our product reduces the amount of ethyl carbamate without changing the taste of the wine.”

Along with the research and development lab in Charlottetown, last year the company started the renovation of a 36,000 square foot building in Grahams Pond near Montague. The facility, still under construction, includes an advanced spray dryer and a research and development laboratory. The spray dryer is capable of producing



Jessica Swanson of Montague is a Fermentation Development Technician for Phytterra Yeast Inc. Jessica graduated from Montague High School and has a Bachelors Degree in Science from the University of New Brunswick.



Phytterra Yeast is expanding its operations to a new location at the former McGowan Tractor building in Summerville, Kings County.

dry yeast for the wine industry as well as manufacturing powder from food and other products.

Jobs at the Summerville location

- **Production**
“These positions would be ideal for graduates of the Bioscience Technology program at Holland College. We will also provide on-the-job training for students from the college program.”
- **Quality Assurance**
These positions will require a Bachelor of Science degree, and are suitable for UPEI graduates.
- **Quality Control**
These positions also require a Bachelor of Science degree.
- **Warehouse**
This is an entry-level position that requires experience in this area.
- **Accounting**
This position requires formal education in accounting.
- **Lab Technicians**
- **Scientists**
“Four of our science team members will move from their present location at the National Research Centre Institute for Nutrisciences and Health in Charlottetown,” says Garth.

Hiring more staff for Grahams Pond location

Since opening the Grahams Pond facility, the company has hired three full-time staff. As well, they provided work experience for students from the Bioscience Technology program at Holland College.

The company plans to hire about **eight** more staff after construction at Grahams Pond is completed. The positions will include: **Site Manager, Production Staff, and Engineers**. Islanders will have the first opportunity for the positions. Hiring should begin in early spring.

“With the Summerville and Grahams Pond facilities, we will continue to test, develop and produce larger amounts of yeast for commercial sales,” says Garth.

Jobs will be posted in local newspapers and through www.peijoblink.ca

For more information, visit www.phytterra.com or www.firstventuretechnologies.com or contact **Garth Greenham** at 647-204-4095.



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