

It's all about the passion

by Patricia Roy

Culture

“You need passion to pursue and live your dream,” says **Christian Gallant**, an award winner at the annual **2009 Entrepreneurs' Banquet** held in Summerside in March.

Christian, a native of St-Timothée, a community in the Évangéline area, was the recipient of the **2009 JEFLIPE Award** (Young Enterprising Person of PEI).

RDEE PEI presented Christian the award to thank him for his undying devotion to the cultural and artistic development of the province.

Christian is a singer/songwriter and musician. He became involved in the cultural aspects of his community while still in school. He has written songs for his 2000 graduating class, numerous weddings, and the dinner-theatre *La Cuisine à Mémé*. His song **Tempête** was chosen as the theme song for the S.O.S. Louisiana campaign, a fund-raiser to help areas of Louisiana devastated by Hurricane Katrina. In 2008, he also coordinated activities for the 250th commemoration of the Acadian Deportation.

Christian is pursuing opportunities toward his goal of a career in the music industry. In addition to his many involvements, he was also assistant director for the Éloizes Awards. These awards, which honour Francophone artists in Atlantic Canada, were held on the Island for the first time last spring.



Christian Gallant, centre, is the proud recipient of the 2009 JEFLIPE Award, presented by Raymond J. Arseneault of RDEE Prince Edward Island. The award was sponsored by La Voix acadienne, represented by Marcia Enman.

Training leads to employment

A current resident of Charlottetown, Christian graduated with a diploma in Human Services in 2002. He soon realized his soul yearned for training in the performing arts. He went on to graduate from a two-year program at the **College of the North Atlantic** in

Stephenville, Newfoundland called **Music Industry and Performance**. He now works from September to April as **Artist Relations Coordinator** for the **East Coast Music Association**. In the off season, while working on numerous projects, he also works part-time at a Charlottetown restaurant.

Dedication is key

“It takes time and dedication and a lot of hard work to make a living as a performer,” says Christian. “Receiving this year’s JEFLIPE Award provides me with a sense of accomplishment. It shows that people in the community are recognizing the time and energy it takes for me to live my dream.”

Future plans

Christian says his future plans include continuing to work for the industry he loves and writing songs for his second album. “Depending how the writing process goes, I hope to be able to release the album later this year,” he says.

For more information about Christian Gallant, visit www.christiangallant.com



For information about **RDEE PEI**, call **854-3439**



or visit www.rdeceipe.ca

For information about the **College of the North Atlantic**, visit www.cna.nl.ca

Signs of the times

by Patricia Roy

Manufacturing

Making directional signs and other items for the **2009 Canada Games** is creating employment for a group of people in West Prince, says **David Anderson**, Managing Director of **Resources West Inc.** The 2009 Canada Games will be held in August on PEI.

Resources West is doing the work on behalf of the **2009 Canada Games Host Society** through a **Canada / Prince Edward Island Labour Market Development Agreement Job Creation Partnerships** project. “We are in the second phase of the project,” says David. “Right now, eight people are employed. They are working on two different projects: making signs for the 2009 Canada Games and constructing components to be used during the games such as picnic tables, medal podiums and cabinetry. Materials for the projects are purchased in the area whenever possible, and this in turn helps keep people employed in local businesses.”

More workers may be needed by summer

Work on the second phase of the project started in December 2008 and will end September 4th. “We may need more workers for a short period in June and July to post signs at locations across the Island,” says David.



Wendy Fleming, Supervisor of the 2009 Canada Games fabrication shop in Bloomfield, displays a sign made by the group of West Prince workers.

Transferable skills

David says the workers are gaining valuable skills that are transferable to many other areas of employment. “They are learning to use the tools and techniques that go into making signs, picnic tables, umpire chairs, medal podiums and lockers. They are also learning to use printing presses and to read basic blueprints.

“The work is done as the orders come in and as soon as they are completed the pieces are shipped to the Games’ warehouse at Slemon Park for storage,” says David. “These items will then be transported from Summerside to the various venues all over the Island for the two weeks of the Games.”

Experience leads to supervisory position

Wendy Fleming has a background in quality assurance. She worked in the first phase of the project last summer making various items such as ticket booths, gazebos, and the venue signs for the 2009 Canada Games. This time, she is the supervisor for the sign shop.

Skills and life experience

“It’s great to be part of the event in this way, working with people from varied backgrounds and ages,” says Wendy. “The people working on these projects don’t necessarily have a background in this kind of work, but they bring their own life experience to the job. And most of the workers here have also signed up to volunteer for the 2009 Canada Games. They want to be part of the whole experience.”

For more information about **Resources West**, call **853-4555** or visit www.resourceswest.pe.ca



For more information about the **2009 Canada Games**, visit www.2009canadagames.ca