

Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS)

by Peter Gee

In 1989, the Canadian Information Processing Society introduced the Information Systems Professional program which was designed to recognize the significant part IT Practitioners play in the information age. It is currently the only certification program of its kind in Canada. Since its introduction, many IT professionals have fulfilled the requirements and are entitled to use the I.S.P. designation with their names. Many provinces, including New Brunswick, have enacted legislation which allows the program to be administered like other self-regulating bodies such as the Chartered Accountants.

More recently, CIPS has just embarked on a 5 Year Strategic Business Plan to evolve the Canadian IT workforce to a mature profession. This includes a nation-wide campaign entitled "CIO's for Professionalism" to engage CIO's in the process. It encourages them to take a leadership role in areas such as supporting certification of their IT staff and including an "I.S.P. preferred" statement in all relevant job postings. CIPS is approaching CIO's across the country through one-on-one meetings and local CIO summits. The association will be delivering a presentation that speaks to the specific needs of CIO's and how professionalism and the I.S.P. designation can reduce risk, increase reliability, lower costs, and enhance the marketability of IT services. They will also be invited to join a provincial CIO Advisory Panel to provide ongoing input to the program.

Together, we will see the IT sector transformed into a fully matured profession. Perhaps then IT will join the more established professions.

New Brunswick: A World leader in innovative solutions in forestry and aquaculture

by Jeff McNally

When it comes to managing its natural resources, New Brunswick has experience in inventive and uniquely original problem solving. In fact, the province's natural resource management industry is abuzz with innovative solutions to traditional problems in its forestry and aquaculture sectors.

Seeing the forest and the trees

It's not likely a surprise to most that forestry is a pillar of the province's economy, particularly in light of the fact that approximately one in eight New Brunswickers work for the industry. Forestry accounts for over 15,000 direct jobs and 13,000 indirect jobs in the province.

Forestry is New Brunswick's top export earner, accounting for over 30 percent of provincial exports with annual sales totalling more than \$4 billion.

What may not be generally known is that a growing portion of the sector's employees are skilled members of the knowledge industry, working in such areas as forest management, research, and software development.

"New Brunswick identified a potential shortage of wood supply 20 years or so ago," explains Nairn Hay, general manager of the Fundy Model Forest, an organization based in Sussex dedicated to ensuring healthy forests for future generations through sustainable forest management and conservation of biodiversity. "This forced the forest industry in the province to lead in the innovation of technologies to inventory, track and manage the wood supply."

New Brunswick has developed a history of partnership between academic, private and industrial sectors. This history has facilitated the development of innovative planning tools that are currently used in the management of forests in New Brunswick and abroad.

Fredericton based Remsoft Inc., for example, successfully markets its suite of forest management software products

across public and private sectors in Canada, the United States, Australia, New Zealand, South America and Southeast Asia. It is also committed to fostering partnerships with academic institutions, including the University of New Brunswick, for research and academic purposes.



"Through a partnership between Remsoft and UNB, students are able to learn the most advanced forest management software applications," says Hay. "The students, as they develop their careers, transport the knowledge gained using the software to points across Canada often introducing employers to Remsoft products."

In addition to software development, the province is a leader in research applications, with substantial expertise in forest growth, the genetic basis of wood formation, and sustainability.

"Our research initiatives are very much operationally motivated with specific goals in mind," explains David Young of J.D. Irving, Limited in Saint John. "From our world class tree-improvement program, to our long term commitments to fresh water fisheries, and to providing a sustainable supply of quality timber

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products to our mills requires innovative technologies.

"I think we are doing a great job base on the long term commitment of the New Brunswick government, forest industries long term plans, and the healthy growing forest we have come to enjoy," continues Young. "A big strategic advantage New Brunswick enjoys is its close proximity to world markets. As a low cost producer, coupled with short market transportation, our industry is afforded the luxury to reinvest in our infrastructure."

"There are many positive things happening in the industry and contrary to most news releases it is not a sunset industry," adds Hay. "It is here to stay for the very long term."

Local waters, global technologies

Forestry is not alone when it comes to impressive applications of research and technology in natural resource management. New Brunswick's aquaculture and marine sciences is a rapidly growing sector in which innovation abounds.

With an annual wholesale production value of approximately 250 million dollars, aquaculture is an important part of New Brunswick's economic fabric. The production of Atlantic salmon alone annually generates nearly 4800 jobs in the areas of salmon culturing and processing and related service industries. Salmon aquaculture is the largest farm-gate revenue generator in the province's food sector, and a cornerstone of the coastal rural economy.

"Our industry is small by global standards, but the industry represents a fair amount of world leaders in the field," says John Argall, executive director of BioAtlantech-NB, the lead agency for developing the life sciences industry in the province. "Also, by nature of Canadian branding, the industry has the opportunity to deploy novel Canadian feed and fish health technologies, as well as Canada's renowned food regulatory system to secure global markets."

Argall adds that on the research and development (R&D) side of things, there is a movement afoot to establish the Charlotte County/Bay of Fundy region as a centre for aquaculture innovation in Canada and North America. It is strategically located as a gateway for new technologies to the region, and to North America.

The Research Productivity Council (RPC), a New Brunswick contract research & development, and technical services corporation based in Fredericton, boasts a strong

team in molecular biology and fish health microbiology, and is a major player in the province's R&D activities. RPC's skilled scientists collaborate with a network of Atlantic region researchers to provide cutting edge diagnostic and vaccine technology to the industry.

"Proactively anticipating and preventing fish disease is one of the best ways to ensure that consumers continue to enjoy the excellent quality of New Brunswick salmon," says Dr. Rachael Ritchie, head of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture at RPC.

The RPC works closely with the region's aquaculture industry and keep a close eye on global development to stay one step ahead by developing diagnostic and preventative techniques.

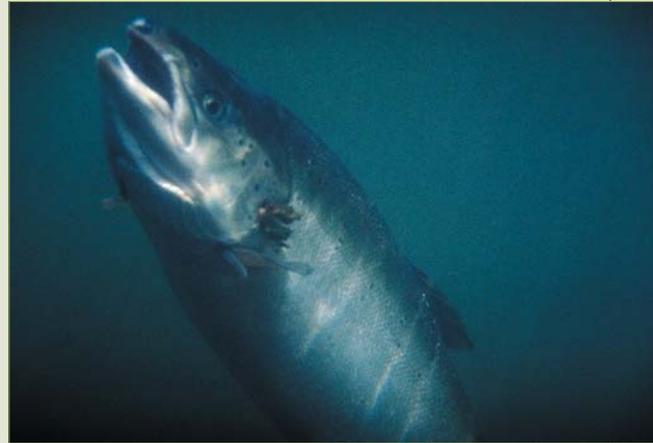
Other New Brunswick scientists are also exploring research activities and innovative applications of new technologies.

Dr. Thierry Chopin's team of scientists at the University of New Brunswick - Saint John and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in St. Andrews, for example, are renowned in the science of integrated aquaculture.

Their research involves rearing seaweed and mussels in the same cultivation unit,

with the nutrients and food from the salmon farm acting as fertilizer and source of energy for the other crops, while providing bioremediation of the site. This provides the benefit of further diversification in coastal communities.

On a global scale aquaculture is expected to grow at 11 percent annually over



the next few decades. In New Brunswick, scientists and entrepreneurs have begun to add value to the stellar salmon industry, while exploring and developing technological advances in such areas as polyculture and biotechnology.

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