

Construction outlook for 2018

by Stacy Dunn

Sam Sanderson of the Construction Association of PEI (CAPEI) says there's every indication the sector is booming and moving forward on the Island.

"There are bigger and better things to come in 2018 and 2019 with recent announcements of plans for residential and commercial construction," he says. "Residential housing starts were up 43.7 percent in 2017 compared to 2016, and PEI is leading the nation in commercial construction per capita."

Recruiting challenges

"We have great opportunities and partnerships within the community to make the trades a great career path and build the Island's economy," Sam says. "Our members are looking to hire up to 400 additional workers to keep up with the extraordinary demand."

"Multiple companies are looking for estimators and they can't find them. Some companies have been looking for two years; one company has hired a head hunter in Ontario and has had no success in three months."

Youth in trades

CAPEI has administered a Youth in Trades program for 25 years. The program accepts youth at risk and helps them build a trades career.

"The program is tremendous in helping youth get apprenticeships. The Government of Canada has given funding for the next three years through its Youth Employment Strategy to continue the work."

In 2017, the Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning, through the Canada-PEI labour market agreements, supported CAPEI to form Team Construction which included a Youth in Trades program.

Recruitment campaign

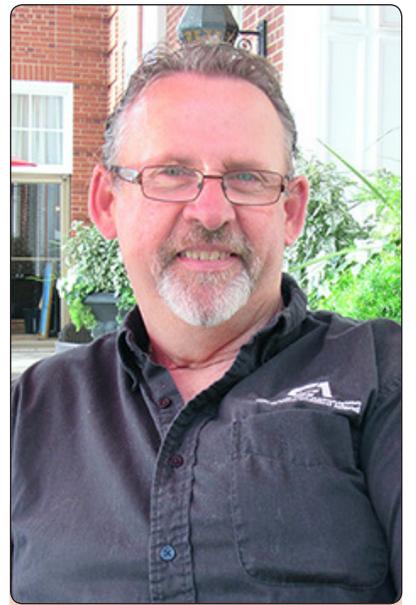
"All government levels are listening to the needs of the industry and are working in partnership to get people interested in the trades sector."

Sam says construction associations across Canada are seeing similar skill shortages. CAPEI is working to attract skilled trades workers with **IslandBuilder.ca** funded by SkillsPEI, a division of Department of Workforce and Advanced Learning. This recruitment campaign will feature radio and poster ads across the country in 2018. "We want to let people know the industry is strong on PEI, and you can build a career and a life here."

Human resources support for members

CAPEI has 190 active members, and numbers are growing. Sam notes many of the member companies need support for their hiring needs.

The association has hired **Kevin McGee** as HR Manager. He regularly meets with CAPEI members and will post open positions on **WorkPEI.ca** for them. "I am working with the companies to see what their needs are now and what positions are hardest to fill. I look forward to raising awareness of the construction industry on PEI and helping to attract skilled trades workers."



Sam Sanderson, General Manager, Construction Association of PEI.

"Our members are so busy managing their work such as accounting, estimating, scheduling and staff," Sam says. "They have told us time and time again they don't have the time to post a job. We hope the service will promote trades and help match job seekers with employers."

For more information about the **Construction Association of PEI**, call 902-368-3303.

Visit www.capei.ca



Owner expands his construction company and takes over local restaurant

by Ruby Arsenault

JC Handy Man Services & Sales in Alberton is expanding and moving to a new and larger location at 530 Main Street, next to the curling club.

"The new location for the retail renovation and supplies business will offer more products, along with access to a more convenient parking lot for customers," says **Joey Carragher**, Owner and Operator. "I am proud to say we have outgrown the present location."

Joey began his business in 2013 with one employee. Today, he has up to eight employees during busy times, and a fleet of service vehicles.

The new location is presently under construction. It has double the square footage of the previous location. Joey hopes to offer new products, and will continue to sell paint products and building supplies such as windows, doors, siding, steel roofing, and flooring.

"We provide price estimates and measuring for home repairs, we order the products for customers, and they are free to choose who does the installing," says Joey.

Joey also manages a busy construction crew of six, and offers services from home repairs and painting to new residential and commercial construction.

Paint & décor

Staff member **Meagan Deagle**, a certified Home Decorator, assists customers with choosing colors and the proper type of paint for various projects from home interior/exterior to restoring furniture. She is available for in-home consultations as well.

New staff

The store also has a new building supplies Sales Associate with years of experience in home/commercial renovations and construction. "I foresee more positions opening in the future," says Joey.

Restaurant expansion

Joey's newest venture, the **Sidewalk Grill Restaurant** on Main Street in Alberton, will be expanding. He owns the building where the restaurant is located. When the present tenant retired from the business, Joey came up with a plan to continue operations of this busy establishment.

"We are going to expand the restaurant with more seating and updating the kitchen, and we are considering getting a pizza oven. We are going to have it licensed and open seven days a week."

Staff required for the new restaurant

A new manager has already been hired. Other positions to be filled include Servers, Cooks, and Prep Cooks. "We are accepting resumés for both full-time and part-time positions, and we welcome student applications as well. Training will be provided."

How to apply

Send a resumé to joey@jchandyman.ca or drop off a resumé to 469 Main Street, Alberton, PEI

For more information about **JC Handy Man Sales & Services**, call 902-853-4009.

Visit www.facebook.com/JoeyCarragherHandymanServicesandSalesInc

For more about the **Sidewalk Grill**, call 902-853-4211. Visit www.facebook.com/TheSidewalkGrill



Joey Carragher, Owner, and Meagan Deagle, certified Home Decorator.

Qualifications needed

- Assets: food safety course, beverage server certificate, and/or WHMIS
- Strong customer service skills
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends

The Employment Journey Inc. is a monthly publication available to residents and businesses of PEI. The publication is produced by Gloria Welton. The Employment Journey is funded in whole or in part through the Canada/Prince Edward Island labour market agreements. The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Canada, the Government of Prince Edward Island or the Publication Manager.

Publication Manager/Owner: Gloria Welton
Queens County Reporter/Copy Editor: Heidi Riley
Kings County Reporters: Stella Shepard & Cody McInnis
Reporter/Public Relations: Stacy Dunn
West Prince Reporter: Ruby Arsenault
Design/Pre-press: TechnoMedia Inc.
Webmaster: TechnoMedia Inc.

The Employment Journey Inc.
 Box 8816, Yorkdale Estates, PE C0A 1P0
 Telephone: **Charlottetown** (902) 894-4100
Montague (902) 838-4030 ext. 237
 E-mail: employ@employmentjourney.com
 Employment Journey © 1998

