

From employee to ownership in the food & beverage industry

by Stella Shepard

The Bluefin Restaurant and Black Rafter Lounge has been a popular gathering place in Souris for more than 40 years. The new owner is **Amber Jenkins**.

Her first job at the age of 15 was bussing tables at the Bluefin while in high school. Amber became a Server and a Bartender when she turned 19. After working a few other jobs, she returned to managing the bar at the Black Rafter Lounge. In October 2017, Amber took ownership of the Bluefin Restaurant and Black Rafter Lounge.

“During the off season, November to March, there are eight full-time and five part-time staff,” says Amber. “From April to October, we have 25 full-time and 10 part-time staff.”

“I offer standard industry wages, and a comprehensive benefit package is available. You can earn a good living working in the food and beverage industry in a position you enjoy.”

Hiring needs

“Our hiring needs in the kitchen are on-going. The most difficult job to fill is Line Cook. The food and beverage industry as a whole struggles with finding kitchen staff.”

“The best way to get your foot in the door is to drop by the restaurant and see me.”

For more information about **The Bluefin Restaurant and Black Rafter Lounge**, contact **Amber Jenkins** at **902-687-3271** or **bluefin@bellaliant.com**

For the full interview, visit **www.employmentjourney.com/bluefin-restaurant-and-black-rafter-lounge**



From left, Amber Jenkins, Owner, and Charlene Outhouse, who has worked with the business since it opened in 1976. Submitted photo.

Artisans on Main is a prime example of PEI's creative sector

by Stella Shepard

CreativePEI is the sector council representing the arts, culture, and creative industries. It focuses on empowering creative professionals to have successful careers on PEI.

CreativePEI works on behalf of 10 industries on PEI

- Contemporary Art
- Dance
- Libraries
- Music & Sound Recording
- Interactive Media
- Craft & Design
- Film & TV
- Museums & Heritage
- Theatre
- Writing & Publishing

“There are no creative industries without creative people,” says **Mark Sandiford**, Executive Director of CreativePEI. “Our goal is to establish the conditions for people in this sector to flourish and contribute to the economy and quality of life on PEI.”

The **Artisans on Main Gallery, Montague** is a great example of creative people flourishing and contributing to the creative sector on PEI.

The Gallery first opened seven years ago on Main Street and was deemed a huge success. For the past five years it's been housed out of a beautiful newly renovated two-story facility at 10 Water Street, overlooking the picturesque Montague waterfront.

Forty local artists and artisans showcase their handcrafted items, which include braided & hooked rugs, Celtic mats, fused glass, handmade paper, jewellery, knitting, paintings, photographs, pottery, quilts, silk paintings, soapstone carvings, weaving, woodworking, and more.

The artists and artisans promote and sell their artwork and fine crafts as well, and they volunteer their time in the operation of the Gallery, which allows for interactions with interested buyers.

“The Gallery has been a success story for the local arts community and for the town of Montague,” says **Lynn Nimitz**, a Mixed Media & Fiber Artist and Chair of the Artisans on Main Gallery. “The town is supportive and recognizes eastern PEI as a destination for artists.”

“Last year was an exceptionally good year for sales, probably because of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Montague and the 150th anniversary of Canada. This year, we are on par with last year's sales.”

Every three weeks, an artist can have an art exhibition on site, which includes an opening reception. Throughout July and August, an artisan demonstrated his or her creative skills for visitors. Artisans are also involved in many community outreach projects.

“Montague High School students had a very successful exhibition of their paintings last year at the Gallery,” says Lynn.



Lynn Nimitz, a Mixed Media & Fiber Artist and Chair of the Artisans on Main Gallery, Montague.

“An opening reception for the students was very well received, and some students sold their artwork.”

“We are trying to get the younger generation interested in the Arts and Creative Culture sector so they can understand what a career in the arts is. This year, local visual artists will mentor high school art students, encouraging and supporting their talents.”

For more information about **Artisans on Main Gallery**, visit **www.artisansonmain.ca** and **www.facebook.com/ArtisansOnMain**

For information about **CreativePEI**, call **902-367-3844**.

Visit **www.creativepei.ca** and **www.employmentjourney.com/industries/cultural/**



Inclusions East Inc., Montague – hiring practices

by Stella Shepard

Inclusions East Inc. supports individuals with an intellectual disability through community support, vocational, life enrichment, and employment and residential services.

Kingswood Centre case manages individuals in the areas of skills development, job search, and job maintenance, and provides support to employers to encourage employment opportunities.

A bakery/catering service and a woodworking shop with a retail outlet provide a venue to make clients' capabilities visible. Residential supports include a total of 19 beds.

There are 40 employees. “Staff turnover rate is low,” says **Nancy Anderson**, Executive Director. “Expansion of services has required additional staff.”

“Most positions start at \$14.82 per hour,” says Nancy. “Staff in permanent positions have access to group insurance with medical and dental benefits, RRSP, and vacation and sick time.”

Inclusions East Employment Services funded in whole or in part through the Canada-PEI labour market agreements.

“We prefer that those working directly with clients have a Human Services diploma. We also hire Resident Care Workers, Child & Youth Workers, and those with degrees in Psychology, Education, and/or Social Work.”

Hiring needs

Hiring is on-going. “The most difficult positions to fill require varying shifts including evenings and weekends, as well as specialized skills such as the Baker and the Carpenter jobs.”

“We are now looking at incoming staff with Career Practitioner or Employment Counselling training.”

Positions are posted on **WorkPEI.ca** and social media. To apply, email your resumé and a cover letter introducing yourself and describing your strengths to **nancy@inclusionseast.com**



From left: Kelsey McCormack and Anna Driscoll. Submitted photo.

For more information, contact **Nancy Anderson**, Executive Director, at **902-838-2516 ext. 4**.

Visit **www.inclusionseast.com**

For the full interview, visit **www.employmentjourney.com** and search **Inclusions East**.

