

Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce promotes working together to strengthen the economy

by Stella Shepard

Meet **Lori MacGregor**, the recently appointed Executive Director of the **Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce (EPEICC)** located on Main Street, Montague.

“The Chamber is a very strong voice for its membership in eastern PEI,” says Lori. “Small businesses are the heartbeat of communities and a major contributor to the local economy. By working together, we strengthen the local economy.”

EPEICC is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting its members’ businesses and the economic environment of the community. It gives an economic advantage to members by representing them in community endeavors, and providing them with priority customer referrals and networking capabilities.

There are about 250 Chamber members, consisting of small business operators and community groups. “My role is to support the members, advocate on their behalf, provide skill-based and customer service training sessions, help them make valuable connections through networking opportunities, and grow the membership,” says Lori.

Lori has a wealth of experience in leadership and partnership with community groups, growing businesses and building the local economy. She is also an avid volunteer in the community of Eastern Kings, where she lives with her husband and their four children. She says her strength is being out in the community, meeting and speaking with people.

“I enjoy reaching out and visiting with Chamber members, listening to their concerns, and hearing their stories. I also follow up in response to their needs and challenges.”

Some benefits of membership:

Visibility: Stand out and get noticed as an active member of your community.

Growth: Quality training and educational opportunities, economic growth in bringing businesses to the area by promoting tourism events.

Voice: Gain a say in what happens through the Chamber’s advocacy efforts.

Network: It’s not just who you know, it’s who others know.

Discounts: Businesses may offer members a discount for products and services.

Credibility: Chamber members are respected by the community.

Annual events hosted by EPEICC

Business Excellence Awards recognizes local businesses, entrepreneurs and community leaders in four different categories: Business Excellence, Employee of the Year, Pillar of the Community, and Emerging Business.



Lori MacGregor is passionate about her new role as Executive Director of EPEICC.

Explore Economics East is an annual conference that celebrates business success in eastern PEI. It provides entrepreneurs with the opportunity to make connections and network, and informs them about key issues relevant to doing business in eastern PEI.

For more information about **Eastern PEI Chamber of Commerce**, contact **Lori MacGregor**, Executive Director, at **902-838-3131**.

Visit www.epeicc.ca



Third generation working in the family trucking business

by Stella Shepard

Morley and Jean Annear launched **Morley Annear Limited** and a mixed farming operation in 1964 shortly after exchanging their wedding vows. The cargo and freight company started with one truck, which was a regional carrier.

Thier son **Scott Annear** joined the family business and became the general manager in 2002. His son **Thomas Annear** is the Assistant Operational Manager. Scott and Thomas are now transitioning to ownership of the company.

Today, the company has one of the largest fleets on PEI with 43 trucks, and employs more than 50 people. Their trucks roll down highways across Canada and the United States hauling aggregate materials and products from lobsters to potatoes.

At the age of 14, Thomas began working for his grandfather Morley on weekends. He received the Harry MacLauchlan Scholarship and studied business at UPEI and then later transitioned to the Business Administration program at Holland College.

Thomas is now 28 years old and has already spent half his life in the family business. He’s proud of the family heritage. “My grandfather built the company on the philosophy of treating people the way he wanted to be treated. He cared about his employees and treated the staff like family, and invested in their future with the company. He also responded to the needs of his clients with exceptional service.”

After a major fire destroyed the assets of Morley Annear Limited in 2010, the entire team and community joined forces to rebuild, and the new facility opened in 2011.

“My grandfather and my dad were more concerned about the workers losing employment than the fire destroying the assets,” says Thomas. “Their first action was to relocate the business temporarily so employees could return to work.”

“The stories people tell me about my grandfather are a reminder never to forget the commitment and the long working hours of building a family-owned business on a solid reputation of honesty and caring for the employees and the clients.”

Hiring needs

“We operate year-round and have strong hiring needs in the spring and fall,” says Thomas.

“The truck driver positions are the most challenging to fill. We have a Human Resources Recruiter and a Safety Coordinator. We are willing to train people with a Class 1 or Class 3 license who have a good driving record.

“Truck driving is a well-paying job. You can earn up to \$55,000 a year with benefits.”

How to apply

Thomas suggests people drop by the office in Brudenell with a resumé. “We have an open door policy, and we are willing to provide tours to anyone interested in working with the company.

“Truck drivers are in demand,” says Thomas. “We are willing to hire drivers regardless of their educational level if they have a good driving record and have the necessary requirements to drive long or short haul.



Scott and Thomas Annear, a father-and-son team, are transitioning to ownership of Morley Annear Limited, which was launched in 1964 by Scott’s father, Morley Annear.

“We are willing to take a chance on newer drivers who are willing to take the necessary safety training and job shadow with an experienced driver before going solo. Driver training and drivers are monitored. Safety is the core of the company.”

Future plans

“We continue to grow the company, improve our technology, and hire as needed,” says Thomas.

For more information, contact **Thomas or Scott Annear** at **902-838-2116**.

Visit www.morleyannear.com

For more information about a career in trucking, visit www.employmentjourney.com/industries/trucking/

For the full article, visit www.employmentjourney.com and search **Morley Annear Limited**.

