

Employers discuss job opportunities in the marine and hospitality sectors

by Stella Shepard

Open positions, staff qualifications, and the application process were discussed recently at **Jobs & Java**, a weekly drop in for job seekers held at **Career Development Services** in Montague.

For more information about **Career Development Services**, visit www.cdspei.ca

Jobs in demand

Rodd Brudenell River Resort and Rodd Crowbush Golf and Beach Resort

“Seasonal positions run from May to mid-October,” says **Jamie Rice**. “Employment opportunities span from entry level positions to middle management. Training is available, depending on the position.”

Hiring needs

- Housekeepers
- Maintenance
- Estheticians
- Supervisors
- Chefs
- Bell Staff
- Food and Beverage Servers
- Room Attendants
- Front Desk Agents
- General Managers
- Dishwashers
- Line Cooks
- Bartenders

“When hiring, we look for people with a positive attitude who can engage in a conversation with guests.

“Server positions are paid minimum wage,” says Jamie. “Wages for front desk agents, maintenance staff, and room attendants depend on experience and if you are bilingual, which is an asset but not a requirement.”

To apply, send a resumé indicating the position of interest to hr@roddhotelsandresorts.com Visit <https://roddvacations.com/careers/>



Jamie Rice, Food and Beverage Manager at Rodd Brudenell River Resort, started working for the company 20 years ago as a college student at an entry level position.

Northumberland Ferries Limited (NFL)

Northumberland Ferries crosses between Wood Islands, PEI and Caribou, Nova Scotia. The ferry service operates from May 1 to December 20, 2019, with two vessels.

At peak season, 180 people are employed. “We are very busy during the summer, which results in hiring opportunities for skilled workers and for entry-level positions,” says **Don Cormier**.

“Twelve employees work out of the main office in Charlottetown, doing administrative support, accounting, purchasing, marketing, and IT support. We also have shore operators at Wood Islands, which involves ticketing, stevedoring, and terminal maintenance. Other positions include food service, deck hands, and engineering.

“Entry-level positions are casual work, so you have to be flexible and available to work on short notice,” adds **Guy LeClair**.



From left, **Guy LeClair, Hospitality Manager,** and **Don Cormier, VP Operations and Safety Management, Northumberland Ferries Limited.**

Job titles

- Entry-Level Service Staff
- Ticket Collector
- Human Resources Manager
- Captain
- Bridge Watch (Deck Hand with a Bridge Watch certificate)
- Host
- Cook
- Navigational Officer
- HR Manager
- Cashier
- Electrician
- Marine Engineering Officer

“Wages for entry-level positions start at just under \$20 an hour,” says Don. “We are also searching for Navigational Officers for year-round employment who could earn up to \$100,000 a year.”

How to apply

- Submit a resumé or application online at www.ferries.ca/careers
- Email careers@nfl-bay.com
- Drop off a resumé at 94 Water Street, Charlottetown

For more information about **Northumberland Ferries Ltd.**, visit www.ferries.ca

Third generation of musicians use community resources to help preserve traditional music on PEI

by Stella Shepard

Big Field Traditions Inc. (BFT) is keeping the rolling green hills of Rollo Bay alive with the sound of music during the summer months. The Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival has attracted thousands of visitors to rural PEI for more than 40 years. Now a third generation of musicians continues the tradition, which is a local economy booster, and offers other event options as well.

The legendary Fiddler, **Joe Pete Chaisson** of Bear River near Souris, was instrumental in creating the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival in 1976.

Joe Pete’s children, **Kevin, Kenny, Catherine, Dianne, Donna, Darlene, Gloria, Shirley**, along with **Peter** and **Mary**, who have since passed away, continued to be the main organizers of the music festival, allowing it to thrive for decades.

When **Peter Chaisson** passed away in July 2015, a third Chaisson generation founded **Big Field Traditions Inc.**, with brothers **Andrew** and **Stanley Chaisson**, brothers **JJ** and **Koady Chaisson**, brothers **Tim, Brent**, and **Darren Chaisson**, and **Kyle Chaisson**.

“This is a family passion and shared experience among many music lovers in our community,” says Stanley.

The eight first cousins who founded BFT, along with several other relatives, performed on stage at a young age at the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival and some became accomplished, award-winning musicians.

“After Dad’s passing, the Festival’s future was in jeopardy, and the fate of the ‘Big Field’ as all the grandkids called it, was unclear,” says Stanley.

“The third generation came together quickly and decided to develop a not-for-profit called **Big Field Traditions**. This allowed us to purchase the land and work together with the entire family to ensure the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival could continue for many more years, and another generation would enjoy the magic and memories of the ‘Big Field’.”

Community services support

Community Business Development Corporation (CBDC) assists in the creation of small businesses and in the expansion or modernization of existing businesses by providing financial and technical services to entrepreneurs.

The BFT founders contacted **Martina MacDonald**, Executive Director of CBDC East, and **Helen Antle**, Business Development Officer of CBDC East, housed at the Rural Action Centre, Main Street, Montague.

“CBDC was helpful in organizing our group and giving us an understanding of the structure of a not-for-profit and the designated roles that come with it,” says Stanley.

“They provided the technical support we needed to get started on the right foot. They also assisted us with essential financial funding, something that was crucial to the development of a planning process moving forward.

“Helen was very knowledgeable and helped guide our relatively inexperienced group to understand how we should structure our not-for-profit, including specific roles and expectations.

“She also gave valuable advice about strategies for a business plan, focusing on progressive phases of development. I would highly recommend her to anyone interested in starting a not-for-profit organization.



Big Field Traditions Inc. is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2015. It now hosts the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival, now in its 43rd year, and also offers space for other events. *Submitted photo.*

“We knew that our energy and passion for BFT would bring about a positive future, but there’s no doubt that the services provided by CBDC were instrumental in paving the way for a successful start.”

Big Field Traditions 2019

Rollo Bay Music Camp will be held July 15 to 19, and the Rollo Bay Fiddle Festival will be held July 19 to 21.

The site also offers bookings for weddings, family reunions, and events throughout the summer and fall.

For more information about **Big Field Traditions**, visit www.facebook.com/rollobayfiddlefestival/ or email bigfieldtraditions@gmail.com

For more information about services at the **Rural Action Centre**, visit www.ruralactioncentres.ca