



SAULT
COLLEGE



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Sault College and Searchmont Ski Association Inc. Sign Unique Memorandum of Understanding

New partnership will benefit local and out-of-area students



(Sault Ste. Marie, ON December 1, 2014) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Sault College and Searchmont Ski Association Inc. (SSAI) was signed today by Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College and Greg Peres of the Searchmont Ski Association. The agreement outlines the terms in which the two organizations will

work together to provide a unique experience to students studying at Sault College and sustainable resort operations for SSAI.

The terms of the Memorandum of Understanding outline the benefits for both organizations to enter into the partnership. Sault College will provide programming expertise to SSAI in order to implement operational and developmental improvements to the Resort by providing valuable work, volunteering and placement experiences. In addition, the agreement provides student recruitment value for Sault College students through hands-on programming opportunities at the highest downhill ski and snowboard mountain elevations in the province and providing students with the education they want.

In return, Searchmont has worked to maximize the College life experience by offering full-time students proprietary rates on annual ski passes reflective of their partnership.

“Extra-curricular activities complement the learning experience at Sault College to develop a well-rounded, socially skilled and healthier student,” states Dr. Ron Common, President, Sault College. “Sault Ste. Marie is the gateway to world-class outdoor spaces with great adventure recreation options. The Sault is the perfect place for both local and out-of-area students to take part in a truly Northern experience while learning at College and we are grateful to Searchmont Resort for this unique partnership opportunity for our students.”

Searchmont Resort is a premiere ranked, regional training and recreation facility with high quality mountain terrain, amenities, events and entertainment. With caring, knowledgeable staff and quality service, Searchmont Resort supports a healthy, active lifestyle by providing winter recreation for families, sports enthusiasts and competitive athletes of all ages.

“For years, Sault College students have come to enjoy our slopes and we are pleased to partner with this initiative,” says Greg Peres of the Searchmont Ski Association.

Sault College students and Searchmont Resort have partnered on a variety of projects in the past that include Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies students participating in field camp at the resort, where students venture out into the forest to live and learn for one week. Additionally, Sault college Construction Techniques students have worked on various maintenance projects for the site.

Most recently, the introduction of the Superior Skills program developed in partnership with Destination North, Ontario Works and the College, to face the challenge of unemployment, will see integrated skills training and job creation contribute to the improvement and creation of new amenities at Searchmont.

These partnerships are structured to create a sustainable, financially viable future for Searchmont while providing a strong educational, recreational and economic base for the region.

Searchmont is a prominent factor in the community's physician recruitment efforts, is the No.1 winter travel generator for the area, and has been a mainstay for the citizens of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma region producing world class skiers and snowboarders like Paralympic Gold Medal Winner Mac Marcoux and pro snowboarder Anthony Stefanizzi.

On behalf of the Searchmont Ski Association to the students of Sault College and the community of Sault Ste. Marie: "Congratulations, your backyard just got bigger!"

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In photo: (L to R) Greg Peres Searchmont Ski Association and Dr. Ron Common, President Sault College Sign MOU

About Sault College

The vision of Sault College is to provide a transformative life experience through empowering those who study with us to think and learn in progressive, innovative ways, including those we have not yet imagined. Ranked #1 in the province with a score of 85% in overall student satisfaction by students themselves, Sault College grants Ontario College certificates, diplomas, advanced diplomas, graduate certificates, and degrees to its graduates. The College is the largest deliverer of apprenticeship training in all of Northern Ontario. Educating over 3,900 students each year, Sault College has a significant economic impact on the community, with spin-offs in excess of \$158 million. Over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, bursaries and awards are distributed annually to students at the College. Located on the border to the United States and situated in the middle of three of the largest great lakes on the planet, Sault College is one of 24 publicly-funded colleges in the province of Ontario. Visit our website at www.saultcollege.ca to learn more.

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