

The Leadership Ride In Atlantic Canada

special advertising feature of the
TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL

'Leadership can become all-consuming. Like a treadmill, where the speed and the incline continually increase, you have to keep pace or you will fly off.' Bruno Biscaro, COO, Accucaps Industries Ltd. (Quote found in Made in Canada Leadership).

For almost three years I have been interviewing business leaders throughout Atlantic Canada for my column "Leadership Unleashed". What I find interesting is that there seems to be no shortage of strong insightful leaders to interview. In fact, if I wasn't so involved in running my business I would dedicate more time to interviewing leaders as I walk away from every encounter with fabulous leadership tips, ideas and perspectives.

In 2004, authors Françoise Morissette and Amal Henein decided to take their interest on the state of leadership in Canada to a deeper level when they began their research on the topic. What they found was compelling and in 2007 they published their findings in a book they co-authored - Made in Canada Leadership. Anyone interested in developing their organization's, or their own, leadership potential should read Made in Canada Leadership. It is packed with useful information and helps the reader understand the Canadian brand of leadership.

The chapter entitled "The Leadership Ride" in Morissette and Henein's book has always intrigued me and I recently found myself going back and rereading it. As I meet with various leaders I especially appreciate their descriptions of the wins, losses and the learning that has accompanied their unique leadership

ride. Interestingly, the research by the authors found that the majority of leaders 'associate leadership with a high-stakes card game: expensive to play and risky, with the potential for big rewards and losses'. This has me asking whom, exactly, would sign up for such a role?

As I look back at my interviewees, I think it is noteworthy that leadership shows up in many places and has many faces. People signing up for the leadership ride do not appear to have a specific profile. Morissette and Henein's research validate this as they stated that 'much to our astonishment, two-thirds of [exceptional leaders] said things like I never set out to be a leader'. Most found that leadership was 'thrust upon them'. This is consistent with what I hear from a lot of my interviewees. As they tell their stories it seems to me that it is often a worthwhile cause or fabulous untapped opportunity that has people throwing their hat in the ring, fastening their seatbelt and embarking on their leadership ride with the many inevitable bumps that come with the terrain.

As we look at the leadership requirements of our region, I think we can all agree that we need strong, visionary leadership currently as well as a steady pipeline of future leaders ready to step up and take the reins. This is not a time for a leadership deficit.

The two questions, I believe, we must be asking ourselves are:

*How do we support and enhance our current leadership?
How do we identify and develop our future leaders?*

The good news for Atlantic Canada is that we have a number of organizations set up to answer these questions. I personally have had the privilege of interacting with two groups that are fabulous role models for the rest of Canada.

The first is 21inc (www.21inc.ca), which describes itself as 'an action tank committed to building a community of high performing emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in Atlantic Canada.'

The second organization is The Wallace F. McCain Institute at the University of New Brunswick (www.wallacemccaininstitute.com) which is committed to helping 'entrepreneurs develop the understanding, tools and relationships needed to grow their businesses, creating new opportunities for economic and social progress across New Brunswick'.

As programs like these work at supporting our current and emerging leadership, I am reminded that we have a lot to celebrate in this region. I also know that we have a lot of work ahead of us. I am hopeful that 2013 is a year where we see more people willing to take the 'leadership ride' and supporting unprecedented leadership growth in all sectors of our economy.

Dave Veale is a leadership coach and founder of Vision Coaching Inc. in Saint John. He can be reached by email at Dave@VisionCoachingInc.com or via Twitter @Dave_Veale. To read past columns and watch videos go to www.LeadershipUnleashed.ca.



Dave Veale's Leadership Unleashed column is published regularly in the Telegraph-Journal's business section.

Some of Atlantic Canada's Top Business Leaders have been recognized in 2011 & 2012

<p>Kevin Dickie Athletic Director University of New Brunswick Leading in a High Performance Environment</p>	<p>Martin Chaisson VP Inside Sales Operations Xerox Corporation Xerox: Built Here with Home Grown Talent</p>	<p>Jeff McAloon Principal Touchstone School Lighting the Fire: Leadership in Education</p>	<p>Wayne Chamberlain VP Marketing & Founder Anyware Group Success comes from a leader's willingness to fail</p>	<p>Brad Leblanc Chief Entrepreneurial Officer Momentum Group Harbour station will be full for second dream festival</p>	<p>John Bowles President Inversa Systems Ltd. Patience and a 'Slow Play' has Led to Business Success</p>	<p>Lynn Francis Director Eispogdog Economic Development Community leader helping to make a difference</p>	<p>Bob & Don Shaw Owners Dykeman's Hardware Store Dykemans celebrate 100 years of success</p>
<p>Styve Dumouchel President Lorneville Mechanical Province great nurturing environment for firm</p>	<p>Pierre Martell President Martell Homes There's no such thing as 'growing too fast'</p>	<p>Wayne Long President Saint John Sea Dogs Hockey Team True leadership shows up in tough times</p>	<p>Stephen Kopp Founder Acre Architects Challenging the status quo</p>	<p>Peter Stoddart Owner Saint John Ale House Find the passion, the business will follow</p>	<p>Robert McLeod CEO Invest NB Province will be able to move at the speed of business</p>	<p>Geoff Flood President T4G The only true test... is success in the marketplace</p>	<p>Paul Zed Chairman of the President's Advisory Board Cisco Canada In the business of selling relationships</p>
<p>Gerry Pond, Debbie Cooper & Dan Martell Local Business Leaders Reflect on Year Past Partnerships with people, enterprises key to success in 2012</p>		<p>Sara Ehrhardt Executive Director 21inc Leveraging province's diaspora to connect</p>	<p>Andrea Feunekes President RemSoft Building a Successful Enterprise</p>	<p>Brian Sypher Sr. Manager TD Insurance Community in a Corporate Culture</p>	<p>Terry Blizzard Owner Afterburn Performance Personal Trainer Positive about his Mission</p>	<p>Stephen M.R. Covey Author/Speaker Trust is the New Currency for Business Today</p>	
<p>Tom Creamer Eastern Credit Management Services Firm Overcomes Public Misconceptions in Competitive Industry</p>	<p>Judith Mackin Punch Productions / Punch Inside / Tuck Studio "Punchy" Entrepreneur has a Creative Approach</p>	<p>Gordie Lavoie President Sunny Corner Enterprises Balancing Competitive Nature with Values</p>	<p>Dr. Marc Pelletier Head of Cardiac Surgery NB Heart Centre Home is Where the Heart is for Cardiac Doctor</p>	<p>Paul Simmonds Owner Robert Simmonds It's not about Brands, it's about Style</p>	<p>Scott Darling Darling Real Estate It's Good to Control your Business, not let the Business Control you</p>	<p>Chris Boudreau CEO ClinicServer Entrepreneur wants to Democratize Health Care</p>	

Bridging Entrepreneurial Leaders

The Wallace McCain Institute's one-year Entrepreneurial Leaders Program (ELP) has again proven to be an unparalleled experience for 16 high-growth entrepreneurs in New Brunswick and the surrounding region. This opportunity could not succeed if it were not for the support and encouragement of the program's sponsors.



The G. Wallace F. McCain Institute helps entrepreneurs develop the understanding, tools and relationships needed to grow their businesses, creating new opportunities for economic and social progress. The Institute creates an environment where entrepreneurs develop a network of likeminded peers and a deeper understanding of the keys to successful entrepreneurship.

Participants work closely with each other and some of the Maritimes' top business icons, drawing inspiration and encouragement.

2012 Sponsors of Entrepreneurial Greatness

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Wes Armour
Bill Barrett
David Barry
Donnie Fillmore
Christopher Gilliss
Robert Hatheway
Len Hoyt
Paul Johnson (2x)
Barry Kyle</p> | <p>Armour Transportation Systems
Xplornet Communications
New Brunswick Securities Commission
Atlantic Pacific Transport
Personal
New Brunswick Innovation Foundation (NBIF)
McInnes Cooper
Pivotal Input
Industrial Rubber Company Ltd.</p> | <p>Bruno Lagacé
Gordie Lavoie
Scott Marshall
Alan MacGibbon (3x)
Allison McCain
Scott McCain
Francis McGuire
Frank McKenna
Kerry McLellan</p> | <p>Sparta Innovations Inc.
Sunny Corner Enterprises
Allan Marshall & Associates Inc.
Deloitte Inc.
Dellon Inc.
McCain Foods
Maple Leaf Foods
Major Drilling Group International Inc.
TD Bank Group
Kinek Technologies Inc.</p> | <p>Steve Nickerson
Derek Oland
Stephen & Trudi Palmer
Gerry Pond
Derek & Terri Riedle
Andrée & David Savoie
Jean-Claude Savoie
Brent Scrimshaw
Gaëtan Thomas</p> | <p>RapidMind Solutions Inc.
Moosehead Breweries Limited
Personal
Mariner Partners Inc.
Revolution Strategy
Acadian Construction
Groupe Savoie Inc.
Atlantic Lottery
NB Power</p> |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|

For information, contact
Nancy Mathis at (506) 721-3820

UNB
EST. 1785
FREDERICTON - SAINT JOHN

WALLACE MCCAIN INSTITUTE
www.wallacemccaininstitute.com