



# G · R · E · A · T

## UPDATE

"Employment for Onkwehon:we regardless of residency"

April-May 2012

Please visit our website at [www.greatsn.com](http://www.greatsn.com)

### **Joel Johnson: Music Man and Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician's Program Grad**

By L.M. VanEvery



Joel Johnson, 32, has always had a curiosity for what makes things work. Growing up in a musical family, he learned how to play guitar, harmonica and drums. Using an amplifier for his guitar, Joel was not just interested in the quality of sound it made, he was curious to find out just how it worked inside. While still in high school at McKinnon Park, Joel took an automotive course in order to gauge his interest in that field. After having to do repetitive oil changes, Johnson grew discouraged at the monotony. "I lost interest during the semester," he says.

After graduating high from school in 1998, Johnson wanted to make music his career but he knew the challenges in sustaining a career in any

field of the arts. So Joel worked at a variety of jobs, mostly in the construction field. He framed houses and built steel grain bins, always splitting his time between work and music.

After writing a number of songs, he soon had enough to make an album which he released called, Blues Joose. He also toured locally with two other musicians during the summer of 2010 as a trio. That fall, he won two Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards for Best Blues Album and Best Song Single. With all this musical success, Joel never gave up on a job in the electrical industry.

His interest in electronics would eventually lead him to GREAT and the Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician's Program offered by the Ogwehoweh Skills and Trades Training Centre (OSTTC) in partnership with the Electrical College of Canada. "Erin Monture and Cathy Smith were a big help," he says.

In September 2010, Joel was one of 12 community men who enrolled in the first Pre-Apprenticeship Electrician's Program taught by retired electrician, George McDonald. The program ran approximately 20 weeks in total and prepared each student for work in the field. "I learned a lot from George and his experience," says Joel.

After graduating, Joel searched for work. He did field work for the summer of 2011 in the area of archaeology while searching for the right job. He found a job at Rockwell Automation in Cambridge and before being hired was required to pass a wiring course offered at Conestoga College. Joel approached GREAT and was funded for partial payment for the course which he graduated from in December 2011. Once at Rockwell, he passed another hands-on wiring test before being hired.

Joel has been working full-time at Rockwell Automation since February 2012. He currently holds a yellow ticket as an employee meaning he just started. His goal is to get a white ticket designating him as an official Rockwell employee. Joel's official job title is Wiring Final Assembler. "I love my job," he says. "There are so many opportunities there. It's the nicest place I've ever worked at." The best part about his job is that every day there is an opportunity to learn. "Every morning we're included in a problem solving meeting and everyone has a chance to learn," Joel says. Although he doesn't address it, the most challenging part of his job could be the early starting time. Joel is to work every day by 6 am. He says the most challenging part is reading the electrical diagrams. How does Joel handle the stresses of his job? Music of course.

# DID YOU KNOW?

## SUMMER STUDENT OFFICE

Summer Employment Opportunities will be coming SOON!

Keep an eye on the GREAT website

Summer Office Hours will be

Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30

With extended hours on Tues and Thurs. 8:30 to 6:30

## JOB SEARCH FOR GRADS

G.R.E.A.T will be hosting a workshop

On how to

- Develop an Effective Resume /Cover Letter
- Develop an Effective Self-Marketing Strategy
- Learn how to read Labour Market Trends
  - Access the Hidden Job Market

**Employers are looking for you – Let us be the link to your chosen career**

**APRIL 26 and MAY 17**

**1 – 4 PM**

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY CENTRE**

Call now to register 519 445-2222

## OGWEHOWEH SKILLS TRADE TRAINING CENTRE

**GED:** 12 week F/T June 4 to Aug. 24 and Sept. 17 to Dec. 7, 2012

**Business Plan Development Training:** 7 weeks F/T April 23 to June 8, 2012

**Academic Upgrading Gr.12 Math/Physics:** 6 weeks F/T April 30 to June 15 and July 16 to Aug.24/12

**Employment Readiness:** 12 weeks F/T Sept. 24 to Dec. 14, 2012 Earn up to 2 high school credits

**Aboriginal Small Business:** 1year Mohawk College course September 2012

**Computer Training:** (Beginners)July 9-13, (WORD)July16-20, (Excel)July 23-27, (Office)July 30-Aug. 3, 2012  
classes are from 9am to 4pm

**Driver's Ed:** April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 2012 (Sessions are run every other month)

**Welding:** Assessments completed daily 9am to 1pm - continually running

**Horticulture Class:** April 30 – December.31, 2012 Ontario Women Directorate

**Information Technologist:** April 30 – December 31, 2012 Ontario Women Directorate

## FREE WORKSHOPS FOR APRIL – MAY 2012, CALL to Register @ GREAT (519) 445-2222

Workshop Name	Dates	Times	Location
Resume / Cover Letter	April 3, 10, 17, & 24 May 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29	10 am - Noon	GREAT'S CIC
Surviving The Interview	April 12 and May 3	1 – 3 pm	GREAT'S CIC
Career Cruising Skills Assessment	April 5 and May 31	1 – 3 pm	GREAT'S CIC
Job Search for Grads	April 26 and May 17	1 – 4 pm	GREAT'S CIC

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