



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

### **Mayor Rowswell to receive honorary diploma at Sault College Convocation**

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON Friday, May 28, 2010) Families and guests of Sault College's newest graduates will come together at the Essar Centre on Friday, May 28 in two ceremonies. The morning ceremony, beginning at 10:00 am, will confer students in the schools of Business, Culinary and Hospitality, Aviation, Engineering Technology, Information Technology, Media and Design, Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies and Skilled Trades. Mayor John Rowswell will be receiving an Honorary Diploma in the Civil Engineering Technician program at the morning ceremony. The afternoon ceremony, beginning at 2:00 pm, will confer students in Community Services, Criminal Justice, General Arts and Science and Health Programs, including the first graduating class of the Fitness and Health Promotion program. There are 866 candidates for graduation with approximately 480 graduates expected to attend.

Platform party guests, faculty and students will be piped in by the 49<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Pipe Band, followed by a welcome from President Ron Common and Board of Governors Chair, Ben Pascuzzi. This year's keynote address will be given by a Truck and Coach graduate Francis Ali, who will recount his personal journey beginning as a child soldier in Sudan and coming to Canada and completing a post secondary program at Sault College.

Following the presentation of liripipes and diplomas, there will be an honour drum song performed by the Waabshkizi Nimkii Kweok (White Thunder Women) Drum Group.

At the convocation ceremony, each graduate will be photographed onstage receiving his/her certificate, diploma, or degree and the alumni department will send a complimentary photo. Complimentary gifts of Clean Air Tree Kits will also be available from the Alumni department. The trees are a symbol to our graduates to remember their roots at Sault College, and to remember their part in building a healthy future. Forests without Borders and the Canadian Institute of Forestry have partnered in this World Clean Air Forest Initiative (WCAFI) that reads: 'You plant a tree... and we plant a tree... Together we will grow communities!'

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#### **Background Mayor Rowswell**

John Rowswell was first elected in November 2000 and is presently serving his third term as the Mayor of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.

He is a dedicated community leader that has made a commitment to high quality of service in our community. Mayor John has always had a vision for Sault Ste. Marie, from his election platform in early 2000 promoting tourism, green energy, infrastructure, industry, and quality of life.

During John's tenure, our community has accomplished well over \$1 billion in new private and public sector development based on his platform vision. Much of this can be attributed to Mayor John's excellent relations and persistent communication with government officials, not only provincially but federally and internationally.

John Rowswell is also a professional engineer specializing in structures, welding and metallurgy. He has constructed many recognizable bridges. John is by nature, a "bridge builder" in every aspect.

When John is not participating in business and politics, he is focused on his family: his wife Donna, four children, seven grandchildren and one more expected grandchild in July.

### **About Sault College**

Sault College reaches students through post secondary, continuing education, apprenticeship training and third party contract training. Sault College offers a full range of programs: Certificates, Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Post Graduate Certificates, Degrees, and Apprenticeship programs. Key Performance Indicator (KPI) surveys demonstrate that almost 90% of Sault College students are employed within six months of graduation and student satisfaction is among the highest in the province. Sault College, located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario is one of 24 community colleges in Ontario. Visit our website at [www.saultcollege.ca](http://www.saultcollege.ca) for more information.

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