



Sault College News Release

For immediate release

Ignite your Senses with Dining in the Dark

(Sault Ste. Marie, ON March 11, 2011) In this era of information overload, visual stimulation has reached an all time pinnacle. But imagine, just for an hour or two that you cannot see... that you abandon vision in exchange for a new, more stimulating dining experience. This is "Dining in the Dark".

Sault College and the Canadian Institution for the Blind (CNIB) have partnered for a unique dining event that will take place on Thursday March 24th at Sault College. Guests will enjoy a gourmet meal in a literally pitch-black dining room where they are guided and served by specially-trained Sault College Culinary and Hospitality students. Diners experience a world of sensitivity never experienced before, taking a journey of taste, sound and touch all in the dark.

"When someone loses their vision, life changes forever," states Terry Caporossi of the CNIB. "An experience such as dining in the dark allows sighted guests to imagine what it would be like for someone who is blind or partially sighted. As the faces of your loved ones fade from view, you would need to learn new ways to do life's everyday tasks, like reading, cooking, getting around safely, and eating. Every twelve minutes, another Canadian comes face-to-face with this difficult reality," states Caporossi.

Sault College students have received special training from the CNIB to serve meals in the dark, casually and comfortably offering guidance and reassurance for sighted guests.

“We are thrilled to expand on the current partnership that exists between the CNIB and the Disability Services Office,” states Matt Trainor, Director of Student Services. “Our Disability Services staff has worked in partnership with the CNIB for many years to provide accommodations to students who are blind or partially sighted. Our College is also very privileged to have had CNIB provide valuable input and support on a number of College projects as well as provide a member of their staff to assist on our Accessibility Advisory Committee.”

To enjoy this unique and unforgettable dining experience prepared and served by Sault College Culinary and Hospitality students in the Sault College Gallery Restaurant, contact Karen Boston at CNIB 705.949.2610 ext. 5450 or email Karen.Boston@CNIB.ca. Tickets are \$75 per person with a \$25 income tax receipt issued to each ticket holder by the CNIB. The funds raised will benefit CNIB programs and services for blind and partially sighted clients in Sault Ste. Marie. Appetizers & Cocktails begin at 6:00pm with dinner to follow. Free parking is available in the Gallery parking lot or across the street in the A-Lot parking lot.

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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 for more information.

Please contact:
Tessa Pino, Communications Officer
Sault College
705.759.2554 ext. 2830
www.saultcollege.ca