

It's a family affair at Wyatt's Plumbing

When John Wyatt started to think seriously about a career for himself, he knew it would be in the building trades somewhere. "I knew that construction could be a steady and reliable industry," says the Montreal native who lives with his wife and family on Cape Sable Island, where she was born.

"The more I looked into it, I saw that there was a growing need for plumbers." Wyatt set about getting a ticket as a plumber and worked for several years as a plumber's apprentice, learning the ins and outs of the trade from people who had been in the business sometimes longer than he had been alive.

When he was ready to operate as a full-time, licensed plumber there came another important decision, whether to sign on with an existing plumbing firm or to go it alone as an independent contractor. "The decision wasn't really that hard at all," he says. "I'm a pretty independent fellow and I always thought that

putting my own shingle out would also allow me to build a family business."

When he started looking around in 2007 for the financing needed to set up Wyatt's Plumbing, he first looked at banks, but did not find them all that easy to deal with. He was referred to the Community Business

Development Corporation (CBDC) and had a very positive experience in the process of applying for and being granted a seed loan from CBDC.

"They just really seemed like they cared," he says, "and they had a satellite office in Barrington with a great loan officer so it was pretty easy all around."

"The Seed Loan Program is one of our most effective programs," says CBDC executive director, Dixie Redmond. "It's

not just the start-up money for small businesses, though that is important. We have seen so many people who, because of the support and encouragement they get from CBDC, have gone on to create successful small enterprises."

Though based in Northeast Point, John Wyatt serves the entire western part of Shelburne County, with customers in Clarks Harbour, Barrington, Woods Harbour and all of Cape Sable Island.

Summers are special for John and his two children; Shane, 10 and Emma, 5. The young Shane often works full days with John, enjoying learning the ins-and-outs of a trade first hand and at a very young age.

Emma comes to work sometimes too, but not nearly as often. "It gives us a chance to be together, gives them a chance to see what I do and learn about it and gives them a chance to develop a positive work ethic."

Timothy Gillespie is a Shelburne-based writer

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John and young Shane Wyatt



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