

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 22, 2009**

President Robert Lawn called the meeting to order at noon at the Red George Public House. Present were Vice-President Brent Laton, Directors Lisa Smith, Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Ray Young, Beth Morris, Mike Baril, Brenda Kenney, Jessie Ritchie, Jen Wyman, Gerry Hasiuk, Roger Rhodes, Renata Kimmerly, members Pat Sayeau, Larry Dishaw, Suzanne Dodge, Paul Bisson, Sandra Lawn, Bonnie Gommert, Hugh Cameron and guests Julie Marshall and Michel Smith. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Bill Pakeman introduced Michel Smith, Plant Manager for Greenfield Ethanol and Pat Sayeau introduced Hugh Cameron, Councillor for Edwardsburgh/Cardinal township. Julie Marshall of the South Grenville Resource Centre was also in attendance.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for April 22, 2009 was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Lisa Smith. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.
3. **REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Bill Pakeman suggested a committee be formed to discuss and clarify accepting new members outside our area and report before our next Annual General Meeting for acceptance.
4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for March 18, 2009 were approved as circulated on motion by Ray Young and seconded by Mike Baril. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Robert Lawn reported he attended the luncheon event at the Brockville Mental Health Centre in March where discussion was held on the future use of the Brockville facility and to hopefully increase the use of the site for those who require more permanent care.

Robert also met with heads of Chambers in our area who will form a committee to work together and will meet again in the fall. Chambers included Brockville, Smith Falls, Kemptville, Gananoque and Kingston.

Robert attended the luncheon event featuring Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce who spoke on today's economy and concerns, free trade, interprovincial trade barriers between our province, the lack of skilled workers in Canada's labour pool and harmonizing the GST and PST. Mr. Beatty noted Canada is in better shape than many other nations.

Robert also noted Invista Canada announced major cuts eliminating 240 full-time positions out of 400 due to restructuring of its Maitland site.

Also anyone wishing to volunteer on any Chamber committees please contact Robert or Debbie and it would be appreciated if members could pay their 2009 Chamber dues as soon as possible.

Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal townships will be discussing their budget at our May meeting to be held at the Bridgeview Restaurant.

6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Brent Laton presented Debbie Lawless with flowers as it was Office Administration/Secretaries week. Debbie has been secretary for the Chamber for 25 years as of this month.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Debbie Lawless presented the treasurer's report for period ending March 31, 2009. The financial statement was accepted on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Renata Kimmerly. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried. Copy enclosed.

8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie noted there are still 2009 membership dues owing and she will be sending reminders once again.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence for April 2009 was distributed to all.

**10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** Bill Pakeman, Chair, reported on requests received for April.

1. Connect Youth - request for \$500. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Lisa Smith and seconded by Ray Young the Chamber make a one time exception and donate \$250.00 to Connect Youth in memory of Bryan Somerville this year even though the Financial Committee felt it was outside the Chamber's mandate. (9 for, 0 opposed) carried.

2. Canadian Cancer Society - Financial Committee felt this request was outside the Chamber's mandate but it was suggested to see if donations stay in our area.

3. St. Lawrence Shakespeare - Financial Committee felt the Festival supports small business in our area.

Gerry Hasiuk suggested donating \$2000.00 now and \$2000.00 in the fall. Brent Laton suggested donating \$1500.00 now and review in the fall for a further donation for a total of \$4000.00

Discussion was held and it was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Mike Baril to donate \$1500.00 now to the Festival and review for an additional donation in the fall pending the financial situation of the chamber after holding our annual golf tournament in September. (7 for, 4 opposed). Carried.

Bill Pakeman suggested Shakespeare people could perhaps help out at our golf tournament. Jessie Ritchie accepted to help out and will relay this suggestion to their board.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** No report.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Pakeman reported two new members.

Allaglen Farm  
Spencerville, Ontario  
Alton Whitehorne  
(Farm)

Genivar  
Prescott, Ontario  
(Civil Engineering)

These two new members were accepted on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Heather Lawless. (10 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

## 11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported the Build Canada Fund can be used for the Daniel's lot to save on taxes for the developer.

Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day promotions and the firefighters convention are being worked on.

Ray noted the Volunteer Recognition Awards event was held April 20.

Mayor Suzanne Dodge presented an overview of the town's 2009 budget and its impact on business. The operating budget for 2009 will be approximately \$7.8 million which includes some grants. The capital budget for 2009 is \$656,000. There is no estimate yet for commercial or industrial taxes. Taxpayers face a 1% increase. Suzanne also reviewed upcoming projects, major projects and economic development initiatives. For further information you may contact Suzanne at 925-2812.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported on the following:

- council is hoping for a 0% increase to its budget
- council is reapplying to the Build Canada Fund
- usage of clear garbage bags will be in effect May 1
- Pitch In Canada takes place on May 2
- council is reviewing applications for Road Superintendent/Public Works and holding interviews asap
- due to dry weather conditions their volunteer firefighters have needed to provide extra duties

- a mediator has been chosen for union negotiations
- a public meeting will be announced to help form a Maynard Recreation Committee

Bill also congratulated Edwardsburgh/Cardinal who published an excellent package to promote their township.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDS BURGH/CARDINAL:** Larry Dishaw reported on the following:

- forms were signed for application for \$5.5 million stimulus fund for grain bin expansion annex project.
- work going ahead on Helen Street for water/sewer/storm project (\$210,000)
- work going ahead on County Road 2 water main extension (\$150,000)
- Crowder Road rehabilitation and sidewalk replacement (\$330,000) in draft budget
- Ventnor/Hyndman culvert project (\$208,000) in draft budget
- work going ahead on Helen and Gill Streets storm sewer project (\$80,000)
- official plan review - public meetings were held in Johnstown, Cardinal and Spencerville
- public meeting held on Prosser sub-division (zoning of 80 lots)
- site plan control agreements for Grenville Park and Cardinal convenience store
- work going ahead with County Roads 22 and 44 resurface projects
- working on Canada Build fund applications for \$2.1 million water/sewer replacement on County Road 2 to Cardinal/County Road 22 to east limits
- residential permits for 2009 - 5
- Port wharf project permit - \$34 million

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported the corporation has disbursed over \$1 million in loans to businesses in 2008-09, only the third time in 19 year history. The new Eastern Ontario investment pool with business loans up to \$500k is now available and no cost consultations and referrals are available.

Next Business Plan Development workshop (8 weeks) starts May 4, 2009 and the next information and orientation session is scheduled for May 21, 2009 in Brockville.

Commitment to renew Eastern Ontario Development Program was made in the Federal budget and GCFDC is awaiting application details.

The GCFDC also has available how to plan a successful trail event workshop series and best small and medium employers' survey opportunity. Go to [www.grenvillecfdc.com](http://www.grenvillecfdc.com) for more information.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Bonnie Gommert, Executive Director, for the local Food For All Food Bank noted they serve all of South Grenville area and have a satellite office in Cardinal and also now in Spencerville at the United Church. Prescott office is now open Wednesday night from 5-7 p.m.

Bonnie invited all to their upcoming fundraising event featuring Max Keeping, CJOH-TV anchor, which includes a roast beef dinner and live auction on May 9, 2009 at the St. Mark's Parish Centre. Tickets are \$15.00.

Also all are welcome to tour the food bank to show their dreams and vision. Contact Bonnie at 925-2444.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Gerry Hasiuk noted the road traffic problem on Highway 2 to 416 needs to be addressed.

Pat Sayeau, Councillor for Edwardsburgh/Cardinal township replied the County is responsible for County Road 2 but noted Council has presented letters to the County and has met with the County Engineer with revisions and are in the process of taking options to the County's Council.

Bill Pakeman noted renewal for Directors and Officers liability insurance is due shortly. The insurance only covers Directors and Officers liability and any events sponsored or organized by the chamber would not be covered with general liability that may arise. Bill will review the policy and report back next meeting if we should carry additional coverage.

A committee was formed to discuss and clarify the districts where new members can join from outside our area and/or if they can serve as a Director and/or if they may vote and report back next meeting. Volunteers for the committee were Robert Lawn, Brent Laton, Bill Pakeman and Pat Sayeau.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2009** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome"

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.