

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2009**

President Robert Lawn called the meeting to order at noon at the Red George Public House. Present were Vice-President Brent Laton, Past-President Mike Martel, Directors Lisa Smith, Allan Norton, Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Ray Young, Gerry Hasiuk, Roger Rhodes, Renata Kimmerly, members Bonnie Martel, Larry Dishaw, Pat Sayeau, John Doris, Wendy Onstein, Jen Wyman and guest Sgt. Paul Bisson. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mike Martel introduced John Doris of James A. Doris Professional Corporation and Gerry Hasiuk introduced Sgt. Paul Bisson of the O.P.P.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for February 18, 2009 was approved on motion by Mike Martel and seconded by Ray Young. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.
3. **REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** No report.
4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for January 21, 2009 were approved as circulated on motion by Renata Kimmerly and seconded by Mike Martel. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Robert Lawn noted he was very pleased to hear of the recent funding announcement for the Port of Prescott.

All are invited to the Brockville C of C Annual General Meeting to be held March 5, 2009 and Robert relayed to the Brockville Chamber they are welcome to join in and partnering with some of our projects and events and vice versa.

John Doris presented an over view of the upcoming informative and inspiring Economic Development event with Donald J. Trump to showcase Eastern Ontario communities and promote networking across the region and hear advice on certain areas of business. Eastern Ontario communities and the outside area are invited to attend this event which will be held on September 24, 2009 at the Ottawa Civic Centre. The event will create and explore new ideas to cultivate new business opportunities especially during these challenging economic times and show why Eastern Ontario is a great place to live and invest in. Mr. Trump will share some of his successes. This is a chance to meet and network with other leaders to increase the profile of the community. There will be 90 spaces available for exhibit booths. Tickets will go on sale in mid March. Call for 416-413-1454 or 1-866-413-9006 or go to www.easternontarioshowcase.com for more information.

Robert thanked John for his presentation and commended him on this great initiative.

6. **VICE-PRESIDENTS REPORT:** Brent Laton reported some economic development projects for 2009 for the Town include the waterfront park/hotel, path to Coast Guard, community improvement plan and facade and improvement grants for town, hiring an Economic Development/Tourism Coordinator, and noted the Chamber and BIA have been invited to share in the planning. The group will meet monthly. Robert Lawn noted cooperation is the way to survive.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for period ending January 31, 2009 was presented by treasurer Debbie Lawless. The financial statement was accepted on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Lisa Smith. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried. Copy enclosed.

8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** No report presented.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for February 2009 was distributed.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** No report presented.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Mike Martel gave an update on the Chamber's Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet which will be held on **Monday, March 9, 2009** at the Prescott Golf Club. Tickets are \$35.00 each and the guest speaker will be Mr. Ian Farthing, Artistic Director of the Shakespeare Theatre Festival.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Pakeman reported one new member.

B&L Auto,
Spencerville, Ontario
(Colin Crook)
Garage Auto Services

This new member was approved on motion by Roger Rhodes and seconded by Allan Norton. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported Council is preparing the budget and the zoning by law is complete and noted King Street repairs are the top priority of upcoming projects.

Also money has been allocated in the budget for the town to rent a booth at the Eastern Ontario Showcase event being held in September 2009.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported Council is working on the budget and Council and staff have agreed to a 0% increase.

Union negotiations are presently taking place with the OPSEU.

Bill congratulated Edwardsburgh/Cardinal township on being successful in the first round of infrastructure money and wished them well and noted Augusta Township will be applying in the next round.

As of May 1, 2009 clear plastic garbage bags will be in use at the Township's land fill sites.

Council has had several meetings with their residents regarding the official plan and the township is moving forward in a positive, cohesive manner with this.

Augusta ball committees are busy planning for the upcoming season and the library board and council have met to discuss issues of mutual importance and interests.

Steve Fournier has been contracted to do an overview of the office and personnel to look for ways to improve effectiveness.

Councillor Darlene Banning and Bill will be attending the OGRA in Toronto next week and Reeve Campbell will attend also as a member of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville.

The township has just completed the installment of a new gas/propane generator for their EMS and the Township's new CBO is settling in well.

3. TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL: Mayor Larry Dishaw reported Provincial and Federal funding has been approved for \$23 million for the elevator storage bins and warf repair projects at Ports Canada.

Road reconstruction will need to take place from Wexford to Grenville Park and repaving of Cty. Rd. 44 from Angelos to Brouseville Road will also take place this summer.

Gerry Hasiuk thanked Larry and Pat for what they have done and on their achievements.

4. GCFDC: Heather Lawless reported on the activities of the corporation.

Business Financing - GCFDC had dispersed \$994k to 16 Grenville businesses impacting 147 jobs as of December 31, 2008.

The new Eastern Ontario Investment Pool with business loans is now up to \$500k and as of December 31, 2008 GCFDC has provided 62 consulting services to 50 area businesses. For more information on Business Finance and Consulting contact Mike O'Keefe at 925-4275 x 22.

The Self Employment Benefit (SEB) program has 17 new entrepreneurs now in training at GCFDC and are forecasting close to 60 new entrepreneurs starting business in 2009. The next program information and orientation session will be held on March 1, 2009 and the next 8 week business plan development workshop starts May 4, 2009. To register for SEB contact Cathy Gilmour at 925-4275 x25.

A commitment to renew the Eastern Ontario Development program was made in the Federal Budget and \$27.7M was invested in Grenville economic and business development projects from October 2004 to March 31, 2009. GCFDC is presently awaiting application details. For more information on GCFDC go to www.grenvillecfdc.com.

5. BIA: Ray Young reported Mike Dimopoulos will now be representative for the BIA and Sue Villeneuve is the new Chair for 2009. The budget has been set for \$26,500, same as last year. The BIA is presently focusing on Father's Day, Harbour Days promotions and the Eastern Ontario Fire Marshall event and will also be funding hanging flower baskets again this year.

12. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion was held regarding road reconstruction from Wexford to Grenville Park and motion was made by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Ray Young that the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce petition the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville to revise the design specifications for the repavement of County Road #2 from Wexford to Grenville Park to include three lane turning sections between Commerce Drive and Highway #16. (9 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

Robert Lawn will compose and send a letter to the Warden and Council of the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville with a copy to Steve Silver, Chief Administrative Officer and Leslie Shepherd, Director of Works.

Wendy Onstein of the L/G Small Business Enterprise Centre reviewed upcoming small business events for February and March 2009 which include the Winter 2009 Speaker Series such as Legal Concerns for Your Business, Bridges to Better Business (speaker Leonard Lee - Lee Valley Tools) and Small Business Marketing Strategies (T.D. Graham & Associates) and Artpreneur. Contact Wendy at 342-8772 x 470 or go to www.lgsbec.com.

Gerry Hasiuk suggested the Chamber pursue communications with the Ogdensburg C of C and Lisa responded there is open communications presently with the Ogdensburg C of C.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** The following volunteers were selected and accepted for 2009 committees on motion by Heather Lawless and seconded by Lisa Smith. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

Finance: Bill Pakeman, Brenda Kenney, Robert Lawn, Brent Laton

Program and Planning: Heather Lawless, Mike Martel, Ray Young, Robert Lawn, Brent Laton

Membership: Bill Pakeman, Mike Baril, Roger Rhodes, Brent Laton, Robert Lawn.

Sub-committees:

Annual Award Dinner (Planning): Bill Pakeman, Mike Martel, Robert Lawn, Sharon Spychi (silent auction)

Fundraising and golf sub-committees volunteers still need to be selected for 2009.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009** at the **RED GEORGE PUBLIC HOUSE** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome".

The Chamber's Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet will be held on March 9, 2009 at the Prescott Golf and Country Club.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m. on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Mike Martel. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.