

**Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce  
Annual General Meeting  
January 17, 2007**

President Lisa Smith called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Treasurer Allan Norton, Directors Heather Lawless, Robert Lawn, Sharon Spychi, Mary Lou Murray, Ray Young, Ken Rundle, Jim French, Chris O'Reilly, Anne Sawyer, Brent Laton, Mike Baril and Matt Rowbotham; Members Tim Ruhnke, Bryan Somerville, Beth Morris, Renata Kimmerly, Elma Pyl and Marilyn Ashby; and Guests Gerald Hasiuk and Mike Haley. Minutes recorded by Coordinator Monica Whitney

**1. Introduction of Guests:** Lisa Smith introduced Beth Morris' guest Gerald Hasiuk, who has purchased property on County Road 2 in Johnstown and is operating a rental container business serving the Cornwall-Kingston-Ottawa corridor. She also introduced Mary Lou Murray's guest Mike Haley, Regional Vice-President of RBC Royal Bank.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for Jan. 17, 2007 was approved on motion by Mike Baril and seconded by Ken Rundle. (8 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.

**3. Review of business arising from last month's minutes:** There was no business arising from last month's minutes.

**4. Approval of last month's minutes:** The minutes for Nov. 15, 2006 were approved as circulated on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Ray Young. (7 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.

**5. President's Report:** Lisa Smith wished everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year, and thanked Ralph Legere for standing as Chamber President for 2006. She noted the Chamber's positive efforts to the community last year were contributions to the Prescott Public Library, St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, budget breakfast presentation, Harbour Days, Fort Town Concert Association, Prescott Welcome Signs, Spencerville Fair Board, South Grenville District High School Bursary, Municipal Election All-Candidates Meeting, Kinsmen Club Spirit of Giving Campaign, and involvement in the First Impressions Community Exchange Program. Lisa thanked the directors for supporting the Coordinator's contract renewal, noting she had signed the contract on behalf of the Chamber. She added a representative needs to be appointed to act as the co-ordinator's Chamber supervisor. Lisa reminded everyone of the Shakespeare fundraising dinner/cabaret to be held Feb. 17 at the high school.

**6. Treasurer's Report:** Allan Norton presented the treasurer's report for period ending Dec. 31, 2006. He noted almost \$10,000 had been donated by the Chamber to community projects and bursaries in 2006. The financial report was accepted on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Mary Lou Murray. (9 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.

**7. Secretary's Report:** There was no secretary's report due to the absence of Debbie Lawless.

**8. Correspondence:** A list of correspondence received for Jan. 2007 was distributed to all present. An invoice for 2007 dues for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce for \$1,343.23 was

approved on motion by Mike Baril and seconded by Ray Young. (9 for – 0 opposed. Carried)  
An invoice for 2007 dues for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce for \$328.60 was approved on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Chris O'Reilly. (8 for – 0 opposed. Carried)

### **9. Committee Reports:**

**1. Finance:** Lisa Smith withdrew as chair of the finance committee and had no report to present.

**2. Program and Planning:** Mary Lou Murray reported plans for the annual Chamber dinner are in the works, including the date and selection of a guest speaker, and that organizers will soon be calling for donations for the silent auction. More details will be presented at the February meeting.

**3. Membership:** Membership chair Bill Pakeman was absent. There were no new members.

### **10. Liaison Reports:**

**1. Town of Prescott:** Newly-appointed Town of Prescott representative Ray Young reported the new council is getting up and running. He also noted the town has now been guaranteed \$13 million in government funding for the sewage treatment plant, expected to cost approximately \$17 million, and that the town is looking at cost-saving ideas. Council is also sorting out an Official Plan objection.

**2. SGED Committee:** Sharon Spychi noted the South Grenville Economic Development Committee had not met recently, and that there was no report.

**3. GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported the current round of Eastern Ontario Development Program funds will be oversubscribed, but that renewal of the program is anticipated. She also noted there are 17 potential new entrepreneurs enrolled in the current Self-Employment Benefit program and that having the program running in Prescott generally means more activity in the downtown area.

**4. Coordinator:** (Tourism) Monica Whitney reported the Thousand Islands/St. Lawrence River Tourism Marketing Partnership committee is dealing with a shortfall in its budget due to Kingston reducing its share of funding to the partnership from \$20,000 to \$2,000. How the committee deals with Kingston's participation and the city's benefits in the partnership could affect other communities and their contributions. Both Tourism Prescott and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation contribute \$2,000 annually to the partnership.

(BIA) The BIA AGM is set for Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Cup After Cup, 179 King Street West. Members are encouraged to join the BIA board of directors. This year's Valentine's Promotion is "Shop – in the Name of Love". There will be a draw for five \$25 downtown gift certificates, three gas coupons worth \$20 each and two Shakespeare tickets. Ballot bags will be available in downtown locations.

Ray Young added the rope lighting on the clock tower is permanent and was not intended just for the Christmas season. He noted this was a BIA project, and extended his appreciation to Rideau St. Lawrence for installing the lights. Ray noted he would like to see the lighthouse lit in a similar fashion.

(Chamber) Monica is developing an attractive general information brochure for the Chamber that also explains membership benefits and fees and an application form.

Printing/updating costs will be minimal since this can be produced on the laser printer at Town Hall.

(Economic Development) Requests for business information on Prescott, particularly the downtown, are becoming more frequent. Information packages and/or follow-up phone calls and a personal letter are sent per requests. To update your business listing on the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville site, visit [www.uclg.ca](http://www.uclg.ca), go to “business development”, then to “Leeds and Grenville business directory”, then “register your company”.

It was motioned by Heather Lawless and seconded by Mary Lou Murray, that Lisa Smith continue to act as the co-ordinator’s supervisor. (9 for – 0 opposed. Carried)

**11. New Business:** On motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Ray Young, the Chamber will honour a third year of its pledge of \$1,200 annually to the Friends of the Prescott Public Library. (10 for – 0 opposed. Carried) It could not be recalled if the Chamber had initially made a three or five-year pledge, and they will look into this.

**12. Other Business – Report of the Nominating Committee:** Brent Laton presented the report of the Nominating Committee. He noted the Chamber should have its full complement of 25 directors to allow for vibrant discussion and involvement of activities. Mike Baril nominated Bryan Somerville for a director position. Brent Laton motioned and Robert Lawn seconded to accept 2007 nominations for Lisa Smith, Allan Norton, Marilyn Ashby, Mike Baril, Lewis Beach, Jim French, Brenda Kenney, Brent Laton, Heather Lawless, Robert Lawn, Beth Morris, Mary Lou Murray, Chris O’Reilly, Bill Pakeman, Matt Rowbotham, Ken Rundle, Anne Sawyer, Bryan Somerville, Sharon Spychi and Ray Young as Directors. (8 for – 0 opposed. Carried)

Brent Laton motioned and Robert Lawn seconded to accept nominations for Mary Lou Murray as Vice-President and Allan Norton as Treasurer. (8 for – 0 opposed. Carried.)

The position of President is filled by the President-Elect, Lisa Smith. The position of Secretary is a paid employee of the board – Debbie Lawless. Mary Lou Murray is President-Elect.

The report of the nominating committee and nominations were accepted as presented on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Mary Lou Murray. (7 for – 0 opposed. Carried)

**13. Next Meeting:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held **Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2007** at the **Bridgeview Restaurant**, commencing at noon. Everyone is welcome.

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm on motion by Brent Laton and seconded by Ken Rundle. (8 For – 0 opposed.) Carried.