

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2009**

President Mike Martel called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were: Directors Lisa Smith, Robert Lawn, Brent Laton, Sharon Spychi, Bill Pakeman, Ray Young, Heather Lawless, Beth Morris, Lewis Beach, Mike Baril, Brenda Kenney, Gerry Hasiuk, members Bonnie Martel, Tim Ruhnke, Jessie Ritchie, Lorne Mallory, Pat Sayeau, Ken Durand, Renata Kimmerly, Larry Dishaw, Roger Rhodes and guests Chuck Street, Matt Brooks and Danielle McCaffrey. Minutes recorded by secretary Debbie Lawless.

President Mike Martel asked for a moment of silence to remember Chamber Director Bryan Somerville and Chamber member Barry Laushway who recently passed.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mike Martel introduced Matt Brooks of MegaBit IT Consulting of Brockville who explained setting up and maintaining the proposed ride sharing program.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for January 21, 2009 was approved, after the amendment to delete the SGED Committee report, on motion by Lisa Smith and seconded by Gerry Hasiuk. (7 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

3. **REVIEW OF BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Discussion was held regarding setting up the ride sharing program. Cost would be approximately \$1500.00 to set up the web site and data base and it was suggested business advertisements could help offset the costs.

It was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Pat Sayeau to employ Matt Brooks of MegaBit IT Consulting to create the ride sharing program web site at the cost of \$1500.00. (8for, 4 opposed). Carried.

The program would help keep people in our community from moving out due to travelling expenses and show we are supporting our local community.

4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for December 17, 2008 were approved on motion by Brenda Kenney and seconded by Brent Laton. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike Martel thanked everyone for their support during the past year and noted volunteering as President was a positive experience.

Lisa Smith thanked Mike for stepping forward as President and for a great job.

6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** No report presented.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Sharon Spychi presented the treasurer's report for period ending December 31, 2008. The financial statement was approved as presented on motion by Lisa Smith and seconded by Sharon Spychi. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried. Copy enclosed.

Discussion was held and Sharon Spychi motioned and Lisa Smith seconded Ken Durand do the 2008 audit for the Chamber. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie Lawless reported she will be sending out invoices to members for their 2009 membership dues shortly.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for January 2009 was distributed to all present.

Item #1: Invoice for Canadian C of C 2009 membership dues for \$346.50.

Motion was made by Mike Baril and seconded by Lisa Smith to pay the Canadian C of C 2009 membership dues for \$346.50. (8 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Sharon Spychi reported the Annual Dinner committee has met and the awards criteria has been completed. The dinner will be held on Monday, March 9, 2009 at the Prescott Golf Club. Guest speaker will be Ian Farthing, Artistic Director of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Theatre. Tickets will cost \$35.00 per person, same price as last year.

Sharon requires four more volunteers to help with contacting businesses to donate to the silent auction. The awards nominations deadline is March 2, 2009. Nominations may be dropped off at Ray Youngs, Young's of Prescott on King Street in Prescott, emailed to Debbie Lawless at prescottchamber@xplornet.com or mailed to Prescott and District C of C, P.O. Box 2000, Prescott, Ontario K0E 1T0.

Mike Martel thanked Sharon and her committee for their time and efforts in organizing the Annual Dinner and Awards event.

The following have sponsored the Annual Dinner Awards:

Corporate Service Award - GCFDC
Mike Boyles Award - Toronto Dominion Bank
Community Service Award - Mortgage Alliance
Rev. Gerry Ring Award - Gold Key Realty

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

River Massage Therapy,
Prescott, Ontario
(Jennifer Wyman)
(Therapeutic Massage and Body Work Clinic)

This new member was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Ray Young. (8 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported the old Daniels Hotel property, subdivision and waterfront hotel are the highest priorities for the new year for economic development.

The sewage treatment plan should be completed by summer and road projects for 2009 include King Street in Prescott.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported Council is working on the budget and seeking money from the Provincial and Federal governments for infrastructure.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL:** Larry Dishaw reported Council has completed their year end report.

Projects for 2009 include building and installing hopper at the Port, upgrading the Ports web site, marketing the industrial park, marketing the 23 lot subdivision in Johnstown and 80 lot subdivision in Cardinal.

The township will be hosting the Great Waterfront Trail Cycle Tour again in July 2009.

Council is working on the 658/657 telephone exchange issue and they are also addressing water/waste rates and updating waterlines at Helen and Gill Streets in Cardinal.

The Galop Canal Cultural Committee met regarding revitalizing the Galop Canal and linking to Cornwall.

Larry also noted a General Manager and General Foreman have been hired for the Port of Prescott.

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported they are now entering the last half of their fiscal year and are in the process of applying for program renewal to secure ongoing funding the their next three year contract.

5. **BIA:** Ray Young reported the BIA is meeting tonight to elect their Board of Directors and will report next month on the BIA's plans for 2009.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Bill Pakeman suggested meeting with our local car dealership, Riverside Pontiac Buick, to show our support and also suggested we send a letter to the Ontario C of C and Canadian C of C regarding the seriousness of the recent downturn of the auto industry.

Discussion was held and it was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton to meet with Riverside Pontiac Buick as a gesture of goodwill to show our support, send letters to the Ontario C of C and Canadian C of C to show our support to the auto industry and also send a letter to the editor showing the Chamber's support to the auto industry. (11 for, 0 opposed)
Carried.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Heather Lawless, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the report of the nominating committee submitted on behalf of committee members Mike Baril, Bill Pakeman, Ray Young and herself:

1. that the resignations from Directors Marylou Murray, Marilyn Ashby, Kathy McNeeley, Matt Rowbotham and Anne Sawyer be accepted with regret and that we extend thanks to all for their service on the Board;
2. that the loss of Director Bryan Somerville be recognized with sympathy extended to his family and that his contributions to this Board be acknowledged as significant;
3. that the resignations of Officers Mike Martel , President, and Sharon Spychi, Treasurer, be accepted with regret and that we extend our thanks to Mike and Sharon for their service in their Officer capacities;
4. that Debbie Lawless be appointed to the position of Secretary-Treasurer and that we extend thanks to Debbie for her 25 years of service in the position of Secretary;
5. and that the following people be nominated to serve in the stated capacities on the Board of Directors for 2009, a one year term commencing today;

Robert Lawn, President
Brent Laton, Vice-President
Mike Martel, Past President
Mike Baril, Director
Lewis Beach, Director
Ken Durand, Director
Jim French, Director
Gerry Hasiuk, Director
Brenda Kenney, Director

Jim King, Director
Heather Lawless, Director
Beth Morris, Director
Allan Norton, Director
Bill Pakeman, Director
Roger Rhodes, Director
Jessie Ritchie, Director
Lisa Smith, Director
Ray Young, Director

All those nominated have agreed in advance to let their name stand.

There being no nominations from the floor, nominations were declared closed.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Heather Lawless motioned and Ray Young seconded the Nominating Committee report and the slate of nominees to Director and Officer positions on the Board of Directors of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce for the year 2009 be accepted as presented. (8 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

Heather thanked committee members for their efforts and welcomed all new Directors and Officers.

Mike Martel congratulated Robert Lawn on his new position as President for 2009 and also thanked the Nominating Committee for volunteering their time and noted it was a pleasure working with them and is looking forward to helping out committees for 2009. He also noted the new Board of Directors has a responsibility to ensure the Chamber continues to be successful and also needs to participate in any way they can.

Robert Lawn gave a brief description of his past employment and experience. He was previously president of the Chamber in 2000. He also noted we need cooperation among businesses and municipalities and to take advice and suggestions.

Danielle McCaffrey of L/G Small Business Enterprise Centre explained upcoming small business events for January, February and March 2009 and also a noted a one day web design event will be held on February 25 and February 26, 2009. Contact Danielle at 342-8772 ext. 471 or email enterprisecentre@brockille.com and www.lgsbec.com to register and/or for more information. Danielle briefly explained the government funded Summer Company full time program available for youths between the ages of 15 and 29. For more information you may go to www.summercompany.ca or call Danielle at 342-8772 ext. 471.

Please note Committees and Sub-committees will be selected at our next meeting.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. on motion by Mike Baril and seconded by Mike Martel. (7 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

