

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 16, 2008**

President Mike Martel called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Treasurer Sharon Spychi, Directors Lisa Smith, Robert Lawn, Mike Baril, Beth Morris, Bryan Somerville, Marilyn Ashby, Heather Lawless, Kathy McNeely, Matt Rowbotham, Bill Pakeman, members Bonnie Martel, Larry Dishaw, Jessie Ritchie, Sandra Lawn, Roger Rhodes and guest Barbara Osborne. Minutes recorded by secretary Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Lisa Smith introduced Barbara Osborne who will act as Chamber representative for the Brockville Recorder and Times Ltd.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for July 16, 2008 was approved on motion by Robert Lawn and seconded by Lisa Smith. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

3. **REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** Heather Lawless reported it should be noted Sharon Spychi has joined the GCFDC Board of Directors.

4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for June 18, 2008 were approved as circulated on motion by Lisa Smith and seconded by Robert Lawn. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike Martel reported he attended the recent tour of the Port of Prescott and noted the Port is a very important part of our community . A letter from the Chamber will be sent to support Provincial funding for the \$30 million wharf reconstruction and additional storage needs for the Port.

Mike attended the Shadows of the Fort performances and encouraged everyone to attend this and also the Shakespeare performances.

The Bluenose received a great community welcome and were very impressed by the generosity and support from this community. The Captain noted they make many stops but Prescott is their favorite.

Mike reminded everyone of our Annual Golf Tournament which will be held in September.

The Town of Prescott is seeking information from members for their new website. Contact Mike for more information at 345-5284.

An email was received from Renata Kimmerly requesting to discuss a proposal to initiate a car pooling registry for workers, students, etc. in our area. Mike suggested the Chamber be proactive in making it easier for people to travel to their employment instead of moving closer to larger cities where they work. We need to step forward to get people to remain in our community and not incur extra expenses i.e. gas.

Next month GCFDC has invited members to attend a presentation on their programs, etc. at their office at 11:00 a.m., just prior to our monthly meeting, at 197 Water Street, West, Prescott on August 20, 2008.

For more information contact Mike at 345-5284 or Heather Lawless at 925-4275 ext. 21.

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

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for period ending June 30, 2008 was presented by Sharon Spychi. The financial statement was approved on motion by Sharon Spychi and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried. Copy enclosed.

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

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for July 2008 was distributed to all present.

Discussion was held and motion was made by Sharon Spychi and seconded by Heather Lawless to pay the following bills received for July 2008:

1. St. Lawrence Printing for 500 envelopes for \$92.66
2. Edwards Insurance Company for Chamber Liability Insurance for 2008 for \$621.00
3. EMC for two Annual Dinner ads for \$108.84 and \$73.50.

(6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Sharon reported the committee is in the process of listing Prescott and area businesses to maybe produce a membership kit and member to member discount program.

Bill Pakeman felt the member to member discount program is having a positive response but noted the committee requires mor help. Please contact Bill at 925-0731 is interested.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** No report presented.

11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** No report presented.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported the south portion of the township has been graveled and work at Donnelly sub-division, on western side of township, is progressing well. Work is also being done on the township's website.

Bill also commended Mike Baril on the Classic/Antique car show held recently on a job well done.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL:** Mayor Larry Dishaw reported he attended Premier Dalton McGuinty's reception held yesterday in Cornwall. Approximately

60 people attended and he was the only one from Leeds and Grenville who received an invite. He stated the Port's needs to the Premier. The Premier announced \$80 million from the Province is being allocated to Eastern Ontario over the next four years.

160 cyclists rode in the first Annual Great Waterfront Trail Adventure, an 8 day tour of 680 kilometers from Niagara to the Quebec border and were hosted by the township at Grenville Park. The cyclists were given tours of Prescott, meals, etc. Comments were positive and cyclists noted it was the best evening of the trip. They were very impressed with the region and some will return with their families. Forty cyclists have signed up for next year's event already and Larry noted we need to support this endeavor.

RFPs are out to work with other municipalities on 416/Economic Development corridor and for the township Economic Development Committee to establish a website, logo, branding, brochures, etc. especially, to showcase the Industrial Park and Wood Centre. Larry congratulated Sandra Lawn on her group's work done on the Centre.

Other items being worked on are:

- signage for the Industrial Park
- Port of Prescott tenders issued for new hopper installation and road paving
- noise evaluation study for Meadowlands 86 lot subdivision
- site clearing, drainage and road construction at 23 lots at Racine sub-division in Johnstown
- low lift pump station and water lines under construction at Greenfield Ethanol plant

The ribbon cutting ceremony is being held tomorrow at the new Fields store, a division of Hudson Bay, in Cardinal.

The Counties have hired Bob Cheetham and Ann Weir for Economic Development strategies and needs and Tourism

Township projects underway include Cornwall Gravel for township paving, Cruickshank for road to Greenfield, Tackaberry for Port paving, East Ontario Millwrighting for Port hopper, Eastern Welding for Cardinal water plant, Louis Bray for pump station and line.

Building permit values for 2008 are \$15 million and 2008 fees are \$50,000.

4. **SGED COMMITTEE:** Sharon reported no meeting has been held and noted her two year term expires at the end of August, therefore another rep will be required.

5. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported funds are still available from the EODF program and on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at 11:00 a.m., one hour prior to our next monthly meeting,, GCFDC will be having a presentation on their programs, etc. Everyone is welcome.

Also GCFDC is sponsoring the Shakespeare performance tonight.

6. **BIA:** Lisa reported over 15 artists will display their work at the Town Clock parking lot on August 9, 2008 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Prescott.

Prescott Loyalist Days events will be held from August 8, 2008 to August 10, 2008 with many events taking place. For information call 925-3054.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** No report presented.

14. **NEW BUSINESS:** Bill Pakeman queried if it would be possible for our Chamber to send a letter to the Ontario and Canadian Chambers to ask for ideas on how senior citizens on fixed incomes can deal with rising gas prices, etc.

Larry Dishaw noted the Grenville Farm Family Day is being held on July 23, 2008 at the Port of Prescott and all are invited to attend.

Sandra Lawn, Project Leader of the Ontario East Wood Centre and Eco-Industrial Park, reported the Ontario East Wood Centre is making good progress and noted we are located in the largest hardwood forest in North America and we need to promote the Centre through support, trust and communication as it is a huge advantage for all of Leeds and Grenville.

Also Sandra noted the 2009 Shakespeare Lottery Calendars are available for purchase for 2009 and made special thanks to Andre Chamberland of St. Lawrence Printing for doing a great job.

Mike Martel congratulated the BIA on their events and noted the Chamber needs to be more visible and ideas to achieve this are most welcome.

Beth Morris suggested more money be donated from the Town of Prescott and the Chamber regarding the flower basket project and thanked the group who initiated this project. Mike Martel replied a funding application will need to be submitted to the Chamber to request more money for this project.

15. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2008** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome."

PLEASE NOTE: Prior to our next meeting at 11:00 a.m., GCFDC will be making a presentation on its programs at their office at 197 Water Street, West in Prescott. For more information contact Mike Martel at 345-5284 or Heather Lawless at 925-4275 ext. 21.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m. on motion by Lisa Smith and seconded by Larry Dishaw. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

