

**Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce
Board of Directors Meeting
June 21, 2006**

President Ralph Legere called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Vice-President Lisa Smith, Treasurer Allan Norton, Directors Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Robert Lawn, Sharon Spychi, Mary Lou Murray, Brenda Kenney, Ray Young, Ken Rundle, Anne Sawyer, Mike Baril, and Tina Murray, and members Tim Ruhnke, Robert Haller, Robert Pelda, Bryan Somerville, Judi Baril, Gary Dewar, Leslie Hubbard and Krista Gill. Minutes recorded by Monica Whitney

1. **Introduction of Guests:** Mary Lou Murray introduced member Elma Pyl of the Bank of Montreal, who plans to become active in the Chamber again.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda for June 21, 2006 was approved on motion by Robert Pelda and seconded by Ken Rundle. (3 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.
3. **Review of and 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 May 17, 2006 were approved as circulated on motion by Tina Murray and seconded by Mary Lou Murray. (7 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.
5. **President's Report:** Ralph Legere reported he had met with Health Minister George Smitherman for dinner and presented a brief on Prescott's concerns with regard to the lab closure and farmers' market health regulations. The Minister promised to look into the issues. President Legere later received an e-mail from the Minister's special assistant thanking him for the brief, and that he would be in touch in the near future for further discussion. Ralph noted the Minister honestly seemed to be interested in the Prescott Chamber's concerns.
6. **Vice-President's Report:** Lisa Smith reported the Prescott Welcome Sign dedication ceremony had been held May 26. A four-way supervisors' meeting of the partners involved in the co-ordinator's position was held May 31 to discuss joint projects and contract details. Lisa attended the June 6 meeting of Leeds-Grenville Chambers of Commerce held in Brockville to discuss issues of economic development. She also noted work has started again on the downtown revitalization project.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Allan Norton presented the treasurer's report for period ending May 31, 2006. He noted the entry of \$8,400 set aside for future commitments, such as the chamber's share of executive director wages, brochure printing, vacation guide and high school bursaries. The financial report was accepted on motion by Robert Lawn and seconded by Tina Murray. (7 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.

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

9. Correspondence: A list of correspondence received for June 2006 was distributed to all present.

10. Committee Reports:

1. Finance: Lisa Smith reported a request had been received for the Chamber to buy advertising in the Spencerville Fair brochure. Bill Pakeman noted Spencerville is within the catchment area of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce, and suggested the Finance Committee meet to discuss and report back to the board with recommendations.

2. Program and Planning: Mary Lou Murray reported the annual Chamber Golf Tournament will take place Wednesday, Sept. 20, and that organizers will soon be knocking on doors looking for prize table donations.

3. Membership: Bill Pakeman reported one new member.

Wok House Restaurant, 238 King Street West, Prescott.

This new member was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Robert Pelda. (8 for – 0 opposed.) Carried. The Wok House was welcomed by Ralph Legere.

11. Liaison Reports:

1. Town of Prescott: Robert Pelda reported town tax bills were being prepared and could be expected shortly, and that the Downtown Revitalization Steering Committee has now become active. The Town is moving forward with the process of its responsibilities and sorting through issues related to human bones being discovered on the construction site of the new OPP detachment. The town has called for tenders for the construction of the water pollution control centre and pump stations, and are due back July 12. He further reported the water and sewer budget has been passed and that Council will move to monthly meetings in July and August.

2. Tourism: Monica Whitney reported Gina Gallagher had been hired as a summer student to staff the Forwarders' Museum, and one student had yet to be hired. She noted she would be providing the daily supervision to the students, as well as passing along projects and ideas to work on. Monica also continues to act as the Prescott representative on the 1000 Islands/St. Lawrence River Marketing Partnership.

3. SGED Committee:

Heather Lawless reported Lewis Beach and Wilf Peters have completed their terms on the committee and two additional representatives are required. It was motioned by Heather Lawless and seconded by Ray Young to elect Tina Murray and Sharon Spychi to stand as Chamber representatives for the South Grenville Economic Development Committee. (8 for – 0 opposed.) Carried.

Heather also reported the next SGED meeting would take place July 26 in Augusta Township.

4. GCFDC:

Heather Lawless provided the highlights from the Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation Annual General Meeting held June 21: \$835,000 was dispersed in loans to 15 businesses, impacting 108 jobs and since 1990 more than \$10 million was dispersed by 295 businesses, impacting 1,787 jobs. The loan limit was increased to \$150,000 per business, effective April 1, 2006.

5. BIA:

Monica Whitney noted the June 17 Wheel into Summer downtown event was quite successful, with many businesses reporting increased sales and large crowds – many from out of town. She added the event was successful due to the large participation from businesses with respect to sponsoring events and donating prizes. The Visitor Passport to Savings coupon that allows visitors to Prescott 10 per cent off at downtown participating merchants is now being distributed.

6. Co-ordinator:

Monica Whitney reported her group and Chamber activities included attending the Leeds-Grenville Chamber meeting to seek opportunities to work co-operatively on topics of regional interest; working with two representatives from the Friends of the National Art Gallery who chose to include Prescott as a lunch and afternoon gathering spot in a major historic site tour in September; continued maintenance of the Prescott.ca Web site, including arranging for a Shakespeare logo link; and a contract was arranged among the four groups, with the BIA picking up extra time so all could remain within their budgets.

12. New Business: No new business was presented.

13. Other Business: Krista Gill thanked the Town of Prescott for participating in the United Way Amazing Race June 17, noting more than \$17,000 had been raised.

14. Next Meeting: The next Board of Directors meeting will be held **Wednesday, July 19, 2006** at the **Bridgeview Restaurant**, commencing at noon. Everyone is welcome.

15. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm on motion by Robert Pelda and seconded by Heather Lawless. (7 For – 0 opposed.) Carried.

