

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 18, 2008**

President Mike Martel called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Allan Norton, Sharon Spychi, Robert Lawn, Brenda Kenney, Ray Young, Jim French, Bill Pakeman, Brent Laton, Heather Lawless, Gerry Hasiuk, Matt Robothamm, members Jessie Ritchie, Bonnie Martel, Bonnie Gommert, Roger Rhodes, Judy Marshall, Robert Hennessy and guests Gene and Marsha Countryman of Countryman Garden and Estate Winery. Minutes recorded by secretary Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mike Martel introduced Gene and Marsha Countryman of Countryman Garden and Estate Winery who explained how their local business started, its present operation and what fruit wine they have available for sale.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for June 18, 2008 was approved on motion by Robert Lawn and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

3. **REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING:** No report presented.

4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for May 21, 2008 were approved as circulated on motion by Brenda Kenney and seconded by Sharon Spychi. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike Martel thanked former President Marylou Murray for her dedication and support and is honored to fill the President's position.

Mike attended a bus tour sponsored by Brockville Tourism to Gananoque with local politicians and tourism ideas were discussed for the area.

Mike noted the Bluenose crew enjoyed their stopover immensely in Prescott. The BBQ and entertainment held for them was very successful and they always look forward to their visits to Prescott. Mike noted the Chamber should encourage more visits such as this.

Mike met with the United Empire Loyalists Association and invited them to make a presentation to our Chamber at one of our future meetings as he feels it is important the local history of our area be known to inform visitors, tourists, etc. Mike feels we need to expand the exposure of our area in order to attract people to visit, stay over and to return to our area.

Fort Wellington will be presenting Shadows of the Fort on July 3, 2008. This is a free presentation for members. Please contact Mike at 345-5284 if attending.

Shakespeare performances will begin on July 12 and run to August 16, 2008. For more information and/or tickets contact the box office at 925-5788. The Shakespeare Committee will be making a presentation on the Festival at 11:00 a.m. prior to our next monthly meeting on July 16, 2008 at the Shakespeare Festival office located at 120 King Street, East, Prescott (925-5788). Everyone is welcome. Contact Mike at 345-5284 for further information.

6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Mike Martel noted this position is still vacant and would appreciate someone stepping forward to fill it.

Mike wishes to bring success to our community and members by supporting them and making aware on what Prescott has to offer and getting people to move here and also noted we must all work together to achieve this. The location of Prescott, near major highways, U.S.A., Montreal, Toronto, etc. is an ideal location to attract businesses and families to our area.

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

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

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

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** Sharon Spychi reported the committee received a request for monetary support from the North Augusta Labor Day Parade Committee. It was discussed and motioned by Sharon Spychi and seconded by Brenda Kenney that this request be denied as it is not in the Chamber's mandate. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Sharon reported the committee had met and are still investigating ideas for a membership kit and a member to member discount program. If you wish to volunteer on this committee and/or have ideas, suggestions, etc. please contact Sharon at 925-5700.

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

11. **LIAISON REPORTS:**

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported sidewalk work had commenced and interest has been shown toward pursuing a consultant to develop a hotel next to the fort field but specific Government of Canada rules must be followed for the property. The town will attain a person(s) to advise and recommend this situation and Council will advertise for this project. Ray will keep the Chamber updated on this project's progress.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported road construction had began at Riverview Heights and the Maitland sub-division.

Bill also noted the township will help with the proposed hotel development in Prescott.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL:** Pat Sayeau reported the Port of Prescott will be holding an open invitation at the Port on June 27, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. to show their facilities and operations and highlight the services they provide to the Eastern Ontario Economic region and all members are welcomed to attend.

Council has signed the final contracts for tenders for supplying lowlift pumping station and for construction of the new road to the Greenfield property.

Robert Hennessy of the Port of Prescott explained operations of the elevator and how they are gearing up for the ethanol business this fall.

\$30 million is required to restore the Ports sea wall and letters of support for Provincial funding are needed. The Chamber will issue a letter of support for funding for the dock project.

4. **SGED COMMITTEE:** No report presented.

5. **GCFDC:** Sharon reported Robert Hennessy of Ports Canada has joined the GCFDC Board of Directors and she also noted the Annual General Meeting was held recently and the corporation had a great year.

GCFDC would like to host a Chamber meeting in August. Further details to follow.

6. **B.I.A.:** Ray Young reported money is still needed to help pay for the watering of the hanging baskets and upcoming events include Loyalist Days, the SGDHS 50th Reunion and the Shakespeare Festival.

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

14. **NEW BUSINESS:** Jessie Ritchie of the Shakespeare Festival reported they are preparing for performances which will begin on July 12 and run through to August 16, 2008.

15. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2008** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon.

Please note prior to our next meeting at 11:00 a.m. the Shakespeare Committee will be making a presentation on the Festival at 11:00 a.m. at the Shakespeare Festival office at 120 King Street, East in Prescott (925-5788). For more information contact Mike Martel at 345-5284. "Everyone Welcome".

16. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m. on motion by Pat Sayeau and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.