

PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MAY 17, 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, Mary Lou Murray, Ray Young, Brent Laton, Anne Sawyer, Mike Baril, Tina Murray, members Tim Ruhnke, Robert Pelda, Chuck Street, Bryan Somerville, Judi Baril, Leslie Hubbard, Krista Gill and guest Monica Whitney. Minutes recorded by secretary Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Mike Baril introduced Judi Baril, Krista Gill and Leslie Hubbard of the United Way and who also became recent members of the Chamber.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for May 17, 2006 was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Robert Lawn. (6 for 0 opposed) Carried.
3. **REVIEW OF AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** Discussion was held to select a representative from the Chamber to sit on the Joint Coordinator Committee to establish our criteria for a mandate of what the Chamber would like. Vice-President Lisa Smith volunteered. Tina Murray motioned and Ray Young seconded to appoint Lisa Smith to represent the Chamber on the Joint Coordinator Committee to establish our criteria for a mandate of what the Chamber wants. (7 for 0 opposed). Carried.
4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for April 19, 2006 were approved as circulated on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Tina Murray. (7 for 0 opposed). Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Ralph Legere reported the Chamber's Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet was a great night. Ralph thanked all those who volunteered their time and all those who donated to the silent auction to make this event a great success.

Ralph read a thank you letter received from the Food For All Food Bank thanking the Chamber for selecting them for the 1st Annual Rev. Gerry Ring Memorial Award.

Ralph also thanked Monica Whitney for updating the Chamber's website on her own accord.

6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Lisa Smith congratulated all nominees and award winners for the Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet. She also congratulated and thanked the Awards Dinner Committee for organizing the successful dinner and silent auction with special thanks to Tina Murray for all her extra efforts.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Allan Norton presented the treasurer's report for period ending April 30, 2006. The financial statement was accepted on motion by Robert Lawn and seconded by Mike Baril. (9 for 0 opposed). Carried. Copy enclosed.

Allan also reviewed income and expenses for the Annual Dinner and Awards event. The Chamber's profit was approximately \$3500.00 due to the success of the silent auction and winner of the 50/50 draw, Wade Davis of the Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority, donating his winnings back to the Chamber.

8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie Lawless reported she is waiting for another quote for new membership plaques and she will also be sending out reminders to all members who have not yet paid their 2006 dues.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for May 2006 was distributed to all present.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE:** Lisa Smith reported a request was received from the Fort Town Concert Association to support their concerts. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Lisa Smith and seconded by Mary Lou Murray the Chamber donate \$500.00 to the Fort Town Concert Association to help support their Sunday concert series. (8 for 0 opposed). Carried.

Allan Norton noted the finance committee met and accepted the request to support the new signs recently erected in town. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Mike Baril the Chamber donate \$2500.00 toward the costs of the new Prescott signs. (9 for 0 opposed). Carried.

Robert Lawn noted on May 26, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. unveiling of the signs will take place at the Health Centre sign location. Refreshments will be served at Walker House and all are welcome to attend.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Mary Lou Murray thanked all those involved with the Annual Dinner and Awards Banquet, they did a wonderful job!

Mary Lou reported some complaints were made as to the dinner being served to slowly and perhaps more staff could be hired during this time. Mayor Robert Lawn felt the evenings atmosphere reflected a healthy attitude of the community and comradeship and this is "worth a zillion dollars!"

The Chamber's next event will be the Annual Golf Tournament and donations are now being accepted for the silent auction. For more information and to donate please contact Mary Lou Murray at 925-5265.

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

RHI Legal Services Inc.,
428 King Street, West,
Prescott, Ontario
(Consulting)

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

11. LIAISON REPORTS:

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Bob Pelda reported the budget was passed last Monday with a 0% increase. On May 29, 2006 a public meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the proposed sewer and water rates. Bob also thanked the Chamber for hosting the breakfast event to present the budget for 2006.

Sidewalk repairs have began, street cleaning is being done and the overpass project should be finished by the end of June. Also the Official Plan will be passed on June 5, 2006.

Bob also reminded everyone Harbor Days will take place May 19- May 22, 2006 with many events taking place.

2. **TOURISM:** Monica Whitney reported tourism is in the process of printing new visitor "passport to savings coupons" which are free to visitors. Improvements have began at the Forwarder's Museum and Monica's office will be located there shortly.

Monica attended the 1000 Islands Region Annual Brochure Swap in Alexandria Bay, N.Y. where brochures were exchanged and she noted this was a great networking opportunity with approximately 2000 Chamber and new Prescott Lure brochures being circulated.

3. **SGED COMMITTEE:** Heather Lawless reported the committee will meet on June 7, 2006 at 7:00 p.m at the Town Hall in Prescott.

Heather also suggested to contact our two representatives for this committee to see if they wish to remain for 2006. Debbie Lawless will contact them and inform Heather.

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported the Annual General Meeting will take place on June 21, 2006 at 900 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Prescott Town Hall.

Also Heather noted the loan limit which was \$125,000 has increased to \$150,000 per business as of April 1, 2006. For more information contact Mike O'Keefe at 925-4275 ext. 22 or go to www.grenvillecfdc.com.

The next information session for the Self Employment Benefit (SEB) Program will be May 18, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at Brockville City Hall. The next session will be held in Prescott in July. Also there were 20 participants registered for the Business Plan Development course which began May 15, 2006.

The Ontario Association of CFDCs Annual Provincial Conference will be held in Cornwall on June 25- June 27, 2006. This is the first time the conference has been held in Eastern Ontario.

The Eastern Ontario Economic Summit is being hosted by the Upper Canada District School Board on June 28, 2006 in Kemptville and keynote speaker will be Brian Tobin, former Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador and former Minister of Industry, who will be addressing how Eastern Ontario can develop and implement a regional innovation agenda for economic development.

No announcements have been made to date from the Eastern Ontario Development Fund re: extension of the existing pilot program or creation of an ongoing program.

For information on any of the above items please contact Heather at 925-4275 ext. 21 or go to www.grenvillecfdc.com.

5. **BIA:** Ray Young reported the breakfast meeting hosted by the Chamber to present the Town's budget for 2006 was excellent and very professional.

Bob Pelda gave a brief update on the Mariner's Club project. Bob noted 24 out of 28 units have been sold with some purchasers from out of town (Ottawa). Now emphasis is on selling and promoting the town. Building of the second story has started. People buying the units are 40-65 years of age and 40-50% are from Ottawa.

The design included R50 walls and an ultimate furnace and hot-water tank design. CMHC is very impressed and their criteria has been met. He is presently working on getting a unique and attractive design for the sideyard connection.

The project is 20-25% complete and \$1.7 million has been spent to date locally, including Brockville and Cornwall and \$4.5-\$5 million is to be spent yet.

Bob thanked local businesses who have been very supportive and noted there has been a great group effort among all. November 2006 is the occupancy date.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Bill Pakeman urged the Chamber to send a letter of support to keep the lab open in Prescott. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Lisa Smith the Chamber issue a formal letter of support to prevent closing of the Prescott Health Centre lab. (10 for 0 opposed). Carried.

Robert Lawn noted we must support and address this issue to the Ministry and Government levels not just to the local hospital.

Ralph noted he is setting up a wine and cheese event for Health Minister George Smitherman on June 16, 2006 in Brockville and would be willing to forward the Chamber's concerns, etc. to the Minister.

Mary Lou Murray noted billets are desperately needed for the actors for the Shakespeare Festival. Please contact Mary Lou at 925-5265 if you are interested.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Heather introduced Judi Baril of the United Way who explained there will be an important meeting at Prescott's Town Hall on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. This event is for communities across Leeds and Grenville to seek public input to identify where they believe United Way funding should be allocated in their community.

Contact Judi at 342-8889 or by email to unitedway@ripnet.com for more information.

Robert Lawn noted there will be a meeting today in regards to the proposed Provincial guidelines, rules and regulations of selling foods at Farmers Markets, churches, roadside stands, etc.

Bill Pakeman feels the government is taking this a little too far and ruining communities hospitality.

Bill Pakeman motioned and Tina Murray seconded a letter be written stating the Chamber is not in favor of the guidelines governing food safety issued by the Province for Farmers' Markets, church dinners, etc. (11 for 0 opposed). Carried.

Ray Young noted Town Council is also addressing these issues and perhaps the Chamber should seek out the route they are taking and work together. Monica will meet with Council and perhaps issue a blanket letter for all for both the lab closure and food legislation concerns.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2006** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome".

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. on motion by Tina Murray and seconded by Heather Lawless. (7 for 0 opposed). Carried.

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT
April 30th, 2006**

BANK BALANCE December 31, 2005

Current Account	\$ 3,457.10	
Items Outstanding	(1,101.38)	
Mutual Fund Investment	16,591.14	\$ 18,946.86

Plus Income

Membership	7,288.03	
Annual Dinner	0.00	
Insurance	1,302.66	
Special Events	0.00	
Directory	0.00	
Golf Tournament	200.00	
Interest	125.66	
Misc.	2.56	
Vacation Guide	922.90	
50/50 draws	130.00	
		<u>9,971.81</u>
		\$28,918.67

Less Disbursements

Membership	\$ 1,563.27	
Annual Dinner	939.57	
Special Events	0.00	
Golf Tournament	0.00	
Stationary	48.85	
Salary & Wages	800.00	
Advertising	00.00	
Postage	190.48	
Insurance	0.00	
Bursaries/Donations	4,200.00	
Misc.	336.90	
		<u>8,079.07</u>
		\$20,839.60

BANK BALANCES April 30, 2006

Current Account	\$11,262.37	
Mutual Fund	11,716.80	
(Cheques Outstanding)	2,139.57	\$20,839.60

