

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2009**

President Robert Lawn called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Vice-president Brent Laton, Directors Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Ray Young, Mike Baril, Gerry Hasiuk, Roger Rhodes, Jen Wyman, members Mayor Larry Dishaw, Pat Sayeau, Hugh Cameron, Don Farnsworth, Don Rivoire, Joanne Beckstead and Mike Dimopoulos. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie Lawless.

1. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Ray Young introduced Mike Dimopoulos. Mike spoke on the routes the Olympic Torch will be taking after it leaves Greece tomorrow. The torch will be passing through Prescott on December 14, 2009. Mike suggested the community get involved and noted ways on how to welcome the torch and what you are allowed to do and not do to welcome it, i.e. how to be a sponsor, signage rules, municipality ads, storefront displays, no propaganda permitted, etc. Prescott has set aside \$1000.00 for flags and posters to promote the event. He has ideas and suggestions available for those interested in promoting the event.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Mike Baril. (5 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

3. REVIEW OF BUSINESS FROM LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: No report.

4. APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES: The minutes for September 23, 2009 were approved as circulated on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Robert Lawn reported he and Director Jessie Ritchie attended the Bank of Montreal's Financial Group presentation held on October 20, 2009. The 2010 forecast was presented and all areas of economics and United States' slower economy were addressed. The findings were a positive report for 2010 but to be cautious in certain subsections and growth in the United States will be slow until they get their economic house in order.

Jen Wyman reviewed the Chamber's "Business After 5" event coming up on November 4, 2009 at the Red George Public House from 5-7 p.m. Plans are underway to have two businesses sponsor the event who will also showcase their businesses that evening. Members will be free and non-members will pay \$5.00 each. There will be a door prize table and a 50/0 draw.

Robert noted he will be chairing his last meeting as President in December 2009. A nominating committee will be formed at the November meeting. Debbie will also be contacting members of the Board to confirm who wishes to remain for 2010.

6. VICE-PRESIDENTS REPORT: No report.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report for period ending September 30, 2009 was presented by treasurer Debbie Lawless. The financial statement was accepted as presented on motion by Roger Rhodes and seconded by Mike Baril. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried. Copy enclosed.

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT: No report.

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

ITEM #6: The Ontario C of C membership dues invoice for \$1321.32 for 2010. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Roger Rhodes to pay the Ontario C of C 2010 membership dues for \$1321.32. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE:** Bill Pakeman reported the donation request for the Shakespeare Festival needed to be reviewed. It was discussed and motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Mike Baril to donate \$2000.00 to the Shakespeare Festival for a total of \$3500.00 for 2010. (8 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

A local charity, King's Kitchen, requested \$150.00 and a copy of the Chamber's membership list with addresses and phone numbers to seek sponsorships. It was discussed and motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton to donate \$150.00 to King's Kitchen but not give a copy of the chamber's membership list with addresses and phone numbers. (7 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

An invite was received from Carleton Rideau Raceway to participate in a "Prescott Night at the Races". It was felt by the committee and those attending to decline this invitation as there was no interest at this time.

Pat Sayeau noted Edwardsburgh/Cardinal is participating in a "Night at the Races" on October 30, 2009 for anyone interested in going.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** No report.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** No report.

11. LIAISON REPORTS:

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported the sewage treatment plant has not been turned over to the town yet but the new equipment is working fine.

The Prince Street storm sewer project will be started next spring and the sledge beds are being planned presently.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman reported the fire hall expansion is being worked on and the walls are up. The tennis courts have been refurbished also.

Council will be commencing with union negotiations shortly. The Good Roads convention takes place in February 2010 and the township is planning another Opportunity Knocks event. The township's new electronic signs will be going up soon.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDSBURGH/CARDINAL:** Larry Dishaw reported types of availability of wood products, shipping costs, etc. are being looked at to prepare a package to work with South Korean people for economic development.

Construction of four new grain bins is underway and the end of March 2010 is the completion date.

The north wharf problem should be rectified by doing a new wharf on the riverside. A fish study is required and storm water collection system looked at. The project would cost \$11.5 million.

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported the new business loans limit has increased to \$250,000 until March 31, 2010 only and the new investment pool with business loans is up to \$500,000. Contact Mike O'Keefe at 925-4275 ext. 22 for more info.

Business consultations and referrals are free.

Self Employment Benefit program applications are presently on hold until future notice by the province. Contact Cathy Gilmer at 925-4275 ext. 25 for more info.

The EOD program is fully subscribed to for this fiscal year, March 31, 2010.

Small Business Week is this week and the Bridges to Better Business event is being held on October 22, 2009 in Brockville. Call 342-8772 for more info.

Applications are being accepted under the Southern Ontario Development Program (SODP) for projects to stimulate local economies and enhance growth for Southern Ontario businesses and communities. For more information go to www.southernontario.gc.ca or call 866-593-5505.

5. **BIA:** Ray Young reported Christmas promotions are being planned and the Prescott Lite Up the Nite parade take place November 20, 2009.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** No report.

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

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will take place on **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome"

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton. (5 for, 0 opposed). Carried.