

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 2006**

President Ralph Legere called the meeting to order at noon at the Bridgeview Restaurant. Present were Vice-President Lisa Smith, Directors Heather Lawless, Sharon Spychi, Ken Rundle, Anne Sawyer, Brent Laton, Marylou Murray, Matt Rowbotham, Tina Murray, members Tim Ruhnke, Robert Pelda, Bryan Somerville, Robert Haller, Peter Leclair and Joint Coordinator Monica Whitney. Minutes recorded by secretary Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** No report.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda for September 20, 2006 was approved on motion by Ken Rundle and seconded by Anne Sawyer. (5 for 0 opposed). Carried.
3. **REVIEW OF AND BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** No report.
4. **APPROVAL OF LAST MONTH'S MINUTES:** The minutes for August 16, 2006 were approved as circulated on motion by Tina Murray and seconded by Marylou Murray. (6 for 0 opposed). Carried.
5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** No report presented.
6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Lisa Smith reported Recorder and Times has approached her once again in regards to advertising in the 2007 Vacation Guide. Discussion was held and it was motioned by Lisa Smith and seconded by Ken Rundle the Chamber act as an agent to sell ads for the 2007 Vacation Travel Guide produced by the Recorder and Times. (7 for 0 opposed). Carried.

Lisa also noted the Prescott Public Library sent a letter thanking the Chamber for their donation in support of their Rejuvenation Project.

Lisa congratulated all the players who golfed throughout the rain at the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament. She noted it was a very successful day, with not one team dropping out. Also congratulations and many thanks to all who organized this event, Allan Norton, Marylou Murray, Tina Murray and also special thanks to Jessie Richie, Eva Neron and Monica Whitney.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** No report presented.
8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Debbie Lawless displayed the new membership plaques for 2006 to all present and noted the plaques will be sent out shortly to all members who have paid their 2006 dues.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for September 2006 was distributed to all present.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **FINANCE:** No report presented.
2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Marylou Murray thanked all those who helped in any way at our Annual Golf Tournament with special thanks to Lisa Smith. Marylou also noted all comments received were positive and the event raised approximately \$4000.00.
3. **MEMBERSHIP:** No report presented.

11. LIAISON REPORTS:

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Robert Pelda reported the tender process for the water pollution control center (sewage treatment plant) had to be closed as Council is awaiting decision from the Province on increased funding, but they can still move forward to redesign to reduce costs. Council may re-tender in January or February 2007.

Options are being worked on for the town water and sewer vs their own permits for the Ethanol Plant.

The new OPP detachment is progressing well and occupancy is expected by December 1, 2006.

The Master Fire Plan and Fire Vehicle review has been completed. An aerial truck is clearly needed which will cost approximately \$800,000 to \$1 million. Council is developing a business plan with financing options to purchase the truck. Robert Haller noted insurance rates for commercial and industrial can be lower when a town has an aerial truck.

In regards to the library, renovations should be complete within the next two weeks and then the children's room and circulation desk will be set up. An open house for the public is being planned for the week of October 16 to 20, 2006.

The Official Town Plan should be approved by the Province within two weeks but Council is still moving forward on developing the Community Improvement Plan.

Zoning by-laws will be reviewed over winter and next spring. Other by-laws being updated are sidewalk use, property standards, fence and pool. A public meeting will be held after October 12, 2006 for review of the final draft. The sign by-law is also being reviewed by Council.

There is a debate over the function and effectiveness of the current model for regional co-operation of the Joint Services Committee-Economic Development Sub-committee. Robert noted the Physician Recruitment should be focused on also and should not be "Economic Development vs Physician Recruitment" but rather seek a coordinated effort for both.

Council has discussed its roll committed to Economic Development on a regional basis and the 14 municipalities should cooperate and find an effective model for Leeds and Grenville. Council is still supporting the Physician Recruitment Program and both are needed for economic development.

2. **TOURISM:** Monica Whitney reported the Forwarder's Museum closed on August 31, 2006 and total visits for the season were 1410. The daily average of visits was 19 and the weekly average was 135. The staff took in approximately \$90.00 in donations which went towards the purchase of John Morris' History of Prescott book for the museum and supplies for the very successful children's program.

Monica attended the Thousand Islands/St. Lawrence River Tourism Marketing Partnership meeting in Brockville on September 14, 2006. Prescott will be represented at tourism/leisure shows in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto in March 2007. Also the 2007 Ottawa Citizen ad campaign is complete and a stock photography project is near completion.

Work has began on a job creation partnership grant application to hire two full time tourism staff (marketing administrator and guest services administrator).

3. **SGED COMMITTEE:** Sharon Spychi reported there is a meeting tonight.

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless distributed information on the Eastern Ontario Development Program. Applications are being accepted now for funding from businesses, sole proprietors and organizations for

activities that support local economic development. Guidelines and applications are available at www.grenvillecfdc.com/eodfund.htm or contact Teri Devine at 925-4275 ext. 26. Deadline for applications is 12:00 p.m. on September 29, 2006 and funding must be executed by February 28, 2007.

Monica Whitney reported she attended the Main Street Revitalization Summit in Marmora on September 18, 2006. Monica noted it was a very worthwhile day for making contacts and networking. Topics included a review of the Main Street program, innovative retail store design, product placement, competing with the big guys, retail industry trends, effective mural programs and downtown revitalization tips for success.

Draft 3 of the Community Improvement Plan is complete and work is now being done on the RED application for revitalization funding. Also work is ongoing on the plan for a new sign by-law, financial incentive programs and the OSTAR-RED grant application.

5. **BIA:** Monica Whitney reported she is working on ideas for a fall harvest celebration (pumpkinfest) for October 7, 2006 in conjunction with the Farmer's Market Annual Customer Appreciation. Events will include pumpkin carving competition, scarecrow contest, music, prizes and restaurant specials with a portion of proceeds going to the Food Bank.

She is also working with OPP Gary Sluytman to offer a presentation for downtown businesses on fraud, scams and counterfeit money/credit cards which will be held in November.

Christmas promotional ideas have begun, including draws, advertising, decorating, Santa's workshop with photos, crafts, etc.

6. **JOINT COORDINATOR:** Monica Whitney reported she is working with Leeds-Grenville Chambers to host a Bridges to Better Business small business forum during small business week, October 15 to 21, 2006. The forum will take place on Thursday, October 19, 2006 at the Royal Brock in Brockville. Mark Seymour of Kriska Transportation will be the keynote speaker on Human Resources: Managing Your Valuable Resources. The event will include round table discussions and trade show participants. For more information and registration please see enclosed flyer and/or contact Kim Barr at 342-6553 (Brockville Chamber of Commerce).

Monica noted she did canvassing/collecting prizes for the Chamber's Annual Golf Tournament held on September 13, 2006 and also acted as a hole-spotter.

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

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Bryan Somerville noted there is no funding available now for the South Grenville District High School Youth Program. There are approximately 30 youth presently in the program. For more information and/or to help fund the program please contact Bryan at 925-4221.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2006** at the BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT commencing at noon. "EVERYONE WELCOME".

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 12:35 p.m. on motion by Tina Murray and seconded by Brent Laton. (5 for 0 opposed). Carried.