

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2009**

President Robert Lawn called the meeting to order at noon at the Red George Public House. Present were Vice-President Brent Laton, Directors Bill Pakeman, Heather Lawless, Beth Morris, Jessie Ritchie, Jen Wyman, members Julie Marshall, Don Farnsworth, Don Rivoire, Hugh Cameron, Kelvin and Faye Beckstead and guest Bonnie Gommert. Minutes recorded by secretary/treasurer Debbie Lawless.

1. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Robert Lawn introduced new members Kelvin and Faye Beckstead of PPL Legal Care of Canada Corporation which provides legal services through a prepaid membership program. For more information go to www.prepaidlegal.com.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda was approved on motion by Jen Wyman and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (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 August 19, 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 attended the meeting which included Chamber representatives from Kemptville, Smiths Falls, Kingston, Brockville and Gananoque. Two speakers spoke on supporting the new sales tax and see it as a boom for small business owners in Ontario. A series of meetings are intended to be held and more information will be advertised in newspapers.

Robert felt the Chamber's golf tournament was very successful and the weather was great.

He also reminded all of the upcoming Bridges to Better Business workshop being presented by L/G Small Business Enterprise Center to be held on October 22, 2009. For more information call 342-8772 ext. 471.

Tomorrow the Eastern Ontario Economic Showcase featuring Donald Trump and organized by John and Jim Doris will be held in Ottawa.
6. **VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Brent Laton reported the Canadian C of C's resolution package on what is coming up is worthwhile checking out. Go to www.chamber.ca for more information. Brent noted this package makes it worthwhile to be a member and see fruits of their labor on our behalf.
7. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer's report for period ending August 31, 2009 was presented by treasurer Debbie Lawless. The financial statement was accepted as presented on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Heather lawless. (6 for, 0 opposed) Carried. Copy enclosed.
8. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** No report.
9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** A list of correspondence received for September 2009 was distributed to all present.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **FINANCE:** Bill Pakeman reported a request was received for a donation towards Pirate Days events. Bill Pakeman motioned and Brent Laton seconded \$500.00 be donated to the Prescott Pirate Days events. (5 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

2. **PROGRAM AND PLANNING:** Don Farnsworth thanked Ray Young and members and businesses for their help and support towards the Chamber's annual golf tournament which made a profit of approximately \$3105.00.

3. **MEMBERSHIP:** Bill Pakeman reported two new members.

Freedom 55
Brockville, Ontario
(Al Joudoin)
Financial Services

1-87-Speedy Tow Inc.
Prescott, Ontario
(Steve Rainey)
Towing and Auto Repair

These two new members were accepted on motion by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton. (5 for, 0 opposed). Carried.

11. LIAISON REPORTS:

1. **TOWN OF PRESCOTT:** Ray Young reported the town will hopefully take ownership of the sewage facility/waste-water shortly and construction for the sledge beds will start in the fall.

Also in the spring Prince Street sewer lines will be relocated and enlarged.

2. **TOWNSHIP OF AUGUSTA:** Bill Pakeman congratulated Ray and the golf committee for making the annual golf tournament another successful event.

The township received a \$25,000 grant from EODP for their new electronic sign and MP Gord Brown announced approval for a \$635,000 grant for the North Augusta Fire Hall expansion, new ball diamond and new canteen.

The township will hold a BBQ to honor volunteers on various committees at the Roebuck Hall on October 2, 2009.

Council will meet on October 8, 2009 to work on zoning bylaws.

The final year end meeting for Augusta ball will be held on October 13, 2009 in Roebuck.

The Algonquin Public Library Board will hold it's annual awards banquet on October 20, 2009.

Permit costs at the end of August were \$23,414 and construction values \$4,720,588.

The United Counties of Leeds and Grenville will hold it's Wardens banquet on October 24, 2009 at the Roebuck Hall. Bill thanked Warden Mel Campbell who's term of office is coming to an end. He also acknowledged the passing of Carl Polite, long time resident of Augusta, former Reeve and Warden of the United Counties and noted our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones.

3. **TOWNSHIP OF EDWARDS BURGH/CARDINAL:** Pat Sayeau reported the Building Canada grant was received for the new wharf project, a \$34 million job.

The environmental assessment reviews are ongoing and Council is waiting for a response for funding under the stimulus report for another job at the Port.

Pat noted the Eastern Ontario Economic Showcase event is a great opportunity to promote and showcase our area with 2000 delegates, ambassadors, etc. attending from United States, across the country and overseas. Council will have seven minutes on the main stage to present what they have to offer.

Also an open house for the public will be held on Saturday, September 26, 2009 for the Greenfield Ethanol plant in Johnstown.

4. **GCFDC:** Heather Lawless reported MP Gord Brown announced an additional \$500,000 to GCFDC's business financing and loans will now increase to \$250,000.

The Forestry Fair of Eastern Ontario and the North Grenville Home show will be held on September 26, 2009 at the North Grenville Municipal Center and Ferguson Forest Center.

All ED Corporations will be represented at the Eastern Ontario Showcase and giving on-stage presentations.

EODP applications are closed and information for the 2010 program will be announced when available.

The Bridges to Better Business event will be held October 20, 2009 from 7-9 p.m.

Heather also thanked all who donated prizes to the Chamber's golf tournament and suggested discussing options on ways to obtain gifts and donations for Chamber events.

5. **BIA:** Ray Young reported Christmas promotions are being worked on and reminded all that Christmas is 13 weeks away and the parade only 8 weeks away and also to shop locally as businesses need our support.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** Bill Pakeman reported an adhoc committee was formed of Robert Lawn and Brent Laton and himself to discuss new membership limitations.

It was motioned by Bill Pakeman and seconded by Brent Laton in order to be a Chamber Director one must have a business or work for a business in the areas of Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal townships and Prescott and others are welcome to join but cannot hold office. (5 for, 0 opposed).
Carried.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Beth Morris reported the Olympic Torch will be travelling through Prescott on December 14, 2009 between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m. and we should all support this rare and special event.

Jen Wyman suggested businesses host networking meetings to showcase their business and what they have to offer. Jen will try to organize one for November.

14. **NEXT MEETING:** The next Board of Directors meeting will be held on **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009** at the **BRIDGEVIEW RESTAURANT** commencing at noon. "Everyone Welcome".

15. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. on motion by Jen Wyman and seconded by Bill Pakeman. (6 for, 0 opposed). Carried.