

BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tuesday, May 5, 2009 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.

WEBSITE: www.brucemineschamber.com

Email: brucemineschamber@sympatico.ca

Present:

Brian Torrance – Torrance Custom Interiors
Phil Rouleau - Royal Bank of Canada
Robert Young - Algoma Boat Charters
Marla McPhee- M&J Hair Boutique
Carol Rickard - The Pizza Lady and Lion's Club
Merin Smith - Special Projects Co-Ordinator
Lorne Barlow - Barlow Chimney Sweeps
Cheryl O'Hara – Royal Canadian Legion
Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse
Elaine Switzman – Algoma District & Social Services
Jean Hershey – Rydal Bank Historical Society & the Library
Cathy Auger -
Martin Odber – Computer Technician
Rhea McAdam – Town Councillor
Rick Klazinga - Algoma Kitchen & Bath
Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm
Bill Gunn – Fine Pine Things

Guests:

Bruce McNeely – SnoGlyders Snowmobile Club

Call to Order: Brian Torrance called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Past Minutes :- Phil Rouleau + Marla McPhee that the minutes of April 07, 2009 – regrets also by Cheryl O'Hara + trade fair is Tracy Brick - be adopted as presented – carried

Treasurer's Report: - Motion: Larry Peterson – Bill Gunn that the treasurers report be adopted as presented.

Insurance: – no report

French Fryer: - Larry Peterson that the chip shelter has collapsed due to the winter ice storms. It will have to be reconstructed in time for the Classic Car Show in June 2009

Chamber Website:

Pat Peterson reported that:

Web Site:

- Businesses and organizations are being added as they join the chamber.

- Alison is now into improving the SEO of our web site, and we have moved from page 3 to page 1 by doing the following:
- 1. with keyword changes and some additions of keywords to the written text.
- 2. It would be appreciated if you have a web site if you could put the Bruce Mines and District Chamber of Commerce button and or provide a link to the chamber site.
- Google Analytics has been added to the Chamber Web site behind the scenes. It tell us who is looking at our Chamber site.

We have had visitors from Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Rhode Island in the US.

Canada - Soo , Alliston ON, Don Mills, Edmonton, Calgary, North Bay, Ottawa, Windsor, Selkirk and more! A few from Bruce Mines, but coming up as Mattagami Heights -

Ireland.....Poland (Warsaw) and several in the UK

So, we are truly international now.

New Business: Copper Bay Web Design:

Pat Peterson reported that:

- Alison and her husband George have now made their new business official, Copper Bay Web Design
- Motion: Pat Peterson + Lorne Barlow that in recognition for all third hard work in developing the Chamber website and maintaining it that the Chamber give George and Alison Cragg be given a complimentary membership for 1 year - carried unanimously !

Web Marketing Committee:

Pat Peterson reported that:

Marla McPhee is now a member of the marketing committee

A Flickr Account which is a photo sharing web site with a high Google rank has been set up by Alison for the Chamber. This is for Search Engine Optimization (SEO) . The marketing committee has contacted Mark Olivier who has photography as a hobby to take photos at the different seasons of the Town, its Historical Buildings and the local wildlife. The photos on Flickr need to be updated on a regular basis

- We are also in the planning stages of a photo contest with the Library.
- Alison has been contacted about adding a newsletter to the Chamber web site. We are in the process of deciding the format and frequency of the newsletter. It would be used to update what is happening in our Town, including special events, and perhaps feature local businesses in the winter season when the Town is quiet. All information and specials will have to be submitted to the committee for publication.
- The newsletter will have 2 purposes, to keep everyone up to date of the Town Events and for SEO as well.
- We are looking into sites that the Chamber Web site can link to and ask for reciprocal links or other sites that will just point to the Chamber site.

Web Maps :- Martin Odber reported that he has been in touch with pertinent sources and the project is advancing slowly.

Membership: Phil Rouleau reported that we have 2 or 3 additions since the last report. It may be a good idea to send out a final call for memberships. Phil and Larry will follow through on this.

Chamber Brochure: Bill Gunn reported that the updates are being complied. Some have been sent to Pat Peterson on updating the Chamber website. Bill would like the map up on the website. The email containing the map was not in a workable program to put onto the website. Perhaps the website should be modified to be printer friendly

Four & Friends Art Show & Sale: Brian Torrance reported the program is proceeding and printing is underway

Rydal Bank Historical Society: -Jean Hershey reported that: Annual meeting is Sunday May 31, 2009 at the Rydal Bank Community Hall at 4:00 p.m. The Historical Topic : Poplar Dale Remembered – authors are to be guest speakers. 5:30 p.m. potluck supper; 7:00 p.m. church service

Library : Jean Hershey reported that Peter Spik of the Township of Plummer Additional is a new board member

Town Master Plan: Rhea McAdam reported that funding applications went out last week to 2 particular funding programs – announcements are to be on June 1st. This is to advance the Master Plan

Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association: no report

Trade Fair: Elaine Switzman reported that she has reviewed all applications. Meeting with Brian Torrance and Tracy Brick are to take place. Plans are underway for 2010.

Bruce Mines and District Historical Society – no report

Lions Club:

Carol reported that the **Lion's Club** will be hosting a Mother's Day Chinese Lunch with proceeds to the Bruce Mines Museum repairs.

Mother's Day Chinese Lunch

Sunday May 10

12:00 – 2:00

Bruce Station Hall

Adults **\$12**

Children 6-10 **\$6**

5 years & under \$2

Tickets available at Pizza Lady, M& J Hair Boutique or any Lions member

Royal Canadian Legion: Cheryl O'Hara reported that fun day was a great success

Canada Day – Cheryl O'Hara reported that Nip & Tuck children's rides + 2 or 3 bands + festivities are being planned. Pancake Breakfast will be at the town hall from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Motion – Larry Peterson + Lorne Barlow that the Chamber donate \$300.00 to the Canada Day project

Snow Glyders

Bruce McNeely handed out a draft trail sign. Signs at the entrances will have a sign as shown as Option # 1. The club house is being re-roofed with red metal. The signs frames will have a red roof over the sign. Trails are being changed for easier access for snowmobilers.

New directional signs will be put up .

New advertising signs promoting local businesses will be put up.

The sign costs are \$3,200.00 – 50% - \$1,600.00 is covered by East Algoma Futures (Shawn Heard) – Town has donated \$800.00 toward the sign.

Motion: Bill Gunn + Phil Rouleau that the Chamber donate the sum of \$ 800.00 to the SnoGlyders for the development of new trail signs – carried.

SnoGlyders plan to build cross country trails 2.7 km and is flat. The club house will be open to the skiers. There is a need to form a cross country club to help development and organize the cross country skiers.

SnoGlyders also plan to develop walking trails around the outskirts of the town. The Club will be able to groom the walking trails as well.

Community IN Action

Rhea McAdan town councilor, reported the joint initiative between Town & Township Stephanie Date – goal what do residents want for recreation facilities. Stephanie works Mon – Thurs. at the Community Hall.

May 11, 2009 – 7:00 p.m. Town Hall meeting – survey forms available for completion by visitors.

Initiation phase (2) is being funded as well

Great Northern Opry

July 24 – 26th - Dave Paterson is the contact person. A weekend event will be in Bruce Mines. Expect 400 – 500 people – R.V. will be coming in. The event and the parking will be at the Arena. Other visitors can use the trailer park. Christie Campers will do all the registrations. There will be 3 locations for ticket sales in Bruce Mines. Art Bennet will be doing the meals. There will be a meal package to be purchased at the time of registration.

Friday – Blue Grass;
Sat.- Country Music - Beef BBQ
Sunday – Gospel
There will be a different band every hour.
Friday night and Saturday night dances.

Official Announcement is noted below:

The Northern Ontario Country Music Association presents The Great Northern Opry Country Music Weekend in Bruce Mines from Friday, July 24 to Sunday, July 26.

Friday night is dedicated to Blue Grass music, featuring two one-hour shows by the well-known band *Loose Change*. *Ray Franks and Friends* will play from 5 to 6 p.m. and *Fox Creek* will entertain from 7 to 8 p.m. *The Down Yonder Band* from Manitoulin Island will play for the dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Square dance caller will be Ellis McDonald.

On Saturday, July 25, country music enthusiasts will enjoy continuous entertainment from 10 a.m. One-hour concerts will take place throughout the day, including Mike Case's *Soo Country Rockers* at 10 a.m.; *Bobby T & The Rodeo Band* at 11 a.m.; *John McClenaghan & Company* at noon; *The Down Yonder Band* at 1 p.m.; *Rock'n Ronnie Hawdon and & Friends* at 2 p.m.; *Ray Franks & Friends* at 3 p.m.; *Don Discher & The Sundowners* at 4 p.m.; *Roy Brockelbank & The Knights* at 5 p.m.; *Eddie Renaud and Easy Country* at 6 p.m. and *Nick Porco and Friends* at 7 p.m. *Fred Kent and the Northernaires* will play at 8 p.m. Saturday's dance crowd will enjoy *Anne Dupuis and First Line* from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Square dance caller will be Ellis McDonald.

Many of these bands feature Great Northern Opry inductees including Mike Case, Larry Cote, Nick Porco, Rene Cote, Don Discher, Evelyn Ray and Wayne Richards, Ray Mador, John McClenaghan, Addie Metivier, Gord Lapierre, Leo Secord, Loreen and Jack Knight, Hardy Peltier, Ken Findlay and Roy Brockelbank, Eddie Renaud and Burton Beatty.

Special guests include Bob Wagner, Ray Franks, Tyler Marshall, Bill Pateman, Kt Antler, Loretta Pilon, Terry Gallant, Bob Taillefer, Ken Marshall with The Sylvan Valley Trio, and Jeff McNiece, Q104. Jake, the Country Critter and Cousin Jethro would never miss a party either!

Since many people travel throughout the summer, the Bruce Mines Agricultural Society welcomes any number of RVs, trailers or campers onsite. All units must be self contained to stay on the grounds as there are no services for connection. Pre-registration is recommended if you want to be close to the action so call Lynne at Christie's RV at 777-2200, fax to 777-2367 or e-mail lynne@christiesRV.com. She can complete your registration and supply you with a meal package ticket. She accepts VISA, Mastercard and American Express for your convenience. The town's campground is within walking distance, offering washroom facilities with showers, electricity and fire pits and for \$18 per night. Septic pump out service is available onsite for a modest fee. To book a campsite for this weekend, please call Jamie at the Town office during business hours at 785-3493.

Sponsors for this weekend include The Station Mall, Christie's RV, Molson Breweries, and Sault This Week.

Next Meeting: Tuesday June 2, 2009 at 8:00 a.m. at the Library.

Adjournment: at 8:57 a.m.