

**BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 07, 2010 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.**  
**WEBSITE: [www.brucemineschamber.com](http://www.brucemineschamber.com)**  
**Email: [info@brucemineschamber.com](mailto:info@brucemineschamber.com)**

**Present:**

Brian Torrance – Torrance Custom Interiors  
 Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm  
 Merin Smith – Special Projects Co-Ordinator  
 Michael Peever – Mae-Ger Treasures  
 Elaine Switzman – ADSAB

Guests: Dennis Ginter - Ontario Public Service Employee Union

Regrets: Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse  
 Jean Hershey – Rydal Bank Historical Society & the Library  
 Marla McPhee – M & J Hair Boutique

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

Dennis Ginter is a Probation & Parol Officer – about Public Service Wage Freeze vis a vis tax breaks for rich large corporations. The program was put into effect March 2010.. The Chamber is being invited to speak with the local Member of Parliament, Mike Brown to support the objection to the Public Service Wage Freeze . More information can be obtained from [www.stophthewagefreeze.ca](http://www.stophthewagefreeze.ca)

The main aim of the presentation was against tax breaks for wealthy corporation at the expense of wage cutbacks of the public sector. There are 1200 public service employees serving the Algoma District .

The effect on small local business corporations was not discussed. However the following information was later received from Dennis Ginter vis a vis small local business corporations:

As outlined in the government's [Ontario Tax Plan for Jobs and Growth](#), the government is bringing in all kinds of cuts to reduce the taxes paid by business. Between the HST, the elimination of the Capital Tax, and cuts to the Corporate Income Tax (CIT) rate, these cuts will amount to \$8.44 billion a year once fully phased in (see p.15 of the document). The Corporate Income Tax cuts make up \$2.4 billion of this, most of which is paid by large corporations and very little of which is paid by small business. Here's why:

- 1) big corporations have higher profits, (like the Royal Bank's \$3.8 billion a year), so they pay a lot more;
- 2) big corporations pay a higher rate (the general CIT is moving from 14 per cent down to 10 per cent, whereas the CIT for small businesses was at 5.5 per cent and is now 4.5 per cent since July 1, 2010);

3) many small businesses do not pay the [Corporate Minimum Tax](#) (CMT), and as of the 2009 Budget, that means any corporation with less than \$50 million in assets or less than \$100 million in gross revenues does **not** pay CMT; and

4) small business are also saving money through the elimination of the Small Business Surtax.

I don't know the exact percentage of the Corporate Income Tax that is paid by small business, but I do know that it is minimal. If all these tax cuts have to be paid for by cuts to public services in our communities or cuts to the wages of working people (also known as "customers"), it wouldn't surprise me in the least that the net effect on small business turns out to be negative..

I'm not an economist, but if you give small businesses a tax cut (in your community) and give workers a raise equal to inflation (in your community) small businesses earns more to, the mechanic services 2 vehicles per household , not one, that is stimulating the economy. Big business looks after big business and politicians and the wealthy 1%.

### **Past Minutes :**

Motion: Larry Peterson + Merin Smith moved that the minutes of Nov. 02, 2010 – be adopted as presented– carried

**Treasurer's Report:** - Moved. Larry Peterson + Elaine Switzman approved the Treasurers report as presented - carried

### **Insurance: -**

The insurance premium has been paid for the year. There are some questions that need to be answered.

**French Fryer:** - no report

**Canada Day** – Legion will not take on this project in 2011. The Town will fill out the grant application for 2011 and they will look for a sponsor for next year.

**Web Site:** - Pat Peterson sent in her report as follows:

There is no report on the web site presently.

On the matter of Rock Hounding, there is no progress with the Rock Hounding article. This has to be investigated further. It is more complicated than anticipated as it has to deal with people walking along the waters edge in front of private residences and trespassing on property. The article could be ready to put on the web site but some of these issues need to be discussed and reviewed by someone who understands rock hounding.

It was suggested that Pat Peterson & Patricia Kerr take on this project and follow up on this activity and the concerns raised in the above report.

**Membership:** - Michael Peever will be handling the membership table at tomorrow's Mix & Mingle. Michael will collect and put together all membership materials for tomorrow's event.

**Four & Friends Art Show & Sale:** - no report

**Bruce Mines and District Historical Society:** - no report

(old report) Larry Peterson that Ron Smith has applied for another Trillium Grant for the museum.

**Rydal Bank Historical Society:** - Jean Hershey sent in the following report:

The Society has had a successful year and topped it off with the Annual Christmas Concert at the Rydal Bank Community Hall on Sunday, Dec. 05, 2010. The attendance was very good and thanks are given to Vivian Shuttleworth who played the piano and to Jack, Molly, Madison, Zoey and the Burns Family for presenting performances to make the concert a great success. Santa's visit was also an important part of the evening. The Society thanks everyone who came out to make the community celebration a wonderful experience.

The lights are on again at the Rydal Bank Church to guide travelers heading through Rydal Bank and to remind people of the joy of the season.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year.

**Library** – no report

**Town Master Plan:** - no report

**Town Improvements** – it was reported that the planter between Muellers and the Town Hall has been cancelled due to the expense cutbacks. Other aspects of the project will be proceeding as planned.

**Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association:** - no report

**Royal Canadian Legion** – no report

**Lions Club:** - no report

**SnoGlyders** – no report

**Sylvan Circle:** - no report

**Agricultural Society:** - no report

**Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce:** - no report

**Correspondence:** - The only correspondence received is a plaque from East Algoma Community Futures Development Corporation in recognition of the Chamber's participation in the *2010 Algoma and Manitoulin Youth Enterprises Camp Entreprise Jeunesse* project.

**Citizen of the Year** – suggestions for candidates for Citizen of the Year are open

**Community Hall** – no report

**Trade Fair** – Elaine Switzman, Sandy Ubohy, Merin Smith and Marla McPhee are working on this.

**Chamber Brochure & Advertising:** -

Brian Torrance reported that Michael Peever will chair the joint committee.

**Chamber/Downtown Committee:** (old report) Michael Peever reported that he has received very positive feedback about the formation of this committee.

**New Business** –

**Executive Meeting** – none scheduled

**Children in Need**

It was reported that the response to the Christmas Stocking was very successful. It was thought that about 45 children are getting stockings full of children's necessities.

**Wind Turbines:**

Wind Turbines are being planned for Soo North up to Montreal River and over to Ranger Lake. There is organized movement against the development. Meeting at Alexander Henry on Thurs. Nov. 11 at 7:00 p.m. (no report)

**Mine Shaft:**

It was reported that Lori Patteri is in charge of the mine shaft. Doug Ord has offered to assist in the renovation and running of the

**The Christmas Mix and Mingle:** Merin Smith report that the Committee of Peggy Wallace, Marla McPhee & Merin Smith have selected Wed. Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at

Lighthouse Lounge. Offer a door prize of \$100.00 for Chamber members only + 20 trivia questions about the Chamber + gift certificates. Memberships will be on sale that evening. There will be a carol sing planned for the evening.

**Chamber representation at Council Meetings:**

It is important that the Chamber be present at Council Meetings for Town, Plummer and Johnson to increase the public presence of the Chamber and support the Mayors and Council in their endeavours over the term of their tenure.....this is to be discussed at a later time.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday January 04, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. at the Library.

**Adjournment:** at 9:00 a.m.