

BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tuesday, Dec. 03, 2013 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.
WEBSITE: www.brucemineschamber.com
Email: info@brucemineschamber.com

Present:

Michael Peever – Mae-Ger Treasures
 Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm
 Brian Torrance – Torrance Custom Interiors
 Arlene Romberg - WyzGyz Chip Wagon
 Vivian Shuttleworth – Union Library
 Jean Hershey – Rydal Bank Historical Society

Guests: Sharon Hunter – blackbirdnortharts
 Sara Leach – Employment Solutions

Regrets: Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse
 Ron Lamon – Algoma Insurance
 Lory Patteri – Town Mayor

Call to Order:

Michael Peever called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Sharon Hunter – artist and art teacher – has taught in Autibantscant and Toronto. Is currently working with First Nations in creating murals and teaching art. Sharon is looking into art classes that may be of interest to the local residents. Sharon would like to work on murals locally in cooperation with the Recreational Committee. Art classes and work shops can be financed through grants. Sharon is experienced in completing and submitting grant applications. Sharon can be reached at: *Sharon Hunter, Black Bird North Arts, Ottertail-Rydal Bank, 705-785-3789 www.blackbirdnortharts.com*

Sara Leach – Employment Solutions in Blind River –goal is to contact employers to make known the various employment programs that have funding assistance. Amber Taylor comes to Bruce Mines twice a month and the Employer response is limited. Employment Solutions is to encourage employment of ordinary talented people. Lisa Horton is head of the mentoring program to help employers deal with employee problems. There is a Youth Employment Program – aimed at ages from 15 yrs to 29 yrs. Placement for 4 to 6 months.

Past Minutes :

Motion: Larry Peterson + Arlene Romberg moved that the minutes of Tues. Nov. 04, 2013 be approved – carried

Treasurer's Report: -

Motion Larry Peterson + Jean Hershey moved that the Treasurers report be approved as presented – carried

Geothermal Energy –(old report)

Mike Peever said he spoke with Howie Bowes and Peter Spik recently. The Township, Town & Twp. of Huron Shores is trying to get an Economic Development Officer hired. The ED Officer would be a good one to take on the Geothermal Energy project.

Economic Development Officer. – (old report)

In keeping with the past study of the 5 local municipalities, there is movement among the 5 municipalities to organize and agree to the hiring of a mutual Economic Development Officer. A committee has been formed and so far there have been 2 meetings. The last meeting was in Spring 2013. There is some movement recently.

French Fryer: - closed for the season.

Web Site: - (old report)

There is a need for a Community Website so all local municipalities can record their upcoming events. Sometimes volunteers forget to release their information. Perhaps there should be a Community Facebook page which can be updated daily.

It was suggested that Pat Peterson & Mike Peever should set up a special presentation on setting up and updating facebook sites.

Larry Peterson reported that Glen Ansell is attempting to collect all facebook pages on organizations in the local areas for future reference.

Membership – Arlene Romberg reported that membership packages will be prepared and sent out in January 2014. It will also be sent out in PDF format .

Four & Friends Art Show & Sale: - Brian Torrance said the B.M. Hall has been booked for 2014. Waiting for information on rental fees. The Committee is planning to meet early in the new year.

Ungated Tourist Attraction: (Copper Miner Statue) – no report

Simpson Mine Shaft – closed for the season

Bruce Mines Historical Society: - no report

Rydal Bank Historical Society: -

Jean Hershey reported that:

The Thanksgiving Supper was another success – appreciated facebook exposure – money will be used for additional repairs to community hall and restoration of the church wall.

The Rydal Bank Church lights will be on during the holiday season again this year. The Rydal Bank Historical Society continues this popular tradition to brighten the way for travelers along Highway 638 during the December darkness and to celebrate the Christmas season and to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Library – Vivian Shuttleworth is covering for Crystal Reader who is not able to attend – no particular report

Royal Canadian Legion

Jean Burns has agreed to be our contact for the Legion. The Legion activities will be recorded in the Upcoming Events that will be sent out frequently throughout the month.

Lions Club: - no report

SnoGlyders – no report

Sylvan Circle: - no report

Agricultural Society: - no report

Horticultural Society:- (old report)

Maggie Willis has developed a Facebook page for the Horticultural Society

Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce: - Larry Peterson gave out handouts on SSM Chamber activities

Trade Fair – has been cancelled for 2013.

Joint Advertising Committee - Mike Peever has been out collecting money for the AKTA promotion for 2014. All have paid but one.

Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association:

Pat Peterson attended the Algoma Kinnawabi General Meeting on Wed Nov 6 2013-11-07 and submitted the following report:

RTO 13 B is now known as: Sault Ste Marie Algoma

Main Points of Interest from the General Meeting

Meridian Booking System

Algoma Kinniwabi has partnered with Meridian Booking System for booking of accommodations and packages for Algoma Country. Selling the diversity and the experience. It will be a 3 phase system the first year can be Book Now or just contact by email and both will be free for the first year. Phase 2 for the next year is they would like to see Book Now tabs on all web sites that are partners. There will be a 10% booking fee. This is the average fee for booking sites like Expedia and etc. The cost to AKTA to Meridian is \$1000.00 a month.. The 3rd phase will be to have the availability and Book Now tab on all partner sites. This will allow all businesses the opportunity to get comfortable with the system. This is an excellent opportunity for extra web exposure.

Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse is participating with AKTA and Meridian. If the Town of Bruce Mines wishes to put together packages for the marina or campground or just list them this opportunity is available. You would receive an email in phase one for guests to book. There would be no booking fee for Phase 1.

Group of 7 Jill Vandel

A true Canadian Story. A vision towards Algoma and the North Shore of Lake Superior

“ Moments of Algoma”

“Capture Yours”

How to drive new economic development to provide recommendation and inspiration Harris and Mac Donald are the 2 main artists that painted the area. 6 of the 7 artists spend a lot of time in Algoma from 1918 – 1930's

The base areas for this are Lake Superior and the Missisauga Valley. I gave Jill my business card and told her to contact me as to get to Lake Superior tourists have to travel through Bruce Mines and I would be happy to become involved with this. I should be receiving a work booklet to explore the opportunities that might be available in this area .

Fly Fishing

Fly Fishing is now being developed in Ontario.

The average fly fisherman loves to travel, catch and release, and are very eco friendly.

The average age is 35+ and they love to spend money for a great experience. Northern Ontario has access, affordability and could offer a 10 - 15 % increase in bookings. They like to fish for brook trout, bass and pike.

The New Fly Fisherman show is viewed in 90 million households and he is on board to develop fly fishing in Ontario.

This is an excellent opportunity for economic development. I have been looking for someone who knows the area as there is an opportunity for development of fly fishing in our area. If anyone knows anyone that would have knowledge about fly fishing in the Bruce Mines and area I would love to discuss the possibilities to develop this opportunity. I find this an interesting area to develop.

Discussed in the Board of Directors Meeting

Lake Superior North Channel Bike Route

The feasibility study is done and the general route has been decided. Manitoulin Island and St Joseph Island want to be included and this is in the process. The trail will pass by Bruce Mines via the back roads. When completed maps will be printed and the Bike route will be marketed.

There may be an opportunity here to add signage to bring the bikers into the Town of Bruce Mines for food, relaxation and accommodation .

North Channel Marina Association: - (old report) Pat Peterson sent in the following report:

Presently the following tours -Copper Town Tour, Farm Tour, Cemetery Tour live and canoe kayaking tour are live on the Chamber web site.

North Channel Geocache Event – Pat Peterson needs volunteers to create the event for 2014. Anyone interested in helping to put this event on – please contact Pat at pat.peterson@sympatico.ca

Mine Trail Development. – no report

Community Hall -Lory Patteri sent in the following report– had a discussion at council this evening since Rick O’Hara was just informed by contractor that we shouldn` t book hall until Feb 2014 now – Clerk will be contacting contractor in the morning to set up a meeting with them, herself and Rick to see why the hold up and if the completion date can be moved forward to the original time frame of mid-December to mid-January. Builder is still waiting for lighting that was promised for mid-September so not sure at this point if this is the reason for the delay – will find out at meeting. Will keep in touch with Marla McPhee regarding Open House.

Mix and Mingle – (old report) Marla McPhee and a group of ladies are willing to help a Mix and Mingle this year. It is to coordinate with the completion of the community hall and be part of the grand opening. A budget will be requested at the later date. The Legion has a catering liquor licence and may be available. The exact date will have to be determined.

Chamber Facebook – Michael Peever reported that some people have posted some photos on the page.

Bruce Mines Farmer Market –

The idea is still alive – there is some discussion on how it should be designed. A new structure

School Breakfast program – old report

35 students eat breakfast at school every day and the program is in desperate need for funding. Michael will put up collection cans for donations. All members are encourage to donate and support the school breakfast program.

ADSAB – no report

New Projects (old report)

Arlene Romberg is looking into a cotton candy machine as a possible fund raiser for the Chamber. The machine costs \$600.00. It would cost \$2500.00-\$3000.00 to set it up on a towable cart. Water is an important element to the product.

The Chamber should look into a mobile food unit.

New Business (old report)

Welcome Wagon idea – Crystal Reader had put together a make shift package for the new pastor at the Lighthouse Church. We need a volunteer who will make up a welcome package for new comers.

Citizen of the Year

Larry Peterson reported that Marilyn Christenson is our Citizen of the Year with the annual dinner being set for Friday February 28, 2014.

Arena

Michael Peever reported that the last meeting was positive and resolutions were passed by both councils that evening to look into the creation of an independent board.

Tonight there is a meeting about the future of the arena at 7:00 p.m. This is the last of 3 meetings on the restructuring of the arena.

Miscellaneous:

Lory Patteri sent in the following report:

- Town will be participating in the Parade of Lights on December 14th and I will be attending the Skate with Santa that same evening as Mrs. Claus
- My Mrs. Claus Workshop is being held this Saturday at Arthur Henderson Public School – free for area kids – crafts, music, snacks – Library is participating this year as well and having some of their students come by to Read With Santa
- The 3rd and final meeting with regards to Recreation Restructuring is taking place at Bruce Station Hall tomorrow evening for 7pm. There is a closed HR session from 6:15 to 6:45 prior. Open public forum scheduled from 7pm to 7:30
- Seniors dinner being held December 9th at Bruce Station Hall

Buy Local

Brian Torrance commented about the need to “buy local” which includes the immediate area and surrounding area. The Chamber should develop a “buy local” program.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 7th, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Library.

Executive Meeting – T.B.A.

Adjournment: at 9:10 a.m.