

**BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 04, 2014 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.**  
**WEBSITE: [www.brucemineschamber.com](http://www.brucemineschamber.com)**  
**Email: [info@brucemineschamber.com](mailto: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  
Sara Leach – Employment Solutions  
Marla McPhee – M&J Hair Boutique  
Rick O'Hara – Town Councillor  
Lori Mortimore - ADSAB  
George Cragg – Copper Bay Web Design  
Alison Cragg – Copper Bay Web Design

**Guests:**

**Regrets:** Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse

**Call to Order:**

Michael Peever called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

**Past Minutes :**

Motion: Larry Peterson + Arlene Romberg moved that the minutes of Tues. Jan. 06, 2014 be approved – carried

**Treasurer's Report:** - no report

**Geothermal Energy** – Mike confirmed he closed the account and the money went into the Chamber general account.

**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.

**French Fryer:** -

Mike Peever met with Doug Strum about the Chamber selling hot dogs since the Agricultural Society also sells hot dogs – no complaints received by Agri. Society.

**Web Site:** - George Cragg reported that the web site is continually being updated. George redesigned the information to include business categories + alphabetically. Businesses who are not Chamber members are being deleted from the web directory. Arlene Romberg reported that she will be keeping detailed records of 2014 paid up members. Members will have a web page created for them. Arlene noted on other websites have PayPal facilities for instant payment of membership dues as well as for other projects. George reported that PayPal can be set up easily.

**Membership** – (old report) Arlene Romberg reported that membership packages will be prepared and sent out in January 2014. It will also be sent out in PDF format . Covering letters are being updated. There will be email follow-ups.

**Four & Friends Art Show & Sale:** - (old report) 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:** - no report

**Library** – no report

**Royal Canadian Legion** – Jean Burns sent in the following report:

The Legion is having a Fish Fry on Feb.14th from 4-7, Pancake breakfast on Feb. 15th from 9-12, doing Turkey pies on Feb.21st but need the orders as soon as possible so we can have them made up and can be picked up that day. Whoever wants any please call Legion after 3PM 705-785-3332 or call Jean at 705-785-3862 and if not in leave message. Any questions please email me and I will get back to you.

**Lions Club:** - Carol Rickard sent in the following report;

Meetings for January 2014 were cancelled due to the passing of Glenn Connell. February meeting will be bringing in 2 new members and plans for 2014 activities will be discussed.

**SnoGlyders** – Bruce McNeely sent in the following report:

Our trails are open and of course with the recent mild weather riders should always be careful as surface water may develop at any time which may create a hazard depending on their location.

Opening of the trails went fairly well except for an area where we had to re groom due to a ATV deciding to go for a ride which resulted in the groomed trail being tore up. We certainly would appreciate a little respect in the community from ATV and Four Wheel vehicles as they are constantly driving on our trails which means extra work and costs.

As far as activities we will be involved with the Recreation Committee at this year's Snowfest in offering groomer rides and the OFSC will be offering free trail permits during the Family Day week end as we did last year. The free permits is an opportunity for those that have stopped snowmobiling or never snowmobile to come try snowmobiling on our trails. Last year this program was a great success and it has generated a lot of new interest into the sport.

I wish to thank the Chamber for their support.

**Sylvan Circle:** - no report

**Agricultural Society:** - no report

**Horticultural Society:-** no report

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

**Trade Fair** – no report

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

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

**North Channel Marina Association:** -

It was noted that there is a \$150.00 membership fee for the Chamber to join this Association while it would cost the Town \$600.00 as fees are based on the number of berths at the wharf. The Chamber joined this Association last year and Pat Peterson was the Chamber's representative. Pat, who is also a Director on the Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association, was able to expand her network of contacts and influence by attending the North Channel Marina Association meetings. The Chamber's membership has once again added Bruce Mines to the list of attractive marina's along the North Shore. It is no secret that the Georgian Bay area from Owen Sound to Devil's Gap in Desbarats is one of the world's best sailing/cruising areas. Rick O'Hara, Bruce Mines Marina Chairman, reported that seasonal boaters and visiting boaters were both up in 2013 and it is hoped the increase in marine traffic to this community will continue in 2014.

Rick O'Hara reported that the Town would cover the \$75.00 admission fee for Pat Peterson to attend the annual Marina Association meeting in Spanish on April 11 and 12, 2014. Pat has offered to cover her own hotel accommodation and food expenses for this event.

Rick O'Hara also stated he thought there might be \$100.00 available in the Marina budget to contribute to the cost of the promotional Shopping Bag which would list the names of all the Marina's in the North Shore. Each Member gets 25 complimentary bags for the local wharf manager to hand out to visiting boaters and the additional 600 to 700 bags will be given out to boaters at boat shows and other promotional events.

Motion: Marla McPhee + Arlene Romberg that the Chamber join again for 2014 year at the fee of \$150.00 - carried

Motion: Alison Cragg + Brian Torrance that the Chamber participate in the Shopping Bag promotion of \$200.00 - carried

**North Channel Geocache Event** – the web connections have now expired. Arlene Romberg will contact Pat Peterson for a copy of the job description of the Geocache Co-ordinator.

**Mine Trail Development.** – no report

**Community Hall** -Rick O'Hara reported that 75 to 100 attended the Open House notwithstanding the bitter cold. There was some discussion about the Chamber helping the Town in purchasing new tables. The Chamber had approved \$1,500.00 in the past for the benefit of the Community Hall and perhaps this money could be designated for the purchase of table subject to the approval of the Town.

**Mix and Mingle** – the Open House of the Community Hall went very well.

**Chamber Facebook** – Michael Peever reported that he just posted pictures of the new Moose Track Café on Facebook. This is a café opened by Tippy Canoe Gift & Craft Store in their upstairs facilities.

**Bruce Mines Farmer Market –**

Rick O'Hara reported that only 1 tender was received and it was not opened and it will be sent out for tender again.

**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.

**Barter in Bruce Mines**

2014 plans are starting to get underway in May. The Hall is being booked and time is becoming scarce for the use of the Hall. May 17, 2014 is the tentative date.

**ADSAB** – Lori Mortimore reported that staff is being trained for new administrative programs.

**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.

**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. Tickets are now on sale at M & J Hair Boutique; Mae-Ger Treasures; Foster's Freshmart and Peterson Law Firm.

**Arena:** - Rick O'Hara reported that there is a joint meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. at the Bruce Mines Community Hall

**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.

Business Student Scholarships – the Chamber could benefit local students who are interested in business with some type of modest scholarship. It would also increase the profile of the Chamber in the community.

**Annual Directors and Officers:**

Nominations for Directors & Officers will be open for nomination at the March meeting. Anyone interested in these positions please contact Mike Peever.

**Miscellaneous:** - no report

**Buy Local (old report)**

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, March. 4th, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. at the Library.

**Executive Meeting** – T.B.A.

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