

BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Tuesday, Jan. 06, 2015 – UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY – 8:00 A.M.
WEBSITE: www.brucemineschamber.com
Email: info@brucemineschamber.com

Present:

- * Michael Peever – Mae-Ger Treasures
- * Arlene Romberg – Wyz Gyz Chip Wagon
- * Howie Bowes – Bruce Mines Councillor
- * Jody Peterson
- * Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse
- * Larry Peterson – Peterson & Peterson Law Firm
- * Edith Orr – Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition
- * Brian Torrance – Torrance Custom Interiors
- * Crystal Reader – Library
- * Ruth MacInnes - HeartnHands

Guests:

Regrets: Lory Patteri – Mayor
Jean Hershey – Rydal Bank Historical Society

Call to Order:

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

Past Minutes :

Larry Peterson + Howie Bowes that the minutes of December 02, 2014 be adopted as presented - carried

Treasurer's Report: Larry Peterson + Brian Torrance that the Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. – carried

French Fryer: - Cotton Candy Machine: -

Mike Peever reported that a freezer is available for donation – it is needed by the French fry booth. Canada Day sold no French fries – all sales were cotton candy and cold drinks.

Car Show needs to open at 9:00 a.m. as there is a strong demand for coffee. Arlene Romberg has many ideas on how to enhance our food sales at the various public events in 2015

Web Site: George Cragg sent in the following report:

***PAGE HEADERS** have been changed to the "winter scene" to reflect the time of year.*

***HOME PAGE** now includes a basic "Site Directory" link. This simply lists, in alphabetical order, all the pages that are held on the site.*

***CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP** - for 2015. A new "Join the Chamber" page and membership form has been drafted and is ready to be promoted to the live website. For now its a simple pdf that people can download and print off. They would then send the completed form and a cheque to the Chamber address. Paypal could be used but the basic package for Businesses (which has no monthly fee attached) will cost the Chamber money. The rate currently is 2.9% + \$0.30 therefore for every \$100 received it will cost the Chamber \$3.20. Not a huge amount but something that*

maybe needs discussing at the next Chamber meeting. Paypal is a convenient way of receiving payment online but.....

“Do we feel that introducing this facility will a) lead to an increase in membership and b) generate enough “online” payment to justify paying the fees associated? “

Link to the Paypal.ca site is <https://www.paypal.com/ca/webapps/mpp/merchant-fees>

I need the “committee” to check the pricing structure and contact details are accurate and confirm all OK and then it can be promoted to live. If Paypal becomes a viable option its easy to make the changes to the page.

Edith Orr stated that Fresh Water Coalition has PayPal system – if they withdraw less than \$250.00 there is a withdrawal charge anything over \$250.00 is without charge. PayPal is a valuable option for payment – PayPal is able to have a recurring option – automatic withdrawal.

Pat Peterson reported that she and Arlene Romberg reviewed the Chamber website – amended the Chamber’s mission statement which needed updating.

Howie Bowes + Arlene Romberg that the Chamber sign up for the PayPal program - carried

Membership –

Arlene now wants to include PayPal option in the notice of membership. Once PayPal is set up the membership package will be sent out.

Four & Friends Art Show & Sale: - Brian Torrance reported that the scholarship account is now closed. Visa account is cancelled. Cheques are being sent out to various organizations supported by Four & Friends. The Art equipment, due to its fragile construction, is not available for rentals.

Geothermal - Howie Bowes wonders if the Chamber would host an open house at the community hall for a general information session – keep it simple and reasonable short. Perhaps the experts could attend and explain in plain language what geothermal could mean to the community. It is important that the Chamber + Town + Township agree to work together on this project. Howie will follow up on this project.

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

Simpson Mine Shaft – no report as the Shaft is closed for the season

Bruce Mines Historical Society: - Larry Peterson reported that 60 copies of *The History of the Bruce Mine* is available for sale at S & S Creations for \$40.00. Considering a tremendous amount of history went up in smoke when the Town was burned out twice, the publication by Ted Leahy is a treasure trove on the history of Bruce Mines and surrounding area.

Rydal Bank Historical Society: - no report

Library – Crystal Reader reported there is a Saturday Kids Program from 11:00 am. to 2:00 p.m. involving crafts, internet for ages 5 to 11 yrs. The Library’s 2 students are running the program

Recreational Committee – no report

Royal Canadian Legion – Jean Burns sent in the following report;

On Thursday Dec. 4th we host the OPP luncheon which we usually do every three months. On Sat. Dec. we had a fun afternoon with entertainment by Joe Mattalo and we also served wings and fries if ordered. Enjoyed by all and a great support for our Legion. On Dec 14th we had our

annual pancake breakfast with Santa and the children received gifts from Santa which had been donated . On Dec. 20th we held our annual Potluck supper for Legion and Aux. members including spouses and also we had entertainment for the evening enjoyed by all. We are hoping to have a fish fry on Jan. 24th with entertainment. All are welcome and please come out and support your local legion.

Lions Club: - no report

SnoGlyders – Bruce McNeely sent in the following report:

In regards to the club so far we have checked all of our trails and for the most part all necessary work has been completed. Our plan is to go out on Monday to start packing of the trails and to complete any unfinished work. Hopefully if mother nature continues with the snow our trails may be opened within 10 days. The only issue remaining to sort out is the Mc Creights Dam bridge with the North Shore Board. The bridge needs maintenance and the Board see no reason why they should maintain the bridge. We are trying to find a solution as this is a main connection to other communities as well as being a photo opportunity for snowmobilers.

In regards to our membership we are struggling to find new members to keep the club active. Being a club member does not mean that you have just taken on a second job. For the most part other than grooming and some brushing the trails are good to go so what we are looking for is more members to join in the fun part of belonging to a club and to plan snowmobile trips. It's always more fun to go out as a group then one or two.

We have received great support from the local business in our trail signage program and money raised will certainly help the cause. Participation in the program also gives a great image of what Bruce Mines and Thessalon has to offer.

Bruce McNeely also provided copies of Snowmobiling Facts & Figures 2013/2014 Season and Future Action Plans - the financial benefits of snowmobiling to local communities is mind-boggling!

Agricultural Society: - no report

Horticultural Society:- no report

Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce: Pat Peterson reported:

Bruce Mines Chamber is a member of Sault Ste Marie Chamber distribution of our brochures, we can attend their Take 5 and seminars. BMCOC members can participate in their plans by joining the SSMCOC at an associate rate of \$ 108.00 + hst eg, special rates for credit cards, Group Insurance, UPS small package shipping freight.

Trade Fair – no report – there is a possibility that this might be incorporated into Barter in Bruce Mines event

Joint Advertising Committee: Mike Peever asked that Plummer Additional join this committee and work with the chamber to increase business visibility.

Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association: Pat Peterson reported:

Memberships will be sent out in Jan. and once received the Town will be notified as last year the Town and the Chamber shared a membership.

North Channel Marine Tourism Association: - Pat Peterson gave the following report;

The brochure was emailed to be checked before going to print and it was realized that the Bruce Mines marina was not listed as a marina but the Chamber was listed as an affiliate. That is the membership that the Chamber is paying for - Affiliate Member: Cost \$150.00

For your information: Cost for the Town to join as a Marina is \$600.00 and they decided not to renew membership a few years back and the Chamber decided to join as the Town of Bruce Mines and its Marina should have a presence in the marketing and research done for the North Channel.

Benefits:

- *Town of Bruce Mines presence on the web site (article should be updated with more marina information*
- *Allows participation in the marketing shopping bag experience*
- *Marina was included in the DVD*
- *Can attend the General Meeting and mingle with other Marinas to learn what is happening*
- *Marketing resource information available to members*
- *The NCMT has a presence at Toronto and Georgian Bay Boat Shows and Manitoulin Island Trade Shows*

Disadvantage

- *Marina not in the brochure but the Chamber does have a presence under affiliates*

I am under the impression that membership has been paid for 2015 but guess the decision has to be made to renew for 2016. if not content with the exposure presently received.

General Comments - It is important that Bruce Mines keep in the public eye. \$600.00 is usually the cost of 1 advertisement in newspaper. Perhaps the Town would be willing to pay \$450.00 in addition to the Chambers \$150.00 = \$600.00.

The Chamber has already paid the \$150.00 for the 2015 season. Hence the Chamber/Town joint venture may be considered for the 2016 season.

North Channel Geocache Event – no report – the need for someone to head up this event and is knowledgeable in setting co-ordinates. Pat Peterson did an incredible job in researching, planting and setting up geocaches along the Nip N'Tuck railroad from Bruce Mines to Rock Lake. We just need someone who is knowledgeable and enthusiastic about geocaching and being able to set the co-ordinates of the various treasures.

Mix and Mingle: Lory Patteri, on behalf of the Town, thanks Marla McPhee and the Chamber for hosting the Mix and Mingle in December. As usual it was a night filled with good food and friends, old and new.

Chamber Facebook – Mike Peever reported that Facebook page continues to grow in popularity. There are over 100 people checking into the site.

Barter in Bruce Mines

Merging the Trade Show with Barter may be a good match – will be for the May long weekend.

ADSAB – Crystal Reader has reported that she has been invited to sit in a meeting with ADSAB to review the grades 7 & 8 going to CASS. This is in preparation for more grades going to CASS.

Arena: - Lory Patteri sent in the following report: It is estimated that the work on the arena beams will not take place until the snow load is gone so council is hoping to have a meeting with Plummer Additional and the Engineer to further discuss options/concerns, etc.

Medical Centre: Lory Patteri sent in the following report:

The construction of the pharmacy at the Health Centre is on track. Donna Brunke and Lory Patteri met with Dr. Sagart and the contractor at the beginning of December to review the construction to date and there were no major hiccups or delays at that time. Dr. Sagart was hopeful that he would be ready to open by the middle or end of February 2015 at the latest.

Municipal Representation:

Mike Jones will be representing Plummer Additional and Lory Patteri will be representing Bruce Mines at the Chamber meetings.

Canada Day will be changed to Community Day for the last Saturday in June. The Chamber banner needs to be replaced.

Welcome Package for New Residents – Letters from the town and township should be included as well as an invitation to join the Chamber. Suggestion that an invitation to join the Chamber could include a discounted or complimentary one year membership.

Business Student Scholarships – Mike Peever noted that a donation to a scholarship that would be administered by the school would probably be our best option. He will investigate further.

Copper Country Bruce Mines – there was not the enthusiasm from local businesses to staying open for evening hours to encourage local shoppers to shop in town.

2015 Citizen of the Year:

Larry Peterson reported that Cheryl Harvey is the 2015 Citizen of the Year which is being held at the Bruce Mines Community Hall on Friday February 27, 2015. Cheryl's major involvement in feeding the children at the Arthur Henderson Public School – many of whom attend school without breakfast. Cheryl is one of our guardian angels ensuring that our next generation are well nourished and educated.

Miscellaneous: - (old report) Howie Bowes suggested that we should have a presence in the Ermatinger Old Stone House on Bay St in the Sault. We could be advertising our Mine Shaft attractions, Bruce Mines being the first Copper Mine, etc. Our Copper Mine history also has the potential to lead to designation of a "National Historic Site" which could bring related funding and destination tourism.

Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition – Edith Orr thanked the chamber in co-hosting the governance seminar. There are many project which both the Chamber and Freshwater can work together on various projects of mutual benefit. The latest project is co-hosting the David Hartley seminar on Jan. 22, 2015 on non profit governance and risk management

Local Promotion:

We need someone to take on local projects like dressing up as a pirate walking the street like someone did in 2014. Traffic was stopping, people were taking pictures of the pirate. Have someone operate to cotton candy machine on weekends.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 03, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. for a breakfast meeting at the Freshwater Coalition office in Suite 2 upper floor of Bruce Bay Accommodations 4 Plex – **need rsvp for the breakfast sent to edithorr02@gmail.com**– no rsvp is needed for the meeting at 8:00 a.m. The Freshwater Coalition office is located in the old Ted Netherton 4 plex across from the Shell and Esso stations. The main entrance is located at the east side of the building where Freshwater have their entrance sign.

Executive Meeting – TBA

Adjournment: at 9:20 a.m.