

**BRUCE MINES AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 03 2015 – 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  
Pat Peterson – Bruce Bay Cottages & Lighthouse  
Lori Patteri - Town Mayor  
Arlene Romberg – Wyz Gyz Chip Wagon  
Rick O'Hara - Town Councillor  
Danielle Nadon-Vaux – Employment Solutions  
Cheryl MacKay – North Channel Current

**Guests:** none

**Regrets:** Sharon Hunter – Black Bird North Arts  
Marla McPhee – M&J Hair Boutique

**Call to Order:**

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

**Past Minutes:**

Larry Peterson + Arlene Romberg that the minutes of Oct. 06, 2015 be adopted as presented - carried

**Treasurer's Report:** -

no report – bookkeeper away

**French Fry:**

Larry Peterson reviewed the excellent notes by Joyce Boismier on the French fry project. Arlene is prepared to help work out notes and procedures.

**Employment Solutions Presentation – Danielle Nadon-Vaux (Blind River office):**

- Employment Ontario agency
- Partners with Sault College
- Bruce Mines comes under the Blind River office
- Danielle works with Employers – have 4 consultants
- All work is at no charge to the employers
- They meet with employers – develop job descriptions + training programs
- They create job postings and send it out to various locations – will partner with other colleges.- Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake
- Offer screening services – they will review all resumes for the employer and forward to the employers approved candidates
- Offer confidential postings – chain restaurants will leave the name of the business off the job postings –
- Employers can use the board rooms, faxes and other office facilities to assist their employee search

Financial programs - subsidies

- Youth Job Connection Program is based on minimum wage – special needs youth – 15 – 29 yrs of age
- Will train in WHIMIS, work place safety before they go onto the job.
- Will pay for 2 week of on the job training
- Job training also applies to non special needs people
- WSIB coverage will be covered by the College during the training period.

Job Fairs can be organized for employers who are planning to hire numerous people.

Workshops – aimed at Employers (no charge)

Personality Dimensions - 2.5 to 3 hrs session – valuable for work with employees of many personalities

Customer First – help employers on how to deal with difficult customers, why you lose customers

Current Programs

Youth Job Connections – presently being offered.

- 60 hour training program
- Funding assistance for the employer

Canada Ontario Job Grant – still active for the next 3 years

- Funding to help train employees
- Help to upgrade the employees
- Covers 2/3's of training costs – text books, safety clothing
  - o – no travel nor accommodations is covered
  - o - Anything under \$25,000.00 is dealt with locally
  - o – need WSIB and Business Number

**Facebook – Cheryl MacKay:**

- Is having problems working with Facebook technically speaking. The Innovation Centre will hold workshops.
- Nov 25 seminar is being scheduled for technical assistance for those who are already using Facebook.
- The Innovation Centre have money to develop seminars in the District which has not been used.
- Cheryl and Pat will meet and organize connections with the Innovation Centre.

**Donation Boxes;**

- Need a letter setting out the purpose of the donation boxes to the LCBO, local stores, local services centres

*Motion: Arlene Romberg + Pat Peterson that the chamber purchase 6 donation boxes totalling \$100.00 - carried*

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**Business Scholarship for CASS:**

- This has been discussed with Tracey King – head secretary at CASS

*Motion: Pat Peterson + Arlene Romberg that the Chamber donate \$100.00 to CASS For Grade 12 graduate - student must continue post secondary in the business program in a college or university - applies to any CASS student - carried*

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**Arena:**

The Chamber is willing to assist in the dealings with the arena once the Councils have made their decision. Once decisions are made the Chamber can assist one way or the other in the 5 year plan. Many suggestions have come forward for the use of the arena. There is a need to develop a business plan.

**Lighthaven:**

An email has been received from a representative from Lighthaven requesting help concerning the municipal tax liability as it applied to a charity. There is a need to develop a business plan.

**Artisan Market:**

No report

**Art Shows:**

New art shows have to have someone who has the passion and vision to make it happen for years to come and not be a "one-show-wonder".

**Grant Applications:**

There is a need for someone who is used to and familiar with grant applications to apply for available government grants to support various Chamber projects.

**Insurance: (old report)**

Mike reported that Arlene and Larry have been meeting on a weekly basis. Arlene felt it was time for a review. With Four & Friends no longer active – there is a need to review and perhaps trim back on the premium.

**Chamber Attendances:**

One morning a month is not hard to arrange for people to attend the monthly Chamber meetings. There are benefits for people attending the Chamber meetings – if you don't participate, you don't benefit.

**Public Information:**

The Township of Johnson newsletter is a wonderful example of township information for its residents. Web sites are not always current and hard copy is always handy to have to refer to immediately instead of booting up the computer. Most residents in the area are retired and elderly and paper handouts are most appreciated.

**What Do You Expect from the Chamber:**

There are questions as to what the public expects from the Chamber. The Chamber has been promoting the area since the 1800s.

Some people liked the joint projects with the Chamber and Fresh Water Coalition by bringing in guest speakers of interest to various groups.

**Bruce Mines Community Hall:**

There was some discussion for curtains to cover the southerly windows to stop the glare of the sun.

**Library:**

No report

**Charity Auction for the Chamber:**

Hope to be in the Fall – Mike needs a committee to be formed to help with this project. The Chamber needs a project. The Chamber has diversified from French friers to cotton candy and other projects would help make the chamber more money and bring more activity to local events.

Mike did a charitable auction for Searchmont Ski Resort, Algoma Manor (dessert auction) + Wesleyan Church – it is a fun event.

**AKTA:**

Pat Peterson reported that the full page advertisement designed by George Cragg of Copper Bay Web Design has been submitted to Algoma Country and has been paid for by the Chamber of Commerce.

The Algoma Kinnewabi Travel Association General Meeting is on Monday November 16, 2015 and Pat will be attending it.

**Volunteer Organization:**

There is a need for a centralized volunteer organization. Four & Friends had an incredible list of volunteers who called the organizers to ensure they were listed on the volunteer list. Four & Friends found the “magic” in getting and keeping volunteers.

**Joint Advertising Committee (old report):**

Michael Peever is aware that many organizations do not have money to promote their various activities. There is a need for a Community Calendar which can be updated on a daily basis. Mike, Lory and Mike Jones are willing to meet to discuss how to approach this issue. Larry mentioned about a 6 sided kiosk with cedar shake roof and a keeper of the key to keep the information updated. There would be an area for people to put in their brochures.

**Welcome Package:**

No report

**GeoThermal (old report):**

Mike Jones reported that he received from Peter Spik a report on the geothermal project and wondered if it was still alive. Brian gave a status report. There is a geothermal firm in Sault Ste. Marie who are interested in the possibilities in Bruce Mines.

**Policy & Procedures (old report):**

Arlene and Pat have been working on roughing out a Policy and Procedures for the Chamber . Larry reported that he is checking out Abuse Policy from other organizations in order to create a policy for the Chamber.

**Web Site: - (old report):**

Arlene Romberg is working with George Craig on updating the Chamber website.

**Membership** – no report

**Simpson Mine Shaft** – no report

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

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

An **excursion to Rock Lake area with Vern Harnden** is planned for Nov. 16 or as rain date, Nov. 17. Mr. Harden will take us on a tour and point out remnants of the old mine including the old boiler and sections of railroad ties.

Anyone interested in joining this tour should contact Jean Hershey at 705 785 3534. This will be bush walking so sturdy shoes/boots are recommended.

The **Annual Thanksgiving Turkey Supper** was a great success again this year and we Rydal Bank Historical Society would like to thank everyone who came out to enjoy the meal.

We especially appreciate the generosity, time and effort of all who assisted with the preparations and presentation of the meal. The support of members of the community and of friends who traveled back to Rydal Bank to assist us means so much. Together we made an amazing team.

The money raised supports many community projects such as keeping the street lights on in Rydal Bank, maintaining the Rydal Bank Hall and Church and various outreach activities.

Thanks to you all for making this a very successful event.

**Library** – no report

**Royal Canadian Legion** – no report

**Lions Club:** - no report

**SnoGlyders** – no report

**Agricultural Society:** - no report

**Horticultural Society:-** no report

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

**North Channel Marine Tourism Association:** .- no report

**Algoma Kinnewabi Tourist Association:** - Pat Peterson sent in a report that businesses will be contacted in July to advertise in Algoma Country – the goal is to have a 2 page spread covering businesses in Bruce Mines, Plummer Additional and Johnson Township

**North Channel Geocache Event** – no report

**ADSAB** – no report

**Arena:** - no report

**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.

**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** – no report

**Miscellaneous:** none -

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday Dec. 01, 2015 at the Union Library at 8:00 a.m.

**Executive Meeting** – TBA

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