



SPRING 2023 MEMBER NEWSLETTER

Hello all – and welcome to the first of this year’s planned newsletters. We’ve designed this to keep you updated on all upcoming Chamber plans and activities which could be beneficial to members and your businesses.

Some of the items below may be known to many of you, but we’d like to make sure this newsletter provides information for all – both existing and newer members - and an opportunity for action!

Chamber sponsored/agreed activities for 2023

Spring Fling – in partnership with the Lighthouse Community Church, this year’s Spring Fling will take place on Saturday 29th April. Local artisans, crafters and businesses will be taking part along with a garage sale.

The Chamber has devised a downloadable map detailing the Spring Fling participants which is available on both the Chamber website and Facebook page. Businesses from Desbarats, Bruce Mines and Thessalon are taking part.

French Fry Booth – we’ve been asked to sling fries at a number of events. **Cruisin’ Car Show, Desbarats Community Days** and the **Fall Fair**. In addition, we may be asked to provide our services for a 3 day event with our neighbours in Thessalon. This is still to be agreed.

Teams will be needed for all the above events. **Please volunteer to help with this!** It’s great fun, builds a great team day – and helps support such a valued Chamber tradition! Where would our events be without the famous French Fry Booth?! Text/call Pat Peterson on 705 254 9454.

Copper Country Christmas – this will take place on November 18th. This will again be a partnership between the Chamber and the Lighthouse Community Church and may follow a similar format as the Spring Fling. A great opportunity to promote Christmas ‘down the line’! We will be approaching members nearer the time to ask for your participation.

BMCOOC sponsored Area Tourism Brochure

A new version of the above is currently being produced and will include a map of local points of interest for tourists. The brochure will detail various local links suggested for further information – including, prominently, the Chamber website. In turn, the Chamber website will provide details and links to your business as a member. Copies are held at all Travel Ontario locations, including the Sault Ste Marie location. Ideal for attracting visitors crossing the International Bridge.

In addition, copies will be made available exclusively to Chamber members to display/issue.

AKTA Algoma Travel Guide

Every September, we create a full page advert for the Algoma Kinnawabe Tourism Association (AKTA) magazine, which promotes the entire Algoma region. There is a cost associated with this production (applied by AKTA).

40,000 copies of this magazine are printed every year and included in all Travel Ontario sites, along with other key tourism offices. (You’ll always find a copy of this magazine in the Information Desk at the Station Mall for example).

In addition to the printed copies, this magazine is available for download online. This is becoming the most popular way to review content and travel plans. Our page is always well received, with the format being used by other local communities within Algoma!

Pat Peterson is our Marketing lead, and will be contacting members nearer the time, to see if you would like to be included in the 2024 edition. **NEW - There will be a 15% discount on advertisement costs for Chamber Members.**

BMCOC Website (www.brucemineschamber.com)

The Chamber website is the main source of information for details of all our members and upcoming events. We reach people across the globe from all continents!

We are planning to include an updated **online** map to again, showcase members businesses in our area. Depending on size, we may provide an overview map, but a more detailed map for each area, e.g., Desbarats, Bruce Mines, Thessalon etc. This is work in progress.

If you don't have a website, our website guru will create a 'pop-up window' on the chamber website for your business with any relevant details you'd like to see to help promote your business. You will be able to use this link on any of your own promotional activities or documents.

In addition, these newsletters will also be stored and accessible via the website.

Socials

We held our first social event in the Lighthouse Lounge in March. It was good to see so many local businesses attend! We heard from a couple of local speakers on their journeys to date and showcase their talents and future plans. It was also a great opportunity to meet new faces and create new contacts/network. Feedback was very positive.

We will be holding a further social on June 6th at 7pm at the Lighthouse Lounge, McKay Island. Details including guest speakers etc., will be shared nearer the time.

Annual General Meeting

Our annual general meeting will be held at 6pm on June 6th at the Lighthouse Lounge (immediately prior to Social event). This will be open to all paid Chamber members to attend and to vote on matters to hand. Please attend – this is your opportunity to get further involved and influence activities!

Membership

As you can see, we have an active Chamber! We are always on the look out for opportunities to promote the local area. This in turn supports our members with increased footfall to local businesses.

Our membership fees are very reasonable and based on a business, organisation or personal basis.

Membership offers the following:

- Presence and links to your business on Chamber website. With additional visibility via the proposed new online map as outlined above.
- Regular meetings. Either socials, or more formal Chamber meetings. This is your opportunity to get involved, share your thoughts and ideas to help promote our area. Details of meetings and socials will be shared regularly
- Inclusion in the BMCOC devised tourism brochure – as outlined above (and the AKTA magazine opportunity)
- Regular quarterly newsletter (like this) keeping you up to date
- the opportunity to mix with other local businesses that may not always arise otherwise.

If you are interested in formally joining the Bruce Mines and District, please email the Chamber at membership@brucemineschamber.com Or contact Shane Rock on 705-255-8657. Invoices will be provided if needed.

And finally.....

We hope you have found the above of interest...feedback always welcome! Have a great Spring Fling all!

The Board and Committee of the Bruce Mines and District Chamber of Commerce
www.brucemineschamber.com