



## Year Summary 2008—2009



### *Inception to now*

Since its inception the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce has served to advance the concerns and interests of business owners in the Pontiac. We promised to be a strong voice representing your needs throughout this vast territory called Pontiac and this we have successfully done.



### *A Strong Voice*

This was evident in the way that the Chamber increased accessibility to important information pertinent to the furthering of the local business community. As well as its proactive approach in fostering business to business relationships and strongly supporting a “Buy Local Campaign”.

The voice of business reached yet a new height in this arena when we pursued and obtained an



official seat at the C.L.D. (Centre Local de Développement). We know the decisions that are taken here directly impact the commercial well being of the region for better or for worse, hence the need to have meaningful input from you, the businesses.



We have also been successful in regularly acquiring the ear of our Member to the National Assembly, Madame Charlotte L'Écuyer, as well as our Federal rep-

resentative and Parliamentary Cabinet Member, the Honourable Laurence Cannon. Be it through public forums or the attending of a Federal budget consultation, this Chamber has never forgotten its vision and has worked hard at remaining steady.



### *Online Database*

An important point of focus has been the development of a current online, regional, business database. We believe this has the potential to network and make readily available local business information to both residences and tourists alike. Though we reside in a rural area we cannot ignore the growing power of the internet and its ease of use. By supporting the above project we are helping to overcome a basic and typical problem found in many rural areas.



With the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce we all win!

**Become a member!**

866-861-0509

[www.pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca](http://www.pontiacchamberofcommerce.ca)

Annual General Meeting  
(A.G.M.)

Wednesday, May 20th  
6:30 p.m.

*Club l'age d'or  
Fort Coulonge*

**\*\* Election of new Board \*\***

# Saying Thank you.

## Volume 2, Issue 3



### **Transportation**

The James Lake road is another important business and community issue receiving Chamber support. The topic of None Organized Territories and the upkeep of roads used by businesses located on them has become a subject of particular interest since the closure of many forestry enterprises in the surrounding area.

Also President Jim Thompson was out supporting a project to bring a commuter freight train from Ottawa through the Pontiac and continuing on to Beachburg. This would certainly increase accessibility to the Pontiac and provide fast and easy travel to and from the surrounding areas using a cost efficient, safe, green and comfortable alternative to daily car commuting.

While still on the topic of transportation another agenda that has made headway and should not be forgotten is the lowering of the fuel tax. Though this is a goal that will see a second term it is in no way stagnant and

remains on the table as a file that continues to be advanced by its respective committee and members.



### **Keeping informed**

The development of an electronic newsletter and website have also been key in communicating with our members. This year we will look at expanding the available forms of communication to reach even more of our members, on a regular basis.



### **Community**

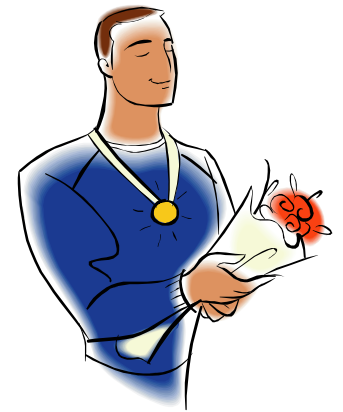
At a community level we provided support for a volunteer who has added immeasurable value to the area though his resurrection of a wood working program in one of the local high school as well as the "Cancer relay for life" event held in Mansfield Québec.



### **Thank You**

Thank you to all the faithful readers of this Chamber news letter. Your comments have been great! It has been a fantastic year!

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009



Thank you to the acting executive, board and members of 2008 – 2009 as well a much deserved thank you to all committees and committee members who willingly made an investment of time in the furthering of a strong and no doubt, lasting Chamber in the Pontiac Region. Now we gear up and look forward to another successful year.

*Vice President/ Editor  
Jean-Claude Rivest*

### **The Last Word**

As you can see, your Chamber has been and will continue to be active on your behalf so be sure to attend the Annual General Meeting at 6:30, on May 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Golden Age Club in Fort Coulonge.

*President:  
Jim Thompson*

