



CHAMBER NEWS LETTER



Our Second AGM

In Fort Coulonge on May 20th, 2009 the Chamber held its second AGM at the local Golden Age Club. Several yearend reports were submitted with the key focus being the general summary of the Chamber's activities throughout the year given by the 2008 presiding president Jim Thompson. Joanne Labadie of Lavender Ridge Farms located in Lusville gave a concise, yet interesting, overview of vine growing and wine making ventures seeded within the Pontiac. The year end reports and wine presentation were then followed by the election of the new board of directors and executive. Here are the results of this process for the Executive;

- President (Todd Hoffman)
- Treasurer (Mike Hodgins)
- Secretary (Joanne Labadie)

List of Directors;

- Tom Orr, Dan Egan
- Denis LeBrun
- Bill Telford
- Jim Gibson

- Richard Wegner
- Ralph Lang
- Luboymr Chabursky
- Ron MacKillop

The Chamber's Board is both diverse in business type and geographical location within the Pontiac encompassing agricultural, automotive, construction, hospitality, investment, legal, technology and tourism. Comprised of directors from as far north as Da Swisha and as far south as Lusville we know that this new board, as the previous, is committed to the founding principal of the Chamber which is to be a voice for the interests of businesses within the Pontiac.

Buy Local

Recently there has been coverage of the CLD and the Chamber of Commerce's "Buy Local" initiatives'. This coverage acts as a reminder as to why buying local makes a difference in enhancing the overall well being of the Pontiac. Presented below are a few of the reasons how buying local does make a difference:

1. The preservation of jobs during this economic downturn.

2. Sales tax dollars staying within this province to help pay for things such as roads and health care.

3. Profits from businesses stay within our communities.

4. Local businesses do and can continue to employ your family members, friends and neighbours

5. It gets people thinking about the "Home Team" thereby fostering community spirit.

Todd Hoffman (President)

Fuel Tax Zoning Meeting & Government Reply

On May 26th the Chambers' Government Relations Committee travelled to the National Assembly in Quebec to present its case for fuel tax parity with Ontario. The presentation was made to Norman MacMillan, who is the Minister Responsible for the Outaouais, our M.N.A., Mme. Charlotte L'Ecuyer, and the representative from Finance Quebec. The case that the Chamber submitted to the provincial government for the relaxation of the fuel tax zoning centered on both precedent and the need to lessen the flow of dollars out from our region's borders. Our arguments were well received by the government

Continued on page 2.

Upcoming Events

SHAWVILLE FAIR:

SEPTEMBER 3RD-7TH .
COME AND VISIT US
AT OUR KIOSK.

Page 2.

CONTINUATION OF THE
FUEL TAX MEETING AND
THE GOVERNMENT'S
REPLY.

DID YOU KNOW?

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



Did you know?

Business Spotlight

Volume 2, Issue 4

September, 2009

delegates and the officials attending the meeting.

However, it is our opinion that we have received an ambiguous reply to our case from the Ministry of Finance on August 11th, 2009.

Fuel Tax Committee

Government Reply

The reply from the provincial government does acknowledge the right for the granting of gasoline tax reductions to the border regions within Quebec but claims that in the Pontiac's case the inequality in fuel taxes between the two sides of the river: "...appears instead to result from generally lower trading margins in Ontario". There is no doubt the Chamber will be seeking further clarification in greater detail regarding the response issued by the Ministry of Finances.

Did you know?



"Each parent of a newborn or a newly adopted child is entitled to a parental leave without pay of up to 52 weeks. A person who adopts the child of his spouse is also entitled to this leave."

"The parental leave cannot begin before the week of the birth of the newborn or, in the case of an adoption, before the week when the child is entrusted to the employee. Nor can it begin before the week during which the employee leaves work to travel outside Québec to obtain custody of the child."

"The parental leave may end

no later than 70 weeks after the birth or, in case of adoption, 70 weeks after the child was entrusted to the employee."

Did you know?

"The acquisition of an enterprise has no effect on the application of labour standards. The employment relationship remains as if no change had occurred."

"Nor does a change of owners result in the cancellation of a claim, made under the Act respecting labour standards, which has not yet been settled. The former employer and the new employer are solidarity liable for such a claim. However, the old employer is not responsible for claims arising from facts that occurred after the acquisition of the enterprise."

"In order for the Act to apply, the continuity of the operation of the original enterprise by the new employer must be demonstrated."

Bankruptcy of an enterprise

"When an enterprise declares bankruptcy, the "Commission des normes du travail" has the power, under certain conditions, to institute legal proceedings against the directors. An employee who believes that his rights have been violated can file a complaint to collect the wages, the vacation or statutory holiday indemnity, absences and leaves for family or parental reasons as well as all other sums that might be owing to him by an

enterprise that has declared bankruptcy."

Commission des normes du travail



Business Spotlight

"JLS Building Materials began in April 1993. Construction was quickly started at 660 Hwy. 148 on a parcel of wooded property. Three and a half months later a new Building was completed and JLS was officially opened. The original hardware store was 1000 sq. ft. including an office. There was a remaining 2400 sq. ft. dedicated for storage as well as a custom cutting center. In 1995 an addition of 2400sq. ft. was added as well as an exterior garden center."

"In January 1998 a second location at 285, Hwy 148 Mansfield, Fort-Coulonge was purchased. This provided much greater warehousing ability. Both locations became part of BMR le-groupe in January 2001. Following this the Fort-Coulonge location took on a major addition and renovation with the expert help of the BMR team."

"As of October 2008 the Bryson location celebrated a substantial addition of 5000 sq. ft. This new space will help service the clientele with greater selection among many other things."

BMR Le-groupe

Congratulations to the owners and staff that make up this winning team in the Pontiac.

Jean-Claude Rivest (Editor)

