



# Pontiac Chamber of Commerce

OCTOBER 2008  
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

## Chamber News:

### All Candidates Meeting

Without a doubt the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce and its members have experienced another of many successes to come. The 'All Candidates Meeting' was a triumph for this region of the Pontiac. With an attendance just shy of two hundred people on a Wednesday night, there is a much deserved congratulations to all. If you were not able to attend you missed the distinct pleasure of asking a personalized question to either one or all of the Candidates running for the Pontiac riding.

Even though they were undeniably tired at the end of the debate they still remained approachable and conversed with anyone who had the interest.

### MRC and Fuel Tax

The MRC Pontiac recently unanimously passed a resolution supporting our request for the Minister of Revenue to declare the Pontiac a border region and reduce the fuel tax accordingly. This resolution was followed by a letter from our MNA, Charlotte L'Ecuyer, also to the Minister, requesting the same.

Our meetings continue and the Fuel Tax committee, led by Tom Orr, is now beginning planning on our next steps. Your Chamber has committed itself to reducing the 10% difference in our fuel prices as compared to Ontario. We know that doing so will reduce the amount of cross border spending and help all businesses in the Pontiac.

### A bright future for Rail

Chamber President Jim Thompson was fortunate to be invited to take part in Rail day on October 5th. This joint venture between our local SADC and agencies from the Ontario side as well as Ottawa Central Railway was determined to showcase the potential for rail service through the Valley. Leaving from Walkley Yards in Ottawa the train moved through beautiful countryside to Norway Bay. After a lunch stop at Norway Bay Golf Course it was on to Beachburg. At both stops the train was met by enthusiastic supporters. The Chamber fully supports this transportation initiative and looks forward to helping the Ottawa Central Railroad build the Pontiac. Our congratulations to our local SADC for a great Rail Day.

### Business to Business

we have been able to extend the date to receive submissions to offer discounts to other businesses as part of the business to business program. Please forward your details to Betsy Farrell by October 23rd so they may be included on the Chamber's website.

See your business grow as other members are encouraged to shop exclusively with you and other members! Be sure to check where to shop locally for the best deals and discounts.

If you have not received your membership cards and decals, please contact your Chamber directly (866) 861-0509 and speak with Betsy so they can be forwarded to you at the earliest possible time. Please allow a minimum of 2 weeks for delivery.

### Know your business

I was reading an article produced by the Royal Bank of Canada when I came across an interesting series of points that I felt was sound advice in positioning your business for a healthy future. It has been included in this edition of the Chamber news letter and I trust you will find it both interesting and helpful.

### (S.W.O.T)

#### Strengths (internal)

What do we do well? What resources do we have that other companies don't have? What are our competitive advantages?

#### Weaknesses (internal)

What do we do poorly? What activities detract us from doing what we do best? Where can we improve?



# Pontiac Chamber of Commerce

## Opportunities (external)

What opportunities exist presently in our business? What trends are influencing our industry? What changes are occurring in our industry's regulatory environment? What changes are occurring in technology related to our industry? Are there demographic changes occurring that we should consider?

## Threats (external)

What obstacles do we face? What are our competitors doing and how might it affect us? Is there a threat from planned regulatory change? Do we have the cash available to meet present needs? Can we maintain service levels or will we need to increase staff?

## Editor

If you have suggestions, articles or upcoming events that you believe may be of interest to the members of the Pontiac Chamber of Commerce please email Jean-Claude Rivest at [jcrivest@persona.ca](mailto:jcrivest@persona.ca).

## Upcoming Events

### Business Fair.

A Business Fair will be held on Thursday **October 23rd** from **8:30 a.m. to 4p.m. at Pine Lodge in Bristol.**

Seminars on Everyday Accounting, Theft and Fraud Protection and Business Alliances for the Pontiac as well as a trade show will be offered. The cost will be \$10.00. To confirm your attendance please call the **Pontiac SADC** at (819) 648-2186 or (800) 665-5217.

The Pontiac Chamber of Commerce is proud to help sponsor and promote this Small Business Week event.