Our Second AGM
In Fort Coulouge 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 Luskville gave a concise, yet interesting, overview of vine growing and wine making ventures seeded within the Pontiac. The yearend 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

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 Luskville 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.

Did you know?
Business Spotlight

Continuation of the fuel tax meeting and the government’s reply.

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Upcoming Events

SHAWVILLE FAIR:
September 3rd-7th.
Come and visit us at our Kiosk.

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

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Did you know?

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?

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

Did you know?

“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.”

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

Jean-Claude Rivest (Editor)