

Bridgetown Area Chamber of Commerce  
Monthly Meeting June 30, 2011

Attendance: Andy Kerr, Gary Olsvik, Kirk Lycett, Steve Raftery, Clark Morris, Jack Skafte & Guest, Gerry Bezanson, regrets Joanne Frost, Heather Marshall, Neil Cook

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by chair Andy Kerr with a welcome to all in attendance.

Minutes from May 19, 2011 meeting were read. Moved by Carol Carter to accept minutes as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirk, m/c.

### **Business Arising:**

Gary advised he has applied for the license to start the 50/50 draw at ValuFoods on July 1, 2011. There have been many logistics to put in place. Shoppers at ValuFoods will have an opportunity to purchase a ticket for \$2.

### **Correspondence**

Andy advised the chamber has received a letter from the Town requesting a speaker at the Canada Day celebrations.

Andy also advised that the CBC will be hosting a TV show to help set up investors for businesses in need of financing. Andy will entertain all entries for this opportunity and information will be strictly confidential.

### **Reports**

Finance: BACC operating balance is presently at \$7466.20  
Holiday Draw account - \$30,557.37  
Good Samaritan account - \$35.04  
Beautification account - \$ 50.00

Holiday Draw- Gary advised the projection for 2012 to meet demand for the draw will be \$35,000 which will leave the draw at a break even point. The current committee has yet to meet to discuss the future of the draw. Partial tickets may still be purchased.

Ciderfest – The committee will meet on July 4, 2011. Final decisions have been made and the Ciderfest booklet should be out by July 15, 2011. There are still opportunities to advertise in this booklet. The Grand Parade will be the main focus of the festival for advertising and businesses and community members should get involved.

Motion by Gary to accept reports as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kirk m/c.

### **Tourism**

The VIC is now open and has received one grant from Southwest Nova Destinations. Nicole Tanner has been hired for the summer, the brochure is now being finalised for print. Visitors are down so far this year but the weather has not cooperated.

Carol inquired as to whether businesses could place advertising in the VIC. As space is limited, this would be a good idea for paid BACC members.

### **Membership**

A follow-up letter is ready to be sent to members and potential members. BACC emails to 71 members and to date we have 34 paid members.

### **Revitalisation**

The window box project is 98% completed, there is one planter to be completed at the Valley Credit Union.

**Satellite Info Center at Esso** – Cindy advised there are volunteers who will man the center every Friday this summer. She also inquired if vendors could be located at the center. Andy advised that the land on which the satellite center sits has now changed hands and the liability issue is greater than before. This is something which has to be addressed.

### **Town of Bridgetown**

Mayor Bob Fowler gave an overview of the town status. To date there have been three council meetings including a citizens forum. Mr. Daryl Hiltz is the CAO appointed by the government. He is at Town Hall 5 days a week. Forensic auditor is Grant Thornton, and Mr. Fowler advised that with the forensic audit and the RCMP investigation it should soon be clear as to what citizens still owe money as this has been an ongoing issue. Operation are expected to be normal by fall.

### **New Library**

Steve advised there are still a few repairs before the grand opening. The new café is well underway with renovations.

Brian Rice will start his Jubilee Park project in July and upon completion the project will have an estimated value of \$35 - \$40,000.

The Natural Playground is expanding with grant donation.

Jubilee Park will be very busy this summer with concerts and other events.

The Irving property next to Town Hall will include an information kiosk and bike rack. This project will start in July.

### **Old Business**

The new campaign is completed and there has been only one applicant. The new ambassador will be announced at the Canada Day celebrations at Jubilee Park.

### **New Business**

**Buy Local Fair** – Brandon Green will be hosting a business fair on July 27, 2011 at the Digby arena, free of charge for booth. A wonderful opportunity for businesses to showcase their goods and services

**Wind Farm Development** – the BACC has a positive statement for this development which we will present at the upcoming public sessions to be held by Sprott.

**New Café**- renovations have started with an opening date of August 1, 2011. The Café will offer breakfast and lunch with seating for 12 people. Takeout will be available.

Motion by Gary to adjourn, at 9:10 am, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gerry, m/c, Next meeting will be September 8, 2011 at 8:00 am at the Pub.