

GRAND BEND & AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

General Meeting
Thursday March 26, 2009 – 7:00 p.m.
Grandpa Jimmy's Scottish Bakery

Guest Speaker

Chief Executive Officer of the Erie St. Clair LHIN, Gary Switzer, spoke to the meeting about the operations, and results measurements for the area's health care system. He reported that over the next four years, the LHIN would have many challenges including: nurse shortages, outreach time in Lambton County, EMS services and the overall performance of the system.

Call to Order

The General Meeting was called to order at 8:15 p.m. by president, George MacDermid.

Roll Call of Members

Sharen Realty, Brentwood on the Beach, Grandpa Jimmy's Scottish Bakery, Tourism Sarnia Lambton, Baillie's Picture Framing, Morden Communications, Fisher Corporation, e-clicks, GB Posh, George Appel, MacDermid and Associates, Coastal Breeze Condos, Oakwood Inn.

Acceptance of Agenda

Motion: moved by Bob Sharen and seconded by Glen Baillie to accept the agenda. Carried.

Previous Minutes

Motion: moved by Phil Gaudreault and seconded by Glen Baillie to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on November 4, 2008. Carried.

Members were invited to complete an Environmental Awareness Checklist, which would be included in the Lambton Shores Communities in Bloom bragbook.

Lambton Shores plans to implement the recommendations of the Aquatic Safety Report. The chamber's Beach Safety resolution would be satisfied with the implementation of the recommendations.

Motion: moved by Jack Powell and seconded by Bob Sharen that "Proof of Liability Insurance" be added to the Accommodation Code of Ethics. Carried.

Financial Report

Moved by George Appel and seconded by Bob Sharen to accept the financial report. Carried.

Members were supplied with a sheet outlining the Core Principles and Membership Benefits of the chamber. Each member was encouraged to share this with any non-member businesses.

Manager's Report

Motion: moved by Joan Karstens and seconded by Bob Sharen to accept the manager's report. Carried.

Marketing

The new chamber brand and logo were introduced.

The website will be re-launched on June 1, 2009.

The 2009 Visitors' Guide will be going to print in the near future.

Events

Employer registrations for the Job Fair are very low. Co-organizer, Stephanie Weber, announced a reduced registration fee of \$50.

Aquafest will be held at Grand Bend Main Beach and Pinery Park on Saturday August 8, 2009. The event will include: a green product vendor fair, games and contests that relate to water, a Fish Fry, and guided hikes. Water-rights activist, Maude Barlow, will speak at both locations during the event.

Tourism Sarnia Lambton will be co-hosting a Beyond the City Lights Rural Tourism conference on April 28 and 29, 2009. The event's main speaker will discuss sustaining businesses through a recession. A flyer and registration form will be sent to the membership.

Members Forum

Jack Powell's name has been forwarded to Tourism Sarnia Lambton for consideration as a board representative.

Grandpa Jimmy's Scottish Bakery expressed concern about traffic and parking issues outside their business. They will contact the Lambton Shores Ward 1 Councillor about the problem.

Members discussed the appropriateness of Lambton Shores paying beach staff and beach facility overhead from parking revenues. Concern was expressed that these expenses would increase over time and would cause parking fees to increase. It was felt that an increase in parking fees could cause a subsequent decrease in visitors. Members recommended that parking revenue instead be used to purchase additional parking lands to help alleviate parking congestion.

Date of Next Meeting

The next General Meeting will be held on Thursday May 28, 2009.