

**Fredericton Chamber of Commerce
Minutes of Annual Meeting
May 31st, 2005**

ATTENDANCE:

Dan Koncz	Stephanie Macdougall	Mike O'Brien
Laura O'Blenis	Leigh Winchester	Jennifer Merrill
Don Good	Pam Lynch	Andrew Steeves
Ron Sauntry	John Eddy	Judy Koncz
Dan Coleman	Ken Forrest	Derek Rose
Bob Hatheway	Teresa Hatto	Bob Wood
Shawn Quinlan	Joel LaPointe	Eleanor Pollock
Peter Lindfield	Mayor Brad Woodside	Joel Richardson
Weldon LeBlanc	Kerry Atkinson	Brianne Phillips
Patricia Melvin	Wendy Williams	

1. WELCOME & CALL TO ORDER

President, Dan Koncz called to order the 2005-2006 Annual Meeting of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce at 4:03pm at the Ramada Hotel

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (May 18th, 2004)

Motion: Laura O'Blenis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 18th, 2004 Annual Meeting, seconded by Don Good. Motion carried.

3. ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT—Ron Sauntry

2004-2005 was a successful year for the Chamber. The Fredericton Chamber achieved its financial goals. Revenues were \$337,236, which is \$14,128 higher than last year. Expenses were \$346,977 leaving the Chamber in a small deficit position of \$(9,741). Ron noted that the accounting practices of the Chamber have changed and that the Chamber is financially sound.

Auditor Bob Wood of Grant Thornton noted the financial statements are a fair representation of the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce's financial position as of April 30, 2005.

Motion: Ron Sauntry made a motion to approve the 2004-2005 audited financial statement, seconded by Shawn Quinlan. Motion carried.

4. APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR FOR 2004-2005

Motion: Ron Sauntry made a motion to reappoint Grant Thornton as the official auditor for the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce for 2005-2006, seconded by Laura O’Blenis. Motion carried.

5. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER - Weldon LeBlanc

Weldon reviewed what the chamber has done over the past year. This includes developing and sustaining partnerships with local organization such as Team Fredericton and Enterprise Fredericton. Through these partnerships, the Chamber is able to work more on economic development and advocacy.

Over the past year, the Chamber has had substantial growth. Through this growth, the Chamber has expanded its staff by one additional person, the Member Services Coordinator.

Over the past 5 years, the Chamber has received more pressure to become involved with the social side of business. Through our mission statement, we are more focused on the business side. However, the Chamber is taking steps to become more involved with the social side.

The five key areas the Chamber focuses on are Benefits, Economic Development, Education, Advocacy, and Networking. Each year, Chamber members are surveyed to see how the Chamber is doing in this five key areas. One area where Chamber members would like more action is Economic Development and Advocacy. To face this issue, the Chamber struck an economic development committee. Through our partnerships, the Chamber is able to move forward on these issues in the upcoming year. Overall, Chamber Members feel that the Chamber is doing very good to excellent.

Annual revenues are increasing mainly due to member growth and sponsorship growth. In the past, the Chamber has relied heavily on dues revenue. Now, the Chamber is moving away from this.

The Chamber is continuously growing. Right now, we are the second largest chamber in Atlantic Canada, just shy of 850 members.

Weldon thanked the staff for their hard work over the past year.

In the upcoming year, the Chamber will be focusing on new office space, revamping the website, an increased role in advocacy and economic development, long-term planning, and national accreditation.

7. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT – Don Good

Don commented on how every year there seems to be such a strong list of candidates who are willing to give their time to be on the Board of the Chamber. One of the Fredericton

Chamber's strengths is it willingness of its members to serve as volunteers. Don presented the 2005-2006 Board of Directors:

The new board is as follows:

President: Laura O'Blenis

1st VP: David McMullin

2nd VP: Ron Forsythe

Past President: Dan Koncz

Executive Members: Jim Mockler
Peter Lindfield

Treasurer: Ron Sauntry

Remaining Directors: Bob Hatheway
Marie Embellton
Darcy McKillop
Shawn Quinlan
Suzanne Woods

New Directors: Ken Forrest
Theresa Hatto
Leigh Winchester
John Eddy
Stephanie MacDougall
Joel LaPointe
Pam Lunch

Retiring Directors: Don Good
Terry Avery
Dan Coleman
Frank Flanagan
Peter Lindfield (moving to the Executive Committee)
Mitch Smith

Motion: Don Good motioned that the new board be approved, Bob Hatheway seconded. Motion carried.

8. REPORT OF THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT – Dan Koncz

Over the past year, Dan reported that he had three main goal areas: finding direction for office space, advocacy, and economic development. In the Office Space area, a

committee is moving forward and is looking for space. The Chamber will be moving before July, 2006. In the advocacy and economic development areas, committees were created.

Dan stated that the greatest thing about his past year as President was working with board members and staff. He also thanked his wife Judy for all her support over the past year.

9. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING DIRECTORS

Dan called forward the following outgoing directors who were in attendance: Dan Colemna and Don Good to present them with their outgoing certificates. Terry Avery, Steve Burns Frank Flanagan, and Mitch Smith are the other outgoing directors.

10. AFFIRMATION OF THE NEW ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan called Mayor Woodside forward to affirm the new Directors. All new Directors in attendance were called forward and asked repeat the Director's oath; following this Dan presented each with a Chamber lapel pin.

11. AFFIRMATION OF THE 2005-2006 PRESIDENT

Dan called president elect Laura O'Brien forward to be affirmed by Mayor Brad Woodside. Laura was asked to repeat the President's oath; following this Laura took over the rest of the meeting.

12. REPORT OF INCOMING PRESIDENT – Laura O'Brien

Laura reported that she began volunteering with the Chamber in 1999 and started with the board in 2001. Over her time spent involved with the Chamber, Laura has realized that the Chamber is a great organization, with dedicated volunteers and exceptional staff. She continued to note that the Chamber is emulated by other Chambers.

Over the next year, Laura has a vision for the Chamber. She has three key areas she plans to focus on. Firstly, she plans to work on advocacy efforts. The Chamber works with three levels of government, Municipal, Provincial, and Federal. Secondly, she plans to work on Economic Development through partnerships such as those with Team Fredericton and Enterprise Fredericton. Thirdly, she plans to merge the business community with the community at large. Fredericton is a great city with a great Chamber. Laura stated that she is very proud to be a part of the Chamber community.

Laura thanked the past board members and welcomed the new directors and returning directors.

Laura invited everyone to attend the Annual Banquet taking place at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel on June 8.

Laura also stated that she is very thankful to have the opportunity to represent the Chamber in the upcoming year.

Motion: Laura O'Blenis motioned that the Incoming President Report be approved, Don Good seconded. Motion carried.

13. NEW BUSINESS

There is no new business to report at this time.

15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Coleman and seconded by Peter Lindfield. Motion carried, meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.