

BRIAN GATIEN'S AGM SPEECH
Tuesday, October 7, 2008

**Thank you for your warm introduction,
Debbi.**

**Ladies and gentlemen, I appreciate this
opportunity to speak to you about the
Chamber and my intention for the
Board's focus for the next year.**

**There are three areas of concentration.
Firstly, internally, and the Chamber
organization.**

Under Cynthia's leadership last year, a Strategic Plan was developed, apparently the first in the history of the Chamber.

It is my intention to move that Plan forward, ensuring that one of its objectives, a move to a policy approach to governance, is completed within this year.

While this is a very dull item, an intangible, it is necessary to modernize the Chamber organization.

The second area of concentration for the Board is you, the membership, and our future potential members.

As Debbi has said, the members of the Board are your representatives, elected by you, committed to ensuring that the Chamber continues to be the leading organization in the community providing business with what it needs to be successful.

That means things like benefits and services that you need, group insurance that is affordable, referrals from potential customers or clients.

It means providing networking opportunities for business, not just to meet and build relationships with potential clients/customers, suppliers and associates; but also to meet experienced entrepreneurs/managers/owners who can act as mentors.

It also means developing the member to member benefits, discounts and our successful M2M skills development sessions;

and other training on timely and important topics to improve your ability to improve your business.

Those things are the tangibles, the stuff you can touch and see, absorb and apply, make use of.

Our Board has a set of objectives to provide more services and benefits to Chamber members.

So I have talked about the internal organization and the focus on members.

The third area of concentration in this next year is external.

I intend to continue the Chamber's strong history of advocacy.

A fundamental reason for the Chamber's very existence is its role in advancing business interests

and lobbying the various levels of government in order to ensure that our community works better.

The CHAMBER OF COMMERCE is the unified voice of business in this community.

Debbi and Steve Irwin, our first vice-chair have just returned from the Canadian Chamber AGM.

At that meeting the Greater Sudbury chamber put forward two policy resolutions that were adopted.

One dealt with seeking changes to the Apprenticeship tax credit system.

On behalf of our members we convinced the Canadian Chamber to adopt a policy to press the federal government on providing incentives for training trades.

We also persuaded the Canadian Chamber to continue a policy that deals with mining innovation centres of excellence and including the mining supply and services sector in its commercialization agenda.

As its mission statements says:

**The Chamber advocates for BUSINESS
AND COMMUNITY prosperity.**

And those two are inextricably linked.

**A prosperous community nurtures
business prosperity and
business prosperity generates
community prosperity.**

**This is not just about taxes and the ease
of development of business.**

There is a much bigger picture here that includes social elements.

More particularly, I refer, to the Social Planning Council's strategy for poverty reduction.

I recommend that you read it to understand the impact that poverty reduction can have on business.

The Board has adopted the recommendation of a Chamber Task Force that we support the conclusions of the Poverty Reduction Strategy report.

The two elements that appeal to the Chamber are the recommendations on affordable housing and transportation.

This is important for business and for our community.

The community and business benefits if people don't have most of their income taken up in trying to have simple accommodation; they can afford a level of discretionary spending which has a ripple effect throughout the community.

As well, business benefits when the community has access to an economical and efficient transportation system. Not only does it provide mobility for the workforce but, for the retail sector, easier movement of customers.

The Chamber will continue to specifically advocate for these areas of the Poverty Reduction Strategy and will also support the establishment of a human services planning and policy development body.

This is not new.

Other chambers and boards of trade across Canada have been engaged in such advocacy.

It is good for the community and it is good for business.

Advocacy is not a tangible.

It is not something that you can see or touch.

However, it does impact business and this Chamber aims to have impact from its advocacy.

I consider it a privilege to have been selected to Chair our Board of Directors and I am honoured to serve as your Chair of the Board for 2008-2009.

I hope that this time next year, you can say that this has been a good year for business and that the Chamber had some part to play in your success.

Thank you.

[Business Section next]

BUSINESS SESSION

At this time, I would like to direct the audience's attention to the formal portion of our program tonight – our annual general meeting.

We have three motions to address this evening.

To enhance the process, all the motions have been moved and seconded in advance of tonight's meeting.

Each motion will be dealt with individually and I would ask the voting delegates to raise their hands during the vote.

Let us begin.

1. Ratify the actions of the Board of

Directors:

MOVED Wendy Watson and Brent Taylor THAT we ratify the actions of the Board of Directors of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce for the year ending June 30th, 2008.

All those in favour?...Any opposed?

The motion is CARRIED/LOST.

2. Audited financial statements:

There is a copy of the audited financial statements at each table for your review.

MOVED Abbas Homayed and Cynthia MacKenzie THAT the audited financial statements of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce, for the year ending June 30th, 2008, as approved by the Board of Directors, be ratified.

All those in favour?...Any opposed?....

The motion is CARRIED/LOST.

3. Appointment of auditors:

**MOVED Steve Irwin and Helen Mulc
THAT the firm of KPMG LLP Chartered
Accountants be appointed the official
auditors of the Greater Sudbury
Chamber of Commerce for the year
ending June 30th, 2009.**

All those in favour?...Any opposed?....

The motion is CARRIED/LOST.

**Thank you all. This concludes the
business portion of the meeting.**

RECOGNITION OF PAST CHAIR

Our most recent Past Chair has distinguished herself within this community. During the past year, Cynthia MacKenzie has championed the Chamber`s pledge to our members with energy, eloquence and dedication.

Her determination to move forward in the direction outlined in the Chamber`s strategic plan has been seen in countless ways and resulted in several

**newly formed advisory committees
focused on specific local issues.**

**Cynthia MacKenzie is living proof of the
words of self-help author, Brian Tracy
who said...**

**“Goals are the fuel in the furnace of
achievement.”**

**Your Greater Sudbury Chamber of
Commerce is honoured to have been led
by this upstanding and community-**

**mindful woman. Her year of governance
has furthered the efforts of your
Chamber in carrying out our mandate of
support and advancement opportunities
for business.**

**Please join me in public
acknowledgement and thanks of our
Past Chair of the Board, Cynthia
MacKenzie. (*applause*)**

PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO

CYNTHIA MACKENZIE

On behalf of the Greater Sudbury

Chamber of Commerce, I would like to

thank you for your time, energy and

efforts over the past year. *(applause)*

(opportunity for Cynthia to say a few

words)

RECOGNITION OF PAST CHAIR'S

HUSBAND

Proper recognition of our Past Chair must include acknowledgement of the “other half of the management team”.

Cynthia`s husband, Earl MacKenzie has been a strong ally to the Chamber team.

His understanding and support of our Chair has made it easier for her to devote countless hours to the work of

the Chamber. It has also allowed her to devote a significant amount of time in attendance at Chamber meetings, events and functions.

These activities took our Chair away from home and family during the past year. We thank Earl MacKenzie for his understanding and support.

PRESENTATION OF GIFT TO EARL

MACKENZIE

Earl, on behalf of the Board of Directors and our membership, I thank you for the support you have shown the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce during the past year. (*applause*)

INTRODUCTION OF GUY LABINE

(delivered by Brian Gatien)

The Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce has long viewed the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation as a valuable ally.

There is a bond of mutual respect between our two organizations. It is clearly visible tonight through their generous support of our Annual General Meeting.

From one Chair to another, I would like to thank the GSDC for their continued support and welcome Guy Labine, Chair of the Board of the Greater Sudbury Development Corporation to the podium.

Tonight, Guy Labine has the honour of introducing our keynote speaker.

THANK YOU TO KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mr. Murray, thank you for sharing your experience and vision with us this evening. We truly appreciate your input on the successful creation of urban wealth and the development of environmental policies.

(insert few comments about his remarks)

On behalf of the Greater Sudbury

Chamber of Commerce, please accept

**our sincere thanks for your willingness
to travel to Sudbury to share your
experience with us.**

(Brian leaves stage and returns to table.)