

GREATER SUDBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SWEARING IN CEREMONY  
**RESTAURANT VERDICCHIO'S**  
Wednesday, July 4, 2007

S P E E C H

Your Honour, past Chairs, fellow board members, and guests. It is an honour to stand here before you as the elected 2007/2008 Chair of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Congratulations to the newly sworn in Board members. Collectively, we represent the voice of almost 900 members. We have been elected to represent the business community's voice and make decisions on their behalf. Our members are expecting us to help make the business community in the City of Greater Sudbury stronger, better and more prosperous. Thank you for volunteering your time and committing to being part of the 2007/2008 Board of Directors.

Being a board member on the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce not only improves the work of the Chamber and the business community but gives you the opportunity to grow, learn and work with others. The year ahead of us is full of unlimited opportunities that we can embrace and make a difference. I am excited that each of you has decided to be a part of the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce board of directors. You are very successful at what you do as a business leader and I believe that you will do an awesome job to promote and continue to improve the Chamber's efforts in the City of Greater Sudbury.

I am looking forward to what we can accomplish in the coming year. We will be holding our first Board meeting next week to begin our work for the 2007/2008 year.

To me the most exciting thing happening at the Chamber right now is the development of the Strategic Plan. This is the first strategic plan that the GSCC has ever prepared. I believe that this process will give us a new energy and move us to the next level in development. Thank you to Sylvia Barnard and Mark Trevisiol who sat on the task force with me to determine the feasibility of doing such a plan, reviewed the proposals and assisted me in presenting the results to the Board for approval.

The Strategic Planning Committee has had one full and very productive afternoon. Interesting results came out of the first poll and brainstorming session. In addition, at our first meeting the Strategic Planning Committee identified several areas of opportunity. The exciting part of this whole plan is that at the end of the process we will have a working strategic plan complete with an implementation schedule. The results of the Strategic Plan will give the Board and the chamber direction for the next three to five years. The timeline is to have the full plan presented to the board at the September board meeting. It is at this point we as a Board have the opportunity to take this plan and start making things happen. Thank you to Abbas Homayed, Andre Dumas, Julie Denomme, Tracy Nutt and Helen Mulc who are volunteering their time by participating on the Strategic Planning committee.

In addition to the Strategic Planning Committee, the Advocacy Committee under the direction of Mark Weiman will begin meeting in September. Stuart Johnson, VP of Policy and Communication at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce met with the Advocacy Committee in June and gave us some insight into advocacy and how to advocate better on behalf of our members. This year I will be adding a standing Agenda item that is called “Identified Issues”. I ask that you listen to what people in your business environment are saying or what business problems they are experiencing.

These are the issues that you can bring forward to the Board to discuss and determine if the chamber act upon the issue and make a difference. I look forward to input from you on what you hear. In addition, participating on the Advocacy committee is an excellent way to learn what is happening in the city and gives you the opportunity to share your insight on current issues affecting our members.

The Membership and Marketing Committee will continue in September as well under the direction of Helen Mulc. This committee will be overseeing the marketing budget, looking at improving our benefits to members and reviewing our events and fundraising activities for the coming year.

During the year there will also be numerous task forces that will look at specific issues or topics. These task forces will meet one to five times depending on their agenda and will give you the opportunity to provide your specific expertise to the issue or topic being examined. I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to provide insight and direction when these task forces are formed.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank Debbi and the chamber Staff for the work they do. They are instrumental in the work that is done at the Chamber. If you are new to the chamber you will have the privilege of working with Debbi and her staff. Trust me they make our work as a Board members a lot easier.

As Chair this year, I am dedicated to doing the best job I can to fulfill my responsibilities and represent the Chamber well. Collectively we are the Board and the decision makers of the GSCC. I see the next year as an opportunity to work as a team to further enhance the Chambers' efforts. The Strategic Plan will give us direction, our advocacy committee will advocate on behalf of our members and the marketing and membership committee will communicate to our members our advocacy efforts. I look forward to working with each of you and getting to know you better as a business colleague and friend. Let's strive to do our best to make 2007/2008 a successful year for the GSCC.

Thank you.

Tonight I have the privilege of recognizing the great work and dedication that our outgoing Chair, John Bonin has exhibited over the past year. John has been committed to the Chamber for over three years but during this past year has provided the Board of Directors with exemplary leadership skills and a willingness to take on the task at hand. Despite having a crazy schedule that required him to be in Southern Ontario a lot of the time, John made the Chamber his number one priority. John it has been a pleasure to work with you over the past few years and on behalf of the chamber I would like to give you this small gift as a token of our appreciation for your work with the chamber in the past year. Ladies and Gentlemen, Mr. John Bonin.