



CHAMBER CHAT

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Mayor Dan Onichuk

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Jane Gillon

Staff

Dawn Booth

The VOICE of Business since 1909

President's Message...



The new year is well under way and Chamber activities are in full swing. We have a very energetic and ambitious Board again this year and should get a lot accomplished.

The Chamber's main focus for 2006 is to increase our marketing

campaign targeted for attracting tourists to the Fort Frances area, to be directly involved in the Downtown Core Report projects and to continue to be a strong lobbying voice on issues that directly impact the local business community.

As the voice of the business community, the Chamber is always addressing issues that could impact the local businesses. Whether it concerns Town By-Law changes, Town budgeting or border crossing issues, we are making sure your concerns are heard and a favourable outcome targeted.

It is important in being a Chamber member and getting involved in Chamber activities. A large voice

carries much more political weight than a small voice when discussing concerns and your opinion is necessary to help develop strategies on future Chamber direction.

It is your continued membership that keeps the Chamber strong. Your ongoing support is sincerely appreciated and tremendously valued and we trust we can count on your continued commitment as we face new opportunities and challenges.

We look forward to working with, and representing you in the years ahead.

Gary Rogozinski, Chamber President

2006 Goals & Objectives...

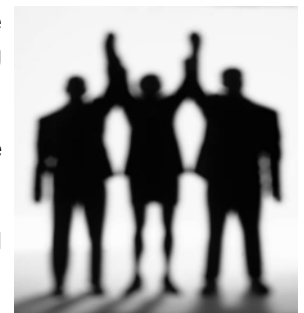
1—COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ~ Demonstrate to the area business community that the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce is taking a leadership role in representing their issues and the issues of the district.

2—MEMBERSHIP GROWTH & RETENTION ~ Reverse the tide of membership numbers from declining to increasing.

3—FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ~ Present and meet an aggressive budget that will demonstrate a positive cash flow while maintaining the needs of the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce.

4—BIA PARTNERSHIP ~ Focus on our working relationship with the Business Improvement Association.

5—COMMUNICATION ~ An active membership is an informed membership.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE HOME & LEISURE SHOW

If you have a few
hours to spare,
call the Chamber at
274-5773



Chamber Director Kelly Spicer at Project Petunia Launch

Photo courtesy of Fort Frances Times

Home & Leisure Show Set to Go...

The Chamber's 18th Annual Home & Leisure Show is set to go April 28 & 29, 2006 at the Fort Frances Memorial Sports Centre and Chamber Manager Dawn Booth guarantees its going to be another great show.

"Our committee has been working very hard over the past few months to plan a Show that has something for everyone." enthused Booth.

And that it does, from the over 60 exhibitors who will be showcasing goods and services with everything from essential oils, hand-made jewelry, blood analysis, to heat pumps, air and water purification systems, children's clothing, wholesale travel memberships, hand made candles, to high speed Internet, fitness instruction, NASCAR products, education savings plans, electronics, barbecues, financial planning, docks, tools, windows, solar electric systems, to the boaters license test, wheelchairs, adjustable beds, weather instruments, hot tubs, and that's just the start of it...

Back by popular demand this year will be two great events including the Crack the Safe & Win game where contestants will have the chance to win a \$50,000 prize package.

Contestants will play Rainy Lake Horseshoes this year as opposed to the Hole-in-One that was played for the past two years.

"Rainy Lake Horseshoes is a new, exciting game that we're going to try this year" stated Booth. "It's something different and fun and we're really hoping that someone will be lucky enough to walk away with one of the great prizes that are up for grabs this year. That would be so exciting!"

Up for grabs in the Crack the Safe & Win contest are a \$50,000 Life at the Lake package including boat, motor, trailer and more from Badiuk Equipment, a \$50,000 Home Entertainment Theatre package from Sight & Sound Audiotronic, and a \$50,000 Customized Investment Portfolio from Gus MacDonell, IQON Financial.

The second big feature at the Show will be the Demonstration Area which may include things like Friday night karaoke, boat safety tips, gardening tricks, boxing, information on natural health, pet care and more.

The Show will also feature Badiuk Equipment's Annual Boat Show on the 52' Canadians Arena, a Children's area with toys, games, and colouring, free draws, tons of prizes, free samples and giveaways.

The 18th Annual Home & Leisure Show runs Friday, April 28 from 12:00—9:00 pm and again on Saturday, April 29 from 9:00 am—5:00 pm at the Fort Frances Memorial Sports Centre.

For more information on the Show or to inquire about exhibitor space, contact the Chamber office at 274-5773.

Chamber Launches Project Petunia...

Past, present and future sponsors were invited to Robin's Donuts for free coffee, donuts and draw prizes in appreciation of their support to the Chamber's flower project on Friday, April 7 for the official launch of Project Petunia 2006.

"It was a great success!" reported Chamber Manager Dawn Booth. "We had a nice crowd join us for coffee and donuts and managed to sign up 14 new sponsors. It was absolutely fantastic!"

With the generosity of the local community, the Chamber is able to add 10 new flowering baskets in and around the Customs gateway area this year bringing the total to 60 hanging baskets and 18 planters.

Committee chair Alan Tibbetts was on hand to do a brief presentation and to thank everyone who came out. Tibbetts added a special thank you to the Town of Fort Frances and Lowey's Greenhouse & Market Gardens, two of the projects major sponsors.

For more information on Project Petunia or to become a sponsor, contact Booth at 274-5773.



Spring General Membership Meeting Coming Up....

The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce will hosts its annual Spring General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at La Place Rendez-Vous. The meeting will feature guest speaker Patti-Jo Reid, Chair of the Town's Economic Development Advisory Committee.

Reid will present the Downtown Core Report including background information, proposed plans and a

status report.

Key issues identified in the report include signage, parking and traffic flow, the future of Central Avenue, downtown branding, Town Council issues, Public Library relocation and Museum renovations.

Other items on the meeting agenda include the President's Address, presentation of the Fi-

ancial Statements, and presentations to the 2005 retiring Directors.

Everyone is welcome to attend the luncheon which gets underway at 12:00 pm. Lunch will be available for \$12 for Chamber Members and \$14 for non-Members.

Those interested in attending can RSVP by calling the Chamber office at 274-5773 before Monday, April 24, 2006.



*Fort Frances
Historical Calendar*
Never Forget Another
Birthday or Anniversary
Only \$10
\$2 from every sale donated
to the Fort Frances Museum

Quest for the Best in the Works....

With the ever popular Quest for the Best slated for Tuesday, July 25, 2006, the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce is looking for a logo.

"We are currently seeking entries for our Quest for the Best logo contest" declared Chamber Manager Dawn Booth. "To my knowledge, there has never been an identified Quest logo, and our committee thought this would be a great way of finding some really creative ideas."

Quest for the Best is a local singing competition held annually to showcase the many talented performers in the area.

The singing contest is open to anyone 14 years of age or older, solo and duet performances are eligible and a back-up band is supplied.

Quest for the Best 2006 will also see the return of Kiddie Quest, allowing for 10 contestants 13 years old or younger.

"Quest for the Best is such a great community event and the talent out there is really unbelievable." enthused Booth. "This logo contest is just another way to show-

case the amazingly talented people that live in our community."

Quest for the Best is set to rock the area under the big tent again this year during the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship and as in past years, the Chamber of Commerce is looking for several prize sponsors including:

- 1st Place - \$500
- 2nd Place - \$300
- 3rd Place - \$200
- People's Choice - \$150
- Most Original - \$100
- Contestant's Choice - \$100
- Audience Response - \$100
- Show Sponsor - \$100

"I'm excited to announce that Sears Canada has come on board with us again this year to sponsor Kiddie Quest." Booth noted. "Without the generosity of the business community and their sponsorship, we just wouldn't be able to host this great event. We really appreciate everyone's support and contribution."

Booth stated that contestant entry forms should be available by the

end of April but in the meantime, encouraged all the artistic, creative minds out there to enter the logo contest.

"We're really looking forward to receiving the logo entries and know we're going to have a hard time picking one. It should be interesting."

The winner of the logo contest will receive \$100, two tickets to Quest for the Best 2006 and special mention during the event.

For information on the logo contest, singing competition or sponsoring the event, contact Booth at 274-5773.

QUEST LOGO CONTEST

Open to everyone of all ages

Date and/or year must not appear anywhere in logo

Logo must not contain any copyrighted material

Limited to three colours

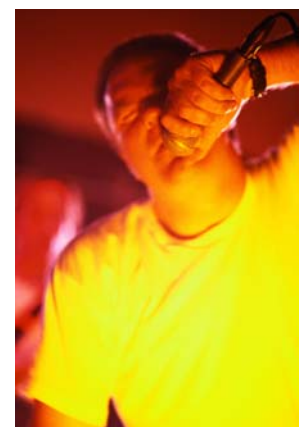
Entry Deadline—May 5, 2006

Drop off entries at 474 Scott Street or by e-mail to: thefort@fortfranceschamber.com

**Business
After Hours
Deck Party**
**Wednesday, May 17
5:30 pm**
La Place Rendez-Vous

**Everyone Welcome
Bring Your Entire Staff**

Sponsored by
B-93 fm Radio
La Place Rendez-Vous
Rainy River Future
Development Corporation



The VOICE of Business since 1909



FORT FRANCES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

474 Scott Street
Fort Frances, ON
P9A 1H2

Phone: 807-274-5773
Toll-Free: 1-800-820-FORT
Fax: 807-274-8706
thefort@fortfranceschamber.com



Click on us...
www.fortfranceschamber.com

The Fort Frances Board of Trade was formed by Mr. James Paul and incorporated under the Boards of Trade Act in 1909. The organization came to be called the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce in around 1928 and remains registered under that name today.

Over the 97 years of existence, the Chamber has been very active in a wide range of activities relating to the various social and economic needs of the Rainy River district.

The Chamber's main objective is "to serve our membership and be the recognized leader in influencing and affecting change for a favourable business climate in our area". The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce exists to make the community a better place to live, work and play.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization run by a volunteer Executive and Board of Directors (pictured below), who employ one full-time manager and usually one summer student.



Chamber Events & Projects

- Home & Leisure Show
- Quest for the Best
- Business Awards Banquet
- Business Retention & Expansion Project (BR+E)
- Government Lobbying
- Election Debates
- Beautification Project
- Historical Calendar
- Fort Frances Tapestry
- Tourism Marketing

Membership Has Its Benefits...

Membership in the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce is good business. As the only organization who focuses primarily on the needs of the business community, the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce strives to provide unique opportunities to promote and develop **your** business.

Why become a member?

The Chamber of Commerce is owned & operated by its members.

Consumers like to do business with Chamber members - it's a recognized sign of credibility.

The Chamber of Commerce ad-

resses matters of general interest and concern to businesses, which individuals or individual firms would not, or could not attempt to do alone.

The Chamber of Commerce is constantly working to make the area a better place in which to live, work, play, and conduct business!

What are the benefits of becoming a member?

- Group Insurance Program
- Discounted VISA & MasterCard Rates
- ESSO Discount Program

- Advertising Opportunities
- Government Lobbying
- Networking & Social Events
- Annual Events & Activities
- Informative Newsletter
- Business Referrals
- Relocation & Tourist Packages
- Scholarships

For information on any of the above listed benefits, contact the Chamber office at 274-5773.