

Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING – November 28, 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Gary Rogozinski)

- **I would like to welcome everyone to the 2006 Fall General Membership meeting. It is always nice to have an opportunity to address the membership and answer questions on Chamber activities.**
- **2006 was an active year. Our finances continue to look positive thanks to a lot of hard work from our Chamber Manager and a dedicated Chamber Board. Our membership is approaching 200 members and we have become a stronger voice in the community on**

issues that directly impact the business community.

- **Governmental Affairs is an important issue for this Chamber and we have been involved in several key issues this past year.**
 - **The Chamber did several presentations on the new Business Licensing Bylaw and brought forward concerns from several Chamber members.**
 - **The Chamber continues to be involved with NOACC and the Forestry coalition issues. This area is important to our community and we need to support it.**

- **We continue to support the need for a well planned approach on the issue of water and sewer rate increases and the impact to the business community. Communication efforts with the Town has been effective in the past.**
 - **The Chamber had representation on the Downtown Core Committee and the final report had several excellent opportunities going forward that will need to be completed.**
 - **The Chamber continues to work along with the Tourism Association on border crossing issues.**
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- **Next to governmental affairs, marketing is the second key area of responsibility for our Chamber. We continue to work**

closely with the RRDFC on marketing strategies and annually we advertise in such magazines and brochures as the Fed-Nor “Discover Beautiful Fort Frances” and the Sunset Country Travel Guide. Our office annually field over 2500 requests for tourist information and we are viewed as the first contact for tourists visiting our area. The Chamber is a true Ambassador to Fort Frances and the District.

- Membership continues to be important for the Chamber. In order that the Chamber can continue to be a strong united business voice in the community, it is important that the membership continues to grow. This year to date we have had 17 new members join. We have**

also had 5 leave the Chamber, 2 of those being businesses that have gone out of business. If you are not a member of the Chamber please consider joining. We are an important part of the business community.

- **Our annual Chamber Events were again successful. The Home and Leisure Show, Quest for the Best and our Annual Awards Banquet were all a great success.**
- **We also work on several other initiatives that benefit the community and business sector. The Business after Hours event provides an opportunity for area businesses to mingle and discuss issues. The Chambers growing**

contribution to the Town beautification now realizes over 60 flower baskets and pots A definite plus to the community. We designed and are selling a perpetual calendar highlighting the 100th year anniversary of our downtown. \$2 of each calendar sold goes toward the museum renovations. A very worthwhile project. These will continue to be available in 2007.

- The successful outcome of a Chamber event or project is solely dependent on the amount of time, effort and commitment that the Director's and volunteers put into it! From the success of our 2006 Chamber projects it is evident that that commitment has been substantial and I thank all those who**

have been involved. I would also like to extend a major thank-you to all the businesses who have been a sponsor to the Chamber this year. Without your continued support we could not hold such successful activities.

We look forward to a successful 2007.

Thank you!