Prince Edward County Chamber of Tourism & Commerce Newsletter
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*Serving Prince Edward County for 100 Years 1905 – 2005*

**January / February 2009**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

My term as President of PECCTAC will be ending after our AGM at the end of March. I assumed the role as interim president in November of 2007 when our past president was recuperating from knee surgery. By the time the new President takes over I will have served for 18 months. This year I will sit on the Board of Directors as past President and I will still chair our Accommodation Association. (AAPEC). Our AGM will be at the Waring House this year and I encourage all PECCTAC members to attend this important meeting. This year is the 225 Anniversary of the Loyalist settlement in the County. Many events are planned to celebrate this milestone occasion. Our office will keep members informed when the dates for the events are confirmed. I also want to thank Jan DeMille and Lawrie Ackerman for their help and hard work during my term as President.

Warmest regards,
Rick Caruso, President

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Funkional Arts & Design
Grey Stone Return (Suite)
Harwood Estate Vineyards
Hillier Creek Estates
Lacey Estates Winery
Moontide Studio Gallery
Redtail Vineyard
Sandbanks Vacations & Property Management Corp.
Summit Group Software

**Thank you for your support!**

## YOUR CHAMBER @ WORK

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce is inviting members to submit policy resolutions for debate at the 2009 Annual General Meeting and Convention, to be held at Hockley Valley Resort, Orangeville, on May 1-3.

**The deadline for all submissions is Friday, February 20, 2009**.

We encourage members to submit resolutions that are focused directly on the OCC priorities of **Economic Renewal and Business Competitiveness**.

It is only through member engagement that the collective voice of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce is heard and respected at Queen's Park and beyond.

Members are invited to submit policies that promote:

- A Competitive Tax and Regulatory Regime
- A Skilled Workforce
- Modernizing Energy & Infrastructure
- Transitioning to the New Economy

Resolutions ***not*** addressing the above policy areas will still be accepted; however, they will not be considered priority issues by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce in 2009.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE YOU?

At a recent Provincial PC caucus group round-table meeting several local business working. Some issues that were discussed.

- Lack of dependable high-speed internet in rural Ontario;
- Workplace Safety Inspection Board (WSIB) was getting to be an uncontrollable monopoly which will result in business closures;
- Hospital funding and the need for changing the federal transfer payments;
- Bill 126 – regulating how many people can drive in a car with a G2 drivers license;
- Regulatory burdens - the need to have a license for everything including loading hogs;

Some business owners reported on some personal difficulties they are/had with the Provincial and Federal governments and gave examples of what is not working.

The Provincial PC caucus is asking for your help in answering the following questions:

- What is holding back small business in rural Ontario?
- How long does it take you as a business owner, on a monthly basis, to comply with government regulations?

This information would be helpful to them to take forward.

If you have a personal story that you want the PC Caucus to know about go to www.ruralpartners.ca.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Meet & Greets**

- **April 21st : Mindful Movements**
- **June 9th : Prince Edward Yacht Club - Summer BBQ**
- **October 20th : Loyalist Lofts**
- **December 8th : Brown's Manor**

## 2009 Annual General Meeting

Welcome spring 2009 by attending PECCTAC's Annual General Meeting on Thursday March 26th 2009 at the Waring House Hall. Hear what is new and mingle with fellow members. A superb dinner will be provided.

Please see the enclosed information and sign-up form. Call and reserve your place today!

## TOURISM AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Prince Edward County Tourism Ambassador Program will launch their 1st seminar on Wednesday May 6th – 9 am to 3 pm. $20.00 pp.

Please bring your own brown bag lunch and of course your enthusiasm. You can preview the County component by going to www.thecounty.travel. Please see the insert for further details.

## Public Forum - Safe Drinking Water Act

Thursday April 16th - 5 to 7 pm at the Bloomfield Town Hall. Mr. Andrew Landy, Senior Public Health Inspector, Hastings & Prince Edward Health Unit, will be on hand to provide updates and answer all your questions. Please RSVP to PECCTAC by calling 613.476.2421 or email manager@pecchamber.com.

## MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS!

Are you taking advantage of all the benefits PECCTAC has to offer?

**Group Health Insurance:**
With the Ontario Government decreasing the benefits you receive in healthcare coverage, PECCTAC members have the opportunity to be covered by our group health insurance plan. PECCTAC's group insurance plan covers: chiropractic and physiotherapy treatments, eye exams, acupuncturist, masseur, naturopath, osteopath, podiatrist and more.
Contact PECCTAC's insurance representative Shannon Neely for a personal confidential quote. Phone 613.966.1020.

**Group Home & Car Insurance**
Don't pass up this great opportunity to save money on your home and car insurance. Call Don Stanton at 613.476.2776.

**VISA & MasterCard**
ARE YOU PAYING TOO MUCH?

VISA - 1.68%
MasterCard - 1.79%

Call PECCTAC at 613.476.2421 or e- mail pec@reach.net to find out how you can get these rates.

**Newsletter Insert**
Let all your fellow members know what your business is doing or special features/events that are coming up. For $50.00 you can insert a 8 ½ x 11" flyer/brochure into the PECCTAC newsletter.

## December Meet & Greet

Prince Edward/Lennox & Addington Community Futures Development Corporation (PELA CFDC) presented the 5 year $50,000 award to the winners of their Business Plan competition. In addition the prize package includes a one-year PECCTAC membership.

Congratulations to Sheryl Nussey and Tamara Porter of **e & Co**.

Representing PELA CFDC is Gillian Chapman – Business Development Manager, Kathleen Bazkur, Director, and David Burn, Member.

Winners of the $5,000 regeneration competition went to **The Bean Counter**. Congratulations Brad Lynd!

There was a lively auction of Christmas presents this year raising $1000.00 for the Children's Aid Society – Angle Tree. Sue Rose states; this year they have taken on more families because so many have lost their jobs. Thank you to everyone for being so generous.

Representing The Angel Tree Foundation is Sue Rose; PECCTAC Vice President Dave Ashton, Jan Demille and Lawrie Ackerman.

A big thank you to Betty Ann Johnson and Paul Adamsthwait from The VICTORY for hosting this very successful Meet & Greet.

## Introduction to Ministry of Tourism Marketing Opportunities

According to the Ministry of Tourism, tourist-related businesses in the Bay of Quinte Country are under-represented on the ministry's websites. On behalf of the Chambers of Commerce in the region, Dawn MacNeal of Welcome Tours will be hosting free 2-hour information sessions.

Focusing on the smaller tourism-related businesses, Dawn will introduce the many marketing opportunities available with the Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation (OTMPC). The following are a few of the topics that will be discussed:

- FREE Registration of your company on their website directory
- FREE to advertising of Tourist Packages
- FREE Event Listings for most organizations
- FREE use of Ministry logos on your marketing materials for branding purposes, etc.

Register for this FREE SEMINAR through the Events section of the www.welcometours.ca website. Everyone is welcome to attend the seminars at the location nearest them. Learn what's available for your business and how you can expand marketing opportunities for your business.

Join us and discover how together we can increase tourism in Bay of Quinte Country, especially during the shoulder seasons. It's good for everybody!

**Prince Edward County – Thursdays 2:00-3:30 p.m.**

January 22 – Picton Library
February 19 – Wellington Library
March 26 – Consecon Library

The first seminar class lead by Dawn MacNeal! The following is a comment from Jeanette Arsenault:

*"Great to reconnect with you today - off on a great adventure & I'm looking forward to partnering with as many people/organizations as I can. What an awesome County we live in."*