



Getting Connected

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February 2009

Board of Directors

Todd Organ, President
Greg Pittman, Vice-President
Bill Farrell, Secretary/Treasurer
Bonnie Goodyear, Director
Keith Rodway, Director
Todd Cole, Director

Committee Members

PR/Membership Committee

Bonnie Goodyear
Greg Pittman
Keith Rodway
Paula Roberts

Finance Committee

Bill Farrell
Todd Organ

Chamber Staff

Michelle Frye, Office Manager

The Chambers office is
open Monday to Friday
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

The Clareville Area Chamber of Commerce is currently seeking the presence of Honourable Ross Wiseman MHA, Trinity North and Minister of Health & Community Services to speak at a general membership luncheon in the spring of this year, with Mr. Wiseman commenting on the provincial budget. Date and time to be announced.

Invitations have also been sent to Premier Danny Williams and John Zahary, the President and CEO of Harvest Energy, to speak on the upcoming oil and gas development projects in this region.

Mr. Bramwell Coish Hall of Fame Inductee:

This year marks the 2nd Annual Clareville Area Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards. This year the Chamber will be honouring the late Mr. Bramwell Coish as he is inducted into the Chamber's Business Hall of Fame. Mr. Coish was one of the pioneers of department store shopping in Clareville, he opened the town's first major department store in 1961. Mr. Coish was very involved with the community as a volunteer, contributing substantially to many causes and to the community. He was a founding member of the Clareville Area Chamber of Commerce, a founding member of the Clareville Rotary Club and a member of the Clareville Town Council. The induction will take place at the Chamber's Annual General Meeting & Business Excellence Awards Banquet at the St. Jude Hotel on Thursday, February 26, 2009.

2008 CHAMBER NEWS

Chambers 40th Anniversary

The Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce began in the 1960s by a number of local businessmen. These men assembled to discuss business issues of the day and were known as the Clarenville Business Association. Others were encouraged to join the association so that it could extend its influence to the surrounding area. It was renamed as the Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce and was registered by the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in Ottawa on June 3, 1968, thereby giving it official status. This year the Chamber celebrated its 40th Anniversary.

10th Anniversary Christmas Ornament

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the Chambers Christmas Ornament Collection, with the 2008 ornament "Can You See Him" by Larry Mahoney. For the tenth consecutive year, the Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce (CACC) has surpassed expectations of popularity and profit with the annual Christmas Ornament Project. This fund-raising project allows the CACC to be one of the few Chambers in the province to reach self-sufficiency. We currently mint 10,000 ornaments each year with projections of increasing that number in the near future.

4th Annual Craft & Home Trade Show

Business trade shows have proven to be an effective way for businesses to reach new customers and highlight the services of the community. In the fall of 2005 The Chamber presented their first Craft and Trade Show, which proved to be a success. This past October we held the 4th annual Craft & Home Trade Show proving to be another successful year for this project.

3rd Annual Christmas Party

The Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce hosted its 3rd Annual Christmas Party on December 3rd, 2008. The event was held at the St. Jude Hotel, 100 guests attended and enjoyed a lovely dinner followed by entertainment from comedian John Sheehan.

1st Annual Business Excellence Awards

The Chamber created the Business Excellence Awards to acknowledge and honour successful Chamber members who demonstrate a continued passion for excellence and promote the advancement of responsible leadership within our community. The 1st Annual Business Excellence Awards Banquet was held on February 25th, 2008. Presenting, the 2007 Small Business of the Year Award, the 2007 Business of the Year Award and the 1st Annual Business Hall of Fame Induction. We are pleased to announce that the winners of the 2007 Business Excellence Awards were; A&P Music/The Source for Small Business of the Year, Clarenville Area Consumers Co-op for Business of the Year and Mr. Charlie E. Sheppard was the first inductee into the Business Hall of Fame.

Job Fair

The Chamber is planning a proposal to secure funding to organize and host a job fair in Clarenville. This job fair is in preparation of the new jobs to be produced with upcoming projects such as Hebron and for local employers who will benefit from the economic growth that these projects bring.

Physician Recruitment Campaign

For some time now there has been a shortage of family physicians in the town of Clarenville. As a noted problem, the Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce has taken initiative to develop a plan that will bring more physicians to Clarenville.

Website

The website continues to be an important resource in promoting the Chamber and the Clarenville area. It is an excellent tool in illustrating the history, attributes, activities and opportunities that our community has to offer to both business and the general public. We encourage everyone to check out the site www.clarenvilleareachamber.net and we welcome submissions and suggestions.

Chamber Membership Kit

In 2003, the Chamber decided to design a promotional kit detailing the benefits of becoming a Chamber member and doing business in Clarenville. The kit includes inserts containing information about the Town of Clarenville, tax incentives, infrastructure, active living in Clarenville, reasons to do business in Clarenville and Chamber information for members. With the recent economic growth occurring in the Clarenville area, the Chamber is currently in the process of revising the kit to provide the most updated information.

Communications Officer

Recently the Chamber received funding to hire a temporary employee for the position of Communications Officer. Terri-lynn Davis was hired in November 2008 for a period of 20 weeks. Some of the job responsibilities include updating the Chamber's membership kit, website and regional business directory and to increase the Chamber membership.

Oil & Gas Initiative

The Chamber is pursuing an oil and gas initiative, in partnership with the Discovery Regional Development Board and other local government agencies. Clarenville's close proximity to the Bull Arm Site is an advantage and as representatives of the Clarenville area, we are assisting to build a strategy so that we will be prepared, willing and able to provide services to offer the oil and gas industry. This is an ongoing initiative.

What's Happening in Oil & Gas?!

Here on Canada's East Coast the oil and gas industry is more active than it has ever been. Exploration, development, production and field expansion are all happening simultaneously. Newfoundland & Labrador's three projects continue their prolific production, with enviable personnel and environmental safety records. Hibernia in particular will reach an important milestone: the offshore giant is nearing its billionth barrel of produced crude. Husky Energy has made great progress on its expansion program: development of the North Amethyst field is well underway and planning for West White Rose and other tiebacks is advancing on schedule. (NLRC, December 2008/January 2009)

North Atlantic Refinery

In July of 2008 the Chamber hosted a general membership luncheon with guest speaker Mr. John Zahary, President & CEO of Harvest Energy, owner of the North Atlantic Refinery. Mr. Zahary explained that Harvest Energy is continuing with expansion plans for the refinery at Come by Chance but with the current turmoil in stock markets around the world, its going to be a challenge to find investors. The company aims to find a partner, or partners, willing to invest \$2 billion in a major upgrade to the refinery, looking to large international oil companies with the available cash. The upgrade would see the installation of a coaker, a unit that is able to process heavier crude oil. They have completed the pre-engineering work, which took about 6 months. Once they receive funding, they need one year to do the engineering work and another five or six years to complete construction.

Harvest Energy has already invested about \$2 billion in the refinery with a series of projects planned for the future. Projects include ongoing maintenance at \$20 to \$30 million a year as well as other growth projects. Since purchasing the refinery in 2006, Harvest has spent \$50 to \$60 million a year on capital projects and foresees spending similar amounts of money in the years ahead. (The Packet, October 2008)

Hebron

In August of 2008 Newfoundland & Labrador and a consortium made a multibillion-dollar deal on the Hebron offshore oilfield project. The project is expected to generate revenues for the province of \$16 billion over the 25-year life of the project, with more than 700 million recoverable barrels of oil. The federal government will receive \$7 billion. The consortium is lead by Chevron Canada, with a 28-per-cent stake in Hebron, ExxonMobil Canada has, at 37.9 per cent, the greatest ownership stake. Petro-Canada, and Norsk Hydro Canada Oil & Gas are the remaining partners. The deal will include a 4.9 per cent equity stake that the province will purchase for \$110 million. The province will also receive "super-royalties," or tier-three royalties, meaning as the price of oil rises, so too will the royalty benefits paid to the province. The memorandum of understanding will take several months to finalize and construction could begin as early as 2010. It is predicted that employment levels for the Hebron project would be greater than those for the Terra Nova or White Rose projects. (CBC News Canada, August 2008)

NLRC Proposed Refinery

The Newfoundland and Labrador Refining Corporation (NLRC) proposed the building of a new oil refinery in Placentia Bay. They spent much time and overcame many hurdles for this project but just as the environmental assessment process was complete, giving the go-ahead to obtain permits, the sub-prime mortgage crisis in the United States occurred. In turn, this economic crisis is making it difficult to find investors for this multi-billion dollar project. Now its up to the creditors, leaving the NLRC with hope to maintain the company as an entity, thereby saving its intangible assets - the environmental and community approvals for the project. The secured creditor has indicated that if the proposal is accepted by the unsecured creditors, it will agree to leave enough money to NLRC to allow it to continue its search for required capital for up to the next three years. (The Packet, November 2008)

Member in the Spotlight

It's been a good year for North Atlantic!

North Atlantic is recognizing employee excellence in workplace safety

North Atlantic employees have been steadily developing a culture of sound occupational health and safety practices for several years now. Particularly, in the past two years they've broken new ground with their safe work habits, placing them among the top safety performers in the province and in the industry. It's a combination of individual employee acceptance of responsibility for safety, the company making safety its top priority, adoption of industry best practices and procedures and award-winning employee training and equipment. Since Harvest acquired the refinery in 2006, the employees have worked an impressive 2.7 million person-hours with just one day lost to injury (November 2006 to November 2008), experiencing its lowest average lost-time frequency rate in history. So far, upwards of \$850 million in upgrades and new equipment have been invested into the refinery to help ensure employee safety and the integrity of the entire operation.

Ten years of scholarships hit half-million mark

Since the start of North Atlantic's scholarship program in 1999, the local oil refinery has awarded 366 students with scholarships totaling \$500,000. In 2008, North Atlantic awarded a total of \$57,000 to 44 deserving students across Newfoundland and Labrador.

The North Atlantic refinery won the 2008 Employer of the Year award from MUN

North Atlantic Refining received the Memorial University's Employer Partner Award for 2008. This award recognizes the refinery's outstanding support of co-operative education at Memorial. In the last two years they have hired upwards of 40 Memorial students. (North Atlantic, January 2009)

**If you would like to be our 'Member in the Spotlight' or if you know of a member who should, please contact us!*

Reasons Why You Should Join The Chamber!!!

The Clarenville Area Chamber of Commerce strives to be the principal voice of the business community and acts as a unified voice for businesses which enables members to accomplish their goals expeditiously. The Chamber is a representative to all levels of Government acting as a strong voice for its members. The Chamber maintains a full time employee dedicated to helping you and your business, providing access to information, regular membership updates and opportunities to network with other members through events such as dinners and luncheons.

Chamber Membership Benefits:

<p>1. Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan For businesses with 1- 50 employees! Your company is eligible if it's been active for, at least, six months and if it's in operation year-round. The nature of your business is irrelevant because no blanket-industry exclusions exist.</p> <p>2. Global Payments – Merchant Payment Solutions Package Receive a reduced MasterCard and Visa merchant rate and a discounted price on the purchase of a POS Terminal.</p>	<p>3. Ceridian Canada – Powerpay Suite Receive a 10% discount off regular service fees.</p> <p>4. Progress Magazine Free Subscription You qualify to receive a FREE one-year subscription to Progress Magazine.</p> <p>5. Ultramar Three-Percent Gas Discount Receive a three-percent discount on all Ultramar petroleum purchases made on your Ultramar MasterCard.</p>	<p>6. VISA and MasterCard Merchant Discount Rates – TD Canada Trust You save money while making money with preferential credit card and debit card transaction rates.</p> <p>*For details, please call 466-5800 or email info@clarenvilleareachamber.net</p>
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