



Presidents Report Calendar Year End 2011

FACTS: The Queens Chamber of Commerce (SQCC) has 62 members including 11 new members since January 2011. A 20% increase. The Board of Directors have met 10 times in 2011. There have been nine (9) General Meetings and Events sponsored by the SQCC and also numerous Committee meetings and 3 Presentations to the Council of the Region of Queens Municipality.

- Deborah Langlois, the Executive Director at Queens Manor and North Queens Nursing Home joined the Board of Directors of the SQCC.
- After consulting with Bowater and Freemans Lumber, a Forestry strategy letter was sent to the Premier. Copies were also sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders and a Press Release was issued to the Media.
- The 10to20 Project committee including Mark Sloan and Monica Howard met regularly with the Region of Queens representative, Phaedra Charlton-Huskins, to continue to move the 10to20 Project forward.
- The President of the SQCC sits on Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce policy committee and meets monthly to discuss policy issues that may affect the Province of Nova Scotia.
- All SQCC Membership invoices were prepared and e mailed in January 2011 by Cheryl Beaton.
- All financials were brought up to date by Cheryl Beaton. The SQCC is now using Simply Accounting to maximize its analysis of financial status.
- A letter supporting the Yarmouth Maine Ferry Link was sent to the Premier. Copies were sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders as well as a Press Release was issued to the Media.
- The President of the SQCC sits on the Lunenburg Queens Business Awards committee.

Yearly Activities

January, 2011

- SQCC General Meeting and tour took place at Queens County Museum on January 19.
- The SQCC news letter was distributed on all businesses in the area.

February, 2011

- An interactive work shop was organized and held at South Shore Opportunities in Liverpool on February 16th. The purpose was to explore the ways in which businesses can take advantage of print media, social networking and web marketing.
- The SQCC agreed to have a director sit on the Hank Snow Board of Directors.
- The President attended the Premiers breakfast in Halifax sponsored by the Nova Scotia Chamber of Commerce representing the SQCC.
- A letter opposing the Provinces decision to become involved in highway paving was sent to the Premier. Copies we sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders and a Press Release was issued to the Media.
- The SQCC wrote a letter to the Premier objecting to the increase in Minimum Wage without offering additional solutions. Copies we sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders as well as a Press Release to the Media.
- The SQCC held a long term planning meeting chaired by Monica Howard and Mark Sloan who made recommendations to the Board of Directors.
- The SQCC obtained a new phone number: 902-350-1826

April, 2011

- The SQCC sponsored an evening workshop with: Mary Morris of the Office of Employer Advisor Nova Scotia on April 28th at South Shore Opportunities. This workshop included an overview of your rights as an employer with regards to: Occupational Health and Safety, Human Rights, Workers Compensation, and Labour Standards. Employers now have their own advocate.

- A Political Debate for the Federal Candidates and Kevin Page was the moderator on April 13, 2011 at the Best Western Hotel And Conference Centre, Queens Place Drive, Liverpool. 3 Federal Parties attended Conservative, Liberal and New Democrats
- April 10 –16 was National Volunteer Week and in appreciation of the Chamber’s efforts in this regard, the SQCC was recognized by Mayor John Leefe of the Region of Queens Municipality.

The SQCC now has its own FACEBOOK PAGE

June, 2011

- The SQCC wrote a letter to the Premier supporting the IRVING Ship Bid. Copies we sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders as well as a Press Release to the Media
- PRESIDENT BARRY TOMALIN, along with THE DIRECTORS OF THE SQCC, invited members to our Annual General Meeting, Information session and mill tour, hosted by BOWATER MERSEY PAPER CO. LTD. on June 23, 2011.
- A presentation to the Council of the REGION OF QUEENS MUNICIPALITY took place June 20, 2011. Mark Sloan of JandH Industries, a director of the SQCC. The Power Point Presentation of “what we are”

This presentation was the work of our Board of Directors facilitation session that consisted of ‘who are we’ and ‘who aren’t we’. i.e., a Business Group working for businesses, and therefore a voice of the business community, a network, a Lobby Group (*Between Business and Government*), *Advocates (Publicly support our local business and make recommendation on their behalf)*, & the conscience of the business community. In addition, the SQCC is a Partner with the Region of Queens and other authorities/agencies in fostering economic development and we are not: Social Group, Community Representative, Catch All Group, Revenue Generator, or business “Saviour. “

July, 2011

- A Home Based Business Committee was formed and chaired by Brian Fralic. The Committee’s ultimate goal is to develop a master list of Home Based Businesses with one of the goals to entice them to become a member of the SQCC. Brian Fralic and Stephen Cooper held an elaborate kick-off during Privateer Days 2011, with a 4 day Photography Show featuring local HOME BASED businesses
- Kevin Page, a Director of the SQCC met with Stake Holders interested in submitting a bid to Music NS Week for 2012, 2013 and 2013. in the board room of South Shore Opportunities on July 7th

- The SQCC welcomed our new Executive Director Shelly White-Cantafio
- On July 18, Brian Fralic and Kevin Page presented the Music Nova Scotia bid document to council at Region of Queens Municipality requesting and receiving financial support to support the bid.
- The South Queens Board of Directors met with Nick Moase and AJ Walling July 21st. The meeting was to discuss how the Chamber can partner with QCCR and The Advance in promoting our community positively.

The SQCC has a NEW WEBSITE www.southqueenschamber.com

October, 2011

- The SQCC sent a newsletter out by e mail to all members and guests of the Chamber in the Month of October
- MARY MORRIS of the Office of the Employer Advisor HUMAN RIGHTS, the Office of the Employer Advisor, is a FREE RESOURCE for all employers in Nova Scotia. The SQCC sponsored an evening workshop with to focus on the issues of Human Rights and your obligations as an Employer. The event unravel led some of the myths surrounding the process and give an overview of your rights as an employer. This was held on October 19th at South Shore Opportunities in Liverpool.
- The SQCC and the 10to20 Project committee organized the award winning business owner Toni Newman to hold a workshop at White Point on October 24th. Her workshop was entitled “Attract, Keep and Engage more Customers more Often”. This wasn’t just for retail – if you have a business, you have customers! Further funding from the province for the majority of the costs, was granted .Tickets were only \$30 for the morning session and \$50 for the whole day. The \$50 included lunch.
- Local businesses was hailed at a gala dinner Lunenburg Queens – 18 October 2011 – Six local businesses will be hanging plaques in their offices after receiving honours as best in their category before a packed audience at the prestigious Lunenburg Queens Business Excellence Awards dinner this evening. The event was held this year at the Best Western Plus in Bridgewater, the winners for 2011 are:

Small Business Award (sponsored by BDC)

Helping Nature Heal Ltd.

Export Achievement Award (sponsored by NSBI)

TecBox International Ltd.

Hospitality Award (co-sponsored by CIBC / Greg Flinn, Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy)

Comfort Inn -Bridgewater

Large Business Award (sponsored by Bell Aliant)

Brady Home Building Centre

Entrepreneurial Award (sponsored by Clearwater)

Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Ltd.

New Business Award (sponsored by ACSBE)

Ironworks Distillery

Congratulations to Brady's Home Building. Stew Horton is a Director and Member of the SQCC

November, 2011

- Kevin Page, a Director of the SQCC announced that 2012 Music Nova Scotia Week has been awarded to Liverpool and The Region of Queens.
- RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL REVITALIZATION 5 -10 Year PLANNING MEETING was held November 22nd at the Best Western Liverpool to form a committee to discuss an action plan for Liverpool and the Region of Queens Municipality. THE FOLLOWING FROM THE RQM ATTENDED: Mayor John Leefe, Councilor Sheldon Brennan – Chair of Economic Development, Councilor Darlene Norman – Deputy Chair of Economic Development, Councilor Bruce Inglis, Kathleen Rafuse – CAO ,Phaedra Charlton Huskins, Jill Cruikshank. The SQCC was represented by Barry Tomalin President , Kevin Page Treasurer, Shelley Cantafio, Executive Director, Monica Howard, Secretary and Directors: Brian Fralic, Deborah Langlois, Stew Horton, Joanne Veinotte, Kerry Morash and Mark Sloan.
- The SQCC hosted a "Meet and Greet Luncheon" with Jamie Baillie - PC Leader on Monday, November 28 at Lane's

December, 2011

- The Christmas Committee, sponsored by the SQCC met to discuss the "The Gift Gallery" that was held December 2nd and 3rd. The Gift Gallery was chaired by Susan MacLeod with assistance from Julie Danylwinch and Stacy Smart.
- Bruce Inglis, on behalf of the SQCC organized the Tree Lighting and the Parade was a project of Chad Whynot and the Liverpool Fire Department.
- A resolution passed in the Nova Scotia Legislature recognizing the efforts of the 10to20 Project. It was a little over a year ago that in cooperation with the SQCC and the North Queens Board of Trade they launched this ambitious effort to change local attitudes and increase local spending. The numbers behind the project's formation were hard to believe, that just a 10% shift in local spending would generate \$20 million in our local economy. The 10-20 Project has never been just about the numbers, it has been about our community coming together. This has been demonstrated by the wonderful working relationship that has developed between the RQM and the Chamber of Commerce and the North Queens Board of Trade. It is this cooperation at the fundamental level that has been the most satisfying. The positive results are businesses are reporting consumer awareness of the Project and the resulting shift in thinking.
- The SQCC wrote a letter to the Premier opposing the First Contract Arbitration Legislation. Copies we sent to all Nova Scotia political party leaders as well as a press release to the Media

It has been a busy 2011 and I look forward to 2012 and, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the SQCC, also look forward to continuing to promote businesses in South Queens and enhancing the knowledge base of the business community.