



SOUTH QUEENS CHAMBER of COMMERCE
Liverpool and area, Queens County, Nova Scotia, Canada

President's Report: 2017

I have prepared for you a report, a snapshot of the year 2017:

2017 was an exciting year for the Chamber. Your Director's worked hard to continue the relevance of the Chamber and further efforts to raise our profile in the community.

As I prepare to present the President's report for 2017 I would first like to recognize Barry Tomalin, our Past President. Looking back at previous years under Barry's tenure I continue to be impressed with what the Chamber accomplished- connecting the South Queens Business Community with the outside world and with each other. Thank you, Barry, for your energy and service to this community.

The Chamber would also like to recognize two of our current directors who have a long record of sitting on the board and have contributed a great deal to our Chamber: Kevin Page, 8 years as a director and Joanne Veinotte who sat on our board for 10 years. It's the commitment of Director's like these two that provide continuity for our Chamber and bring experience to our daily proceedings.

The Board of Director's convened monthly for the duration of 2017 where standing committees and special committees were formed to carry on day to business and plan special events on behalf of the Chamber. I'm proud to have served on some of these committees and have a great deal of respect for the contributions made by my fellow Board Members and our Executive Director Cathie Pincombe.

We started off last year with a packed AGM, thanks to our returning, key-note Speaker- Mayor David Dagley. This was a great start to our year and we look forward to hearing from Mayor Dagley, with his unique position to offer insights, once again.

Soon after our AGM came March Break when the Chamber arranged for a free, community skate at Queens Place Emera Center.

We had an exciting provincial election last year. The Chamber hosted a debate for the local candidates at the Astor Theatre. Kevin Page graciously presided over the debate on May 18th offering residents an opportunity to get to know their candidates.

Liverpool hosted the first Annual: South Shore Home, Sport and Travel Expo last May. A successful event that is returning this year! Cathie Pincombe and Melissa Robinson, our Vice-President and a constant source of support to the Chamber arranged a block of tables for our members to join the Expo at a discounted rate. This was well received and sold out, as did the rest of the show. We were pleased to see the local business community so well represented.

The South Queens Chamber celebrated Canada's 150th Birthday with hanging flower pots throughout Liverpool. The chamber sold 30 baskets and contributed to Liverpool's fresh look last summer.

Our Federal Government introduced and proposed changes to the Tax Code during the summer of 2017, most notably affecting privately incorporated, small businesses. Your Chamber added its voice to thousands of Entrepreneurs, Professionals, Farmers and Lobbyist across the country. With the expertise of Paul McNeil from Belliveau Veinotte we composed a letter expressing our concerns and addressed it to our local Member of Parliament-who declined to respond. Further to this your Chamber mounted a campaign to inform its members of these changes and then provided the address of our local MP so members could also reach out privately. The South Queens Chamber of Commerce hosted Paul McNeil on September 13th who

graciously donated his time to further educate our members and interested community members on the impact of the changes to our tax code.

During his tenure, our past president Barry Tomalin initiated a community pride event which grew into the “Best of Queens, 2017.” After retiring from the board Barry continued this work with active board members on a special committee and your chamber hosted this event at Hell Bay Brewing Company. The cozy space was packed and the event turned out many candidates in each category along with thousands of online votes. This well-received event was designed to celebrate our exceptional employees and service providers in Queens and by all measures was a success.

The South Queens Chamber of Commerce is a proud partner to the Lunenburg Queens Business Excellence Awards and once again Queens is well represented in diverse categories at this exceptional Awards Gala hosted in March. All are welcome to attend as we join our neighbours down the beach and to the east in celebrate the thriving business community along the South Shore.

With everything happening at a fast pace for Aqualitas we were lucky to secure Myrna Gillis, their CEO, as the keynote speaker for a sold out Luncheon late in the fall. Myrna explained to an interested local crowd the thoroughly conceived process and philosophy of their venture - growing here in Brooklyn at the Port Mersey Industrial Park.

Christmas on the Mersey has grown continually and this year was no exception. The chamber is proud to be part of this event and recognizes the considerable efforts from Mark Reynolds and his staff that make this magic happen. This is a well attended community event and is a highlight of the Holiday Season, bringing people together in the spirit of Celebration.

I would like to announce a new initiative developed by the Membership Committee: The Community Membership Program. In an effort to raise our profile locally we developed this initiative to bring industry leaders and community volunteers together. Industry can sponsor membership for a

community group at half the cost of a regular membership. This gives visibility for both and a new platform for volunteer groups to announce events and recruit participants. Anyone interested please visit our home page and look for the Tab.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for your attention to this report.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jonathan Lloy

President

South Queens Chamber of Commerce