



Liberal Leader Speaks at Chamber's 62nd Annual General Meeting



Liberal Leader Dwight Ball was the guest speaker at the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting & Elections on April 10th.

Mr. Ball was introduced by then Vice President Kris Spurrell. In his address to the Chamber, he shared his views on several aspects of the Newfoundland and Labrador economy and how the Liberal Party would do things differently.

Outgoing President Tom Boone in his year end report thanked the different levels of government for their cooperation and partnership with the Chamber concerning issues in our region over the past year.

POINTS OF VIEW

Businesses Object to Bill C-31, Trademark Act

Trademarks are among the most important assets of any company, symbolizing as they do valuable goodwill. It is also of vital importance to businesses that their trademarks be safeguarded against encroachment by others, as well as piratical acts. By permitting registration without use, the proposed Trademarks Act in Bill C-31 threatens to sharply increase costs for Canadian businesses because the number of oppositions will rise sharply, as CIPO itself has admitted.

Foreign Workers

If you have been listening to the news, you have learned the changes the government is making to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program and the issues its causing for businesses across Canada. Nobody defends rule-breaking, but responsible employers use the program as a last and limited resort when Canadians are not available. If government wants to improve Canadian global competitiveness, it will speed up the processing for the in-demand occupations.



EXPLOITS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board of Directors

President
Kris Spurrell

Executive Director
Gerald Thompson

1st Vice President
Ashley MacDonald

1st Year Directors
Robert Sills
Ivan Ball

2nd Vice President
Peter Morris

Aaron Bennett
Tony Martin

Secretary
Brian Barry

2nd Year Directors
Brenda Cooper
Brenda Hayter
Michael Strickland
Craig Murray

Treasurer
Lou Alteen

Past President
Tom Boone

Ex-Officio
Rodney Mercer
Anita Hynes
Kevin Jeans

MEETING NOTICE

Board Meetings are tentatively the 3rd
Thursday of the Month

Time: 12:00 noon
Place: TBA

MISSION STATEMENT

The mandate of the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce is to promote and improve trade and commerce, and the economic, civic, and social welfare of the Exploits Valley Region.

CONTACT INFO

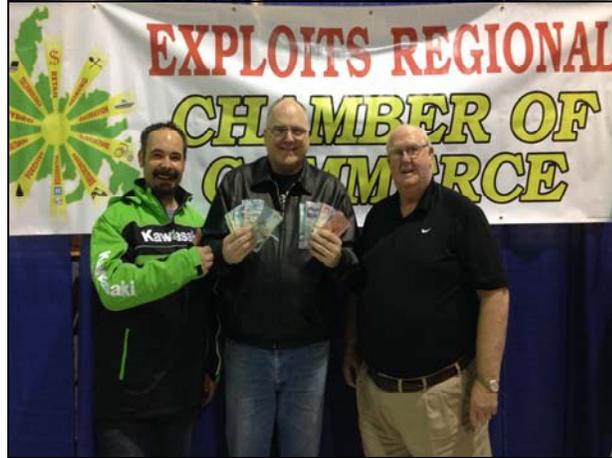
Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 272, 2B Mill Road
Grand Falls-Windsor, NL A2A 2J7
Phone: 709.489.7512
Fax: 709.489.7532

Email: info@exploitschamber.com
Web: www.exploitschamber.com

Editor: Gerald Thompson
Assistant: Kerri Wade

20TH ANNUAL TRADE SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS!



"Mad Dash for the Cash" Winner



Newfoundland Power Booth



Teck-Duckpond Booth

20TH ANNUAL TRADE SHOW A GREAT SUCCESS!



Canadian Tire Display



Dawe's Mechanical Display



Sports Unlimited Booth

MY RANT

Marine Atlantic must be on the tongues of every person in Newfoundland and Labrador. This service has improved in many ways, including better accommodations, faster times and bigger ships. We don't take issue with the employees who are very courteous, helpful and fully professional, and we can understand natural conditions such as ice and wind. However, we were promised a service when we joined Canada under Confederation, and though this service was not spelled out, the expectation was and still is that we have a service that is reliable and affordable.

Over the past number of years Marine Atlantic has boasted about its 70-80% cost recovery. They have accomplished this by making that crossing the most expensive kilometers to travel in the world, while our citizens and tourist bare the burden. What announcement have we heard from them lately? Not the usual price increase, because I believe they have taped-out on that end. No, they are now going to reduce the service by two trips a week. Enough is enough.

Marine Atlantic stated their bookings are down by 10%. When ships are purchased that are not suitable for the service, when it becomes unreliable and too expensive to use, what else would you expect? We need a service that caters to the needs of our residents. We need it to be affordable and we need an alternative port such as Corner Brook when Port aux Basques cannot be used. Let's wake up and demand better.

- Gerald Thompson

SUMMARY OF PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Past President Tom Boone



This has been another active year for our Chamber and I want to thank you for your support and contribution to this Chamber and our Business Community. Last year, when I accepted the office of President, I made a commitment to the continuation of the many successful projects we embark upon during the year.

Our 19th Annual Trade Show, chaired by Brian Casey again proved to be very successful. This show still continues to be a great vehicle for the promotion of products and services to the buyers in this region.

In June we met with our MHA for a discussion on issues concerning this region, such as the mill structure, the fiber resources and the Grand Falls House. These discussions have continued and we would like to thank Susan Sullivan for her cooperation. Later in June we invited Randy Simms with One2One Media to conduct a seminar with some of our interested Chamber members. The topic was "Stay Focused". This seminar was well attended and received.

In July I met with the governance committee, which was formed this year, and discussed a new sponsorship package prepared by Gerald for the committee to consider. This package will continue to be introduced to our membership and assist to better plan our yearly activities.

In September we held a Candidate Forum at the

Royal Canadian Legion in partnership with Rogers. It was hosted by George Scott, and the candidates were questioned by a panel of media. It was well attended and we received good feedback from our membership.

October is usually a busy month for us and this year was no exception. We again printed 20,000 place mats and distributed them throughout Central and Southern Newfoundland. On Thursday, October 24th, we started the day with another seminar with Randy Simms. Due to the interest received after the first Seminar, we decided to do this event again. This was followed by a sponsored lunch at the Grand Falls Golf Club with Randy as the guest speaker.

January saw the first publication of "The Chamber Pot", a fully sponsored, bi-weekly paper that will be distributed to coffee shops in this region.

Towards the end of January, Vice President Joe Rideout and Gerald made a presentation at the provincial government's Budget Consultations.

On February 20th we celebrated our 15th Annual Business Awards. Although there was a raging storm outside, we had a full house and a great evening. This event continues to grow and generate greater participation from the general public.

In closing we've had an eventful year meeting with our elected officials, consulting with our membership, and embarking on new programs, all to service our business community in promoting their products and services. Thank you for your support.

The Teck logo is displayed in a large, bold, black sans-serif font within a rectangular border. The word "Teck" is centered and occupies most of the width of the box.