

CHAMBER VISION

THE EXPLOITS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWSLETTER

MHA and Minister of Health Susan Sullivan Speaks at 60th AGM



On Thursday May 3rd the Honourable Susan Sullivan, MHA for Grand Falls-Windsor and Buchans, and Minister of Health and Community Services, was the guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce 60th Annual General Meeting.

The Minister gave a detailed overview of the recent provincial budget, highlighting the provincial investments being made in the Central Region. The Minister was very complimentary of our business community, and was optimistic for the future prospects of this Region, confirming her commitment to the scheduled improvements of the hospital, Exploits Valley High, and the research centre.

Mayor Derm Corbett of Buchans conducted the election of officers for 2012-2013. Outgoing President Bernice Walker presented the President's Award to David Pelley, and also presented certificates of appreciation to the Directors who have completed their terms. Special recognition was given to the Exploits Valley Community Employment Corporation for their service to this Region. Bernice also presented Wayne Bungay with a certificate for his support with many of the Chamber's events.

One of the Highlights for this event was the meal itself. Chef Al Milley of the Royal Canadian Legion in Grand Falls-Windsor prepared a feast of local Blue Mussels and Salmon. Incoming President Scott Kenny thanked NIAI and Northern Harvesters for providing the seafood for this event.

Point of View

"The Chamber doesn't do anything for me, why be a Member?"

The Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce is celebrating its 60th year of serving the business community of this region. It is important for us to take a look back, so we can appreciate how important the Chamber has been in serving the Central community.

In reflection, there is little doubt the Chamber has made an impact. In the early sixties the delivery of freight to Central NL and the Cost was a big issue. Then in the seventies, the Chamber went to bat for telephone dial up services. Another issue in the seventies was the discussions with Memorial University about offering courses in Grand Falls-Windsor.

In the eighties the Chamber really applied pressure to government and agencies operating in Central NL. In 1980, the CN marine ferry service was a major issue. Then the spruce bud worm raised its head and the Chamber pressured government to do a spray program. The Chamber sought to have TV facilities in the newly constructed CBC Building, and it complained to the CRTC about the poor NTV reception being offered to the area. In 1984, the Chamber pushed to get a Central Phone Directory. The Chamber sponsored six men to work with the Exploits River Management Association. In 1985, the Chamber opposed the movement of Air Canada from Gander to St. John's. In 1988, they expressed their concern of the closing of the CN Railway.

In the nineties, they were responsible for the government reducing the Payroll Taxes. To this day the Chamber plays an important economic and social part within this Community. To not support the Chamber is like not supporting the idea of elected governments or individual rights. Things do not happen, they have to be planned and properly executed. These events have only scratched the surface. This Region is growing, and the rest of the province has its eye on us. We have to remain united and continue working towards economic growth and prosperity. You're not a Member? Why?

-Gerald



EXPLOITS REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Board of Directors

President Scott Kenny	1st Year Directors Brenda Hayter Michael Strickland
1st Vice President Tom Boone	Shawn Osmond Kris Spurrell
2nd Vice President Brian Casey	2nd Year Directors Regina Robinson Joe Rideout
Secretary Brian Barry	Rose Bungay Cheryl Hillier
Treasurer Keith Abbott	Ex-Officio Darren Finn Fred Mills
Past President Bernice Walker	Kevin Jeans Ern Noseworthy
Executive Director Gerald Thompson	

60th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Late September or early October are the target dates set by the Chamber to hold its 60th Anniversary Banquet. The Chamber plans to host the Banquet in Grand Falls-Windsor, and President Scott Kenny says he plans to invite all the Past Presidents of the Chamber, along with local dignitaries. One of the founding and Life Members of the Chamber, Mr. Boyd Cohen, has agreed to be our Guest Speaker for this event. Further details will be announced at a later date.

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.

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MEMBER PROFILE

Michael Strickland
Represents the Coast of Bays

The Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce held its Annual General Meeting on March 22nd at the Royal Canadian Legion in Grand Falls-Windsor. During this event, the Chamber elected its first representative from the Coast of Bays Region, Michael Strickland.

Michael was born and raised in this Region, and is married with two children. He owns two businesses; Strickland's Diving Ltd. and St. Alban's Building Supplies. Michael is involved within the community, serving as Vice President of the Minor Hockey Association. He enjoys all sports and spending time with his family. Newly elected President Scott Kenny said that Michael will give the Board a good perspective of the Coast of Bays Region and looks forward to the time when a satellite chapter can become a reality.

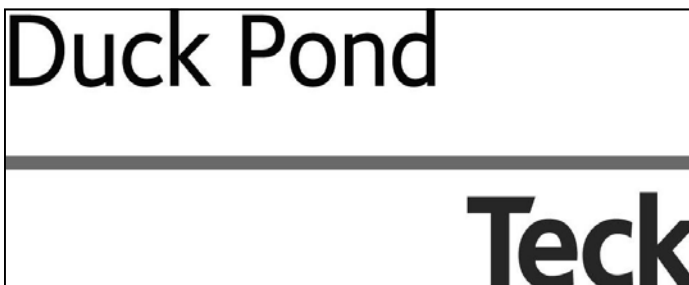
TECK-DUCKPOND OPERATIONS

Teck-Duck Pond is located in central Newfoundland, approximately 100 kilometers southwest of Grand Falls-Windsor. The mine achieved commercial production in April 2007.

Duck Pond is a copper and zinc mine, which uses underground mining methods and will transition to open pit mining towards the end of mine life.

Differential flotation produces copper and zinc concentrates, which are trucked to the port of St. Georges on the west coast of Newfoundland. Copper and zinc concentrates produced at the mine are sold under concentrate sales agreements to smelters in North America and overseas.

The Chamber recognizes and welcomes Teck-Duckpond as the Corporate Sponsor for this newsletter.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Members,

As the Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce celebrates its 60th Anniversary, let us reflect upon the many business leaders and the small and large business owners that have been a part of this organization, and how it has grown into a more prosperous future.

The Exploits & South Coast Regions of our Province are rich in mining, forests, agriculture, aquaculture, hydro and recreation, and act as a hub for the educational, medical, retail and technical sectors. We are blessed with many pristine ponds, lakes, rivers, oceans, forests, fields and mountains, wild and free, for their potential recreational and commercial development.

The future of the Exploits & South Coast Region, and the Province, looks prosperous and is on the verge of vast changes and development. Let us take it upon ourselves to embrace these changes, and use them to improve the future for us and our children, so we may all prosper. May we take the leadership to help these developments occur, and as we celebrate our Anniversary, may our membership continue to grow.

Happy Anniversary,
Scott Kenny
President

BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Exploits Regional Chamber of Commerce 13th Annual Business Excellence Awards & Hall of Fame Induction was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Grand Falls-Windsor on Thursday February 15th.

While addressing the sold-out crowd, President Bernice Walker congratulated all the Nominees and thanked the Sponsors who made this event possible.

Congratulations to our Winners:

Small Business of the year:
Gentlemen B

Helping Hands Award:
Teck-Duckpond Operations

Customer Service Award:
The Paint Shop

Personal Excellence Award:
David Carrigan

Ambassador Award:
48 High

Business Woman of the Year:
Dr. Liesl Bland

Business of the Year:
Newfoundland Styro Inc.

Desmond Kenny Hall of Fame Achievement Award:
Adam's Construction

Hall of Fame Inductees:
Adam's Family,
Aitken Family,
Walsh Family,
VOCM,
Harry Chow,
Ernest Paddock



18th ANNUAL TRADE SHOW



On May 4th & 5th, the Joe Byrne Memorial Stadium was the place to be. Over one thousand people visited the Stadium on Friday and Saturday. Exhibitors from across the province came to Central to promote their products and services, such as Yield Communications from Corner Brook, College of the North Atlantic from Port aux Basques, the Coast of Bays Corporation from the South Coast, and Cottles Island Lumber Co. from Summerford.

There were many new local exhibitors such as CSI Sprayfoam Insulation, Central Truss, Western Star Trucks and Carriage House Mechanical. Our regulars were out in full force, with businesses such as Thruway Recreation, Marsh Motorsports, Sports Unlimited, Micro Business, and Rogers. The Craft vendors such as I Love Cake, Dawn Baker Artwork, Kylie Rose Jewelry Designs and Diamond Fudge also enjoyed brisk sales. It was reported that two craft vendors were sold out. We want to thank our corporate sponsors such as Teck-Duckpond, Cooperators Insurance, Newfoundland Power, the Town of Grand Falls-Windsor and Steers Insurance for their continued support.

This year we added a Bouncy Castle (supplied by Golden Ticket) free of charge to the kids, and on Saturday we had two mascots, a Cow and a Penguin, (supplied by Liberty Tax) walking around the stadium floor passing out candy and entertaining the children.

Our Grand prize of two VIP tickets to the Salmon Festival Concert was won by Robert Wells from Botwood. Overall, this show was termed as very successful by Chair Tom Boone.

BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

Chamber takes part in Provincial Budget Consultations

The Chamber of Commerce, represented by then-Vice President Scott Kenny and Executive Director Gerald Thompson, made a presentation on behalf of its Members to Finance Minister Tom Marshall. In the presentation Mr. Thompson stated that there should be a balance in reducing the debt, and cuts to social programs and spending.

It was also pointed out that this Chamber, which represents the Central and Coast of Bays Region, has not received any of the benefits from Offshore and Voisey's Bay. However, Mr. Thompson stated that this Region has relied on its own independence to carve out its own niche and benefits; from sectors including Aquaculture, Agriculture and Mining.

Our major concern is for the Forest, River and Transportation needs of this Region. Mr. Thompson highlighted the lack of progress in development of Fiber Resources, in particular a wood pellet and sawmill operation proposed by a business interested in former Abitibi property. The fact that 40-50, or even 250 jobs may be created from this operation needs everybody's attention.

Mr. Thompson strongly urged the government to re-access its budget figures regarding the Coast of Bays Highway. With its annual budget figures remaining at 2 million dollars, the highway will always be in state of disrepair.

The final point made by the Chamber in its presentation was the need to replace the Bond Bridge. Although it may be structurally safe, the bridge is too narrow to properly accommodate commercial and residential traffic in the area. Also, the Chamber reported that the highway between Grand Falls-Windsor and Bishop's Falls is in deplorable condition and needs immediate attention.

