



1000 Islands Contact

The Newsletter of the 1000 Islands
Gananogue Chamber of Commerce

December 2006

President's Message

As another year draws to a close at the board table of the 1000 Islands Gananogue Chamber of Commerce, board members are looking to the new year as a chance to set new initiatives and ideas in motion.

We are undertaking numerous objectives for 2007. The board is aiming to take a more active advocacy role for its members, acting as a voice on issues of our common business concerns. This ties-in with another of our priorities: keeping connected with economic development in the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands and within the Town of Gananogue.

The chamber board is also looking to strengthen our share of the tourism market. We are specifically interested in trying to develop an agri-tourism program to promote our agricultural community and business partners.

Finally, the board is actively seeking more member input from our current members for our committees. Acquiring this will help the chamber's focus move forward. We strongly encourage our members to support local business within our communities. We wish all of our members a safe, happy and prosperous holiday season and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

~Alicia Vandine, President

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Annual Holiday Gathering

Thursday December 14th, 2006

12 Noon

At the Best Western Country Squire Resort

Olivers Banquet Room

\$15.00 p/p

715 King Street East • Gananogue

Please join us for a Traditional Christmas Lunch.

Menu of:

Holiday tortiere, fresh salad,
delicious dessert, coffee and tea.

Everyone Welcome!

Please RSVP no later than Friday December 8th to secure your spot!
For more information, please contact the Chamber at 613-382-7744.

51st Annual Awards Dinner

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce held their 51st annual awards dinner on Friday November 17, 2006 at MacNeil's Landing, and the Award Winners were:

Business/Industry of the Year.....	BOB FM 103.7
Entrepreneur of the Year	Carveth Care Centre
Tourism/Hospitality of the Year	Brown Hospitality
Athlete of the Year	Danielle Greene
Keeper of the Gates	The Gananoque Lions Club
Keeper of the Islands	The Admirals Group
Citizen of the Year	Jim Boltin

Congratulations to all the winners! We would like to say thank you to all that made the evening a success: OLG Casino Thousand Islands, RBC Financial Group, Thousand Islands Community Development Corporation, Mills Flowers, MacNeil's Landing and Stephen Heaton.

Retooling for a Prosperous Ontario A Global Perspective on Skilled Trades

The skills shortage has been identified by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce as one of the greatest challenges facing our growing economy as we move forward. Reports show that Ontario will face a shortage of about 100,000 skilled trades workers in the manufacturing sector alone in the next 15 years. This is the second report published by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on Skilled Trades. The first, titled "Taking Action on Skilled Trades: Establishing the Business Case for Investing in Apprenticeship", was published in September, 2005.

This first report outlined 21 recommendations for government, business and educators to address the skilled trades shortage and recommended that these three sectors work together to make skilled trades a third pillar of the post-secondary education system along with colleges and universities. "Taking Action on Skilled Trades" estimated that a \$10 billion investment was needed, including: investments in colleges, strategic tax credits for employers and apprentices, marketing campaigns and other efforts to filled the need for more skilled workers.

Purpose of the Report

"Retooling for a Prosperous Ontario, A Global Perspective on Skilled Trades" explores best practices in other jurisdictions that have dealt with a shortage in skilled trades. It provides an update on Ontario's progress since the release of the Ontario Chamber's first report in September, 2005 detailing initiatives that have been taken since that time and the challenges currently facing Ontario.

Findings of the Report

"Retooling for a Prosperous Ontario, A Global Perspective on Skilled Trades" identifies that although some progress has been made in the area of skilled trades, many of the recommendations of September, 2005 remain valid today. The challenges facing Ontario are similar to those present in other jurisdictions. Key themes emerge in the approaches in other jurisdictions leading the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to suggest that Ontario adopt a similar approach. That approach would include: a strategic marketing campaign in order to "re-brand" the image of skilled trades in the eyes of all stakeholders; a skills strategy that reduces red tape and creates a "one stop shop" for apprenticeship services; and the elimination of barriers for internationally-trained skilled trades workers.

Courtesy of Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Tourism Keys Workshop

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce and the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce are pleased to be hosting a Tourism Keys Workshop, sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism.

Participants will learn about websites, and search engine optimization to get their business to number one! Participants will have the opportunity to have their questions answered, by a professional.

Plan to Attend

Wednesday January 17th 2007

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

A location in Brockville to be determined

ALSO

Please make sure your website has a link to the Chamber!

www.1000islandsgananoque.com

The more links you have, the better your search engine results!



Dine with Development in Mind

Sponsored by:



The Mayor's Breakfast is set to start the morning of January 23 off right. The food and fun kicks off at 8:45 a.m. in the St. Lawrence Room at the Gananoque Inn and is sponsored by the OLG Casino Thousand Islands. Guest speakers including Gananoque Mayor Jim Garrah, Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands Mayor Frank Kinsella and economic development chairs provide insight on progress made on the economic front in 2006 - and goals for the upcoming year. Comments will also be provided by casino representatives. The cost is \$5 per person, which includes a full hot/cold buffet to be served. Seating is limited so register before January 17, 2007. Call the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce at 613-382-7744 or email info@1000islandschamber.com to get your name on the list.

Christmas Greeting from the Board

The holiday season and birth of a new year, is a cause for reflection at the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce.

Looking back at another successful year, the chamber wishes all its members the same joyous and thriving atmosphere for 2007.

We are looking forward to seeing you at future events and to working with you, and for you, in future endeavors.

Happy Holidays from the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce!





Chamber creates youth marketing position



Rosanne Van Vierzen was hired on to the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce as a Youth Intern Marketing and Event Co-ordinator under the Eastern Ontario Development Program funding. The position was newly created at the chamber and serves to promote and draw attention to the businesses and communities within the chamber's coverage area. This position fits in directly with the chamber's mandate of improving trade, commerce and the cultural, civic and social well-being of the district.

Rosanne brings with her a background in journalism. Though she is only 27-years-old, Rosanne has been working in the media industry for almost 10 years, with work published in magazines and various newspapers throughout Ontario.

She is a graduate of Ryerson University and holds a Bachelor of Journalism Degree. Many people may be familiar with her work while she was employed at the Gananoque Reporter as both a news reporter and as sports editor from 2002 to 2005. She has since been employed at Bancroft This Week, writing news and sports and responsible for paginating the paper each week. She also co-ordinated a separate summer publication called The Cottage Times, North Hastings while in Bancroft.

Rosanne's heart is in this area. She grew up in Seeley's Bay and now resides in Elgin. Living back in the Rideau Lakes, Gananoque region (and planning her wedding for next fall) is a perfect fit. Promoting business, tourism and the Chamber in a community she is so fond of won't be a difficult task. She is looking forward to once again putting her dedication and creativity to work for Gananoque and surrounding area through her position at the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce. The Youth Internship (Not-for-Profit) Program objective is to provide Eastern Ontario post-secondary school graduates under the age of 30, with opportunities to develop valuable skills during full-time work experiences in the fields of business development and economic development.



Celebrate the season through words

Christmas! 'Tis the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall, the genial fire of charity in the heart. - *Washington Irving*

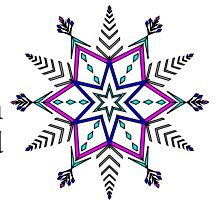
Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. - *Calvin Coolidge, 30th president of the United States of America*

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside and quiet home! - *Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol*

He who has not Christmas in his heart, will never find it under the tree. - *Roy L. Smith*

Home for the holidays

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce will be closed from 5 p.m. on Friday, December 22 until 9 a.m. January 2, 2007, to allow all of our staff and volunteers a well deserved holiday to spend time with their families.



The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce

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