



1000 ISLANDS CONTACT

The Newsletter of the
1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce
MAY 2007

From the president's desk

What are the seven wonders of Canada?

An interesting question posed by the CBC. I have been asking people what their favourite spots are in our region and have been amazed by the variety of answers given.

Half Moon Bay, The Rift, Smugglers Cove, The Lost Channel, the Thousand Island Bridge, Zavikon Island, Landon's Bay, even Tom Thumb Island received a nod.

Others thought inland with the Frontenac Arch, the Rideau Canal, Charleston Lake. Another gentleman told me - "The Biosphere, with the trees, wildlife and watershed system - it's the whole package." The variety of answers speaks to the diversity of our region.

No matter your preference, take a minute and brag about the Thousand Islands area to the CBC and let Canada know how fortunate we are to live in one of the wonders of Canada.

~ Alicia Vandine, president

Take a look inside...

EODP application reminder	Pg 2
New member night and brochure swap	Pg 3
Get on the bus with us! For the 2007FAM Tour	Pg 3
Delving into the GST issue	Pg 3
A look at the provincial decision to ban bulbs	Pg 4

Getting our guides and maps out to our members

Representatives from the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce will be booting around the town and township in the coming weeks to distribute our 2007 visitor's guide and new French-language promotional piece.

Starting May 7 and culminating by the end of the week, guides will be distributed to businesses as far as Elgin and Lyndhurst and as close at King Street in Gananoque.

If you will not be able to accept the guides during the week, feel free to come to the chamber office any time to pick up some up. We're located at 10 King St. E in Gananoque, in front of the library.

The guides come in boxes of 300, however less or more can be accommodated.

The French books have been a success so far this season.

The chamber has already handed out more than 2,000 of the pieces which include information about Gananoque and Leeds and the Thousand Islands, local things to see and do and much more.

In addition to our guides, we will also be handing out

the newly printed free map of Gananoque with the township inset. The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce produced and distributed a similar map last year to rave reviews, so the chamber decided to repeat the run for this year.

The map allowed for easy directions to visitors and town residents alike and was a major perk for our chamber members. In fact, we handed out almost 20,000 of them last year. Talk about promotion!

This year, the chamber revamped the popular piece by adding addresses to the listings on the back. Not only will businesses have their contact info for people to see, but also instant location identification.

The chamber also divided businesses into categories for even easier access.

About 20,000 copies will be printed again this year, ready for distribution to members in pads of 100. The best part is they're free!

The maps will be distributed with the guides. Don't forget to pick yours up from the chamber office if you can't be there to accept them from our representatives next week.

We don't shy away from the limelight

We're making news!

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce is pleased to say that we're hot off the presses!

Gananoque was featured in the Ottawa Citizen April 14, 2007 in the travel section as one of 10 great day rips without a car. The reporter, Peter Johanson, specifically mentioned several businesses in the article, including Panache Bakery, the Perfect Place for Gifts & Collectibles, Muskie Jake's Tap and Grill, and the tid-bit was accompanied by a photo of the Victoria Rose Inn. The reporter will be returning at the end of May for material to do two other articles which will include and then focus on Gananoque.

This Saturday, Gananoque will be featured in the Montreal Gazette's travel section, as the town gears up for the season.

Later this month, Boomersview Magazine out of Montreal is devoting its cover and centre spread to Gananoque and the 1000 Islands. In addition, Gananoque was the subject of two six-page package spreads in both Within 2 Hours magazine and the Corporate Meetings & Events Magazine. Both are geared to towards meetings and conferences.

We're always scouting for more publicity for the 1000 Islands Gananoque area. If your business has been in the press lately, drop us a line and tell us about it!

Opportunity for EODP application

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce is providing this information from the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation so members will be aware of the renewal of EODP and their opportunity to apply to various sections of the program:

Business Funding Program Renews!

The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation is pleased to announce the renewed funding of the Eastern Ontario Development Program (EODP) for its service territory of South Leeds, including Brockville, Gananoque, townships of Leeds & the Thousand Islands, Front of Yonge, Athens, and Elizabethtown-

Kitley for the upcoming fiscal year of April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Full details and application forms for funding programs are available on our website www.ticdc.ca.

Support for private sector business is available for training of employees, business planning, and upgrading of commercial spaces. Applications may be submitted at any time, however, applying early is always recommended. Assistance with the application process is offered. Please don't hesitate to call!

Contact: Susan Fournier, Community Economic Development Officer, susan.fournier@ticdc.ca, 613-345-6216 x104 or 1-800-431-6015.

Chamber welcomes new members

This space will be reserved each month for highlighting new members who have taken the plunge and joined the ranks of businesses who are members of the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce. Last month, quite a few new businesses signed on. Take a peek at who they are and what they offer.

~ 1000 Islands Kayak Co.: Under the new ownership of Scott Ewart, the 1000 Islands Kayaking Company signed on with the chamber. Located along the 1000 Islands Parkway, the company can be reached at 613-382-3609, by email at info@1000ikc.com or by clicking on www.1000ikc.com.

~ Staley Auction Services: The only auctioneer on our members list, Ryan Staley is eager to get his business to the top. Located at 270 Charles St. S in Gananoque, he can be reached at 613-561-7914.

~ St. Lawrence College Residence & Conference Centre: In Brockville, the residence and centre can be accessed by phone at 613-345-0452 or by clicking on www.checkintothecentre.com

~ A Cut Above Tree Service: Above all else, Roy Brunner promises to help with any need concerning tree cutting. He can be reached at 270 Charles St. S in town or by calling 613-561-5079.

~ Muskie Ace Charters: Brunner joined with his other business as well. With more than 25 years of experience as a fishing guide and charter, he's ready for another season!

To find out more about membership, call 613-382-3250, visit www.1000islandsgananoque.com or come see us May 17 at our new members night! (see pg. 3)

Minister of Tourism voices concern over GST rebate

Many tourism operators are concerned about changes that have been made to the GST Rebate program. Jim Bradley, Minister of Tourism, recently sent a letter to Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty outlining these concerns. Here is an excerpt from the letter:

"The introduction of the Foreign Convention and Tour Incentive Program in the 2007 budget goes some way to addressing those concerns. However, it is now clear that the international reaction to this issue is threatening our tourism industry.

We have been advised that tour operators to Canada are discussing a boycott ... and placing Canada under a "stop-sell" order... it is apparent that Canada is now being viewed as a less competitive destination. Tour operators set their prices about 12 to 18 months in advance. The loss of the GST rebate program cuts margins for operators who have already priced and printed their materials for this season, particularly for

European Union tour operators who are prohibited by law from increasing published prices. A longer transition to Nov. 1, 2007 at the earliest is required to allow the industry time to adapt pricing and policies.

The new program has complicated filing requirements that require offshore tour companies and wholesalers to file directly with the Canada Revenue Agency. Foreign tour operators who presently sell Canadian tours in our major overseas markets, including companies from Germany, Japan and others have indicated that this more onerous reporting could result in Canada being taken off their sell lists....

Our government believes that eliminating this tax refund does not give equal treatment to tourism, which should be treated the same as other export industries. Given that other countries offer similar rebate programs, we believe that the federal government program must be reconsidered."

New member night and local brochure swap

Calling all new or interested members! This is the opportunity to get more information on what the 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce is all about.

The chamber is hosting a new member night May 17 during its brochure swap at the waterfront in Gananoque. The event is geared towards those business owners who are potentially interested in becoming a member of the chamber of commerce or want to find out more about how the chamber works, the benefits of joining and more.

The new member night will also highlight some recent members who have taken the plunge and joined the ranks of the fastest growing small chamber in Eastern Ontario. Chamber representatives will be on

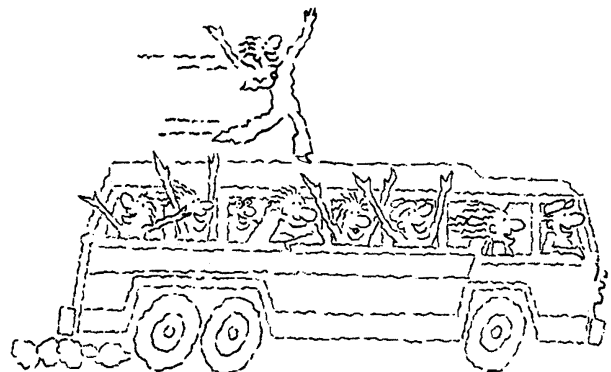
hand to answer questions and welcome new members to the organization. It will be held at the Arthur Child Heritage Museum on Gananoque's waterfront, May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The new member night will be run in conjunction with the chamber's annual brochure swap. The swap is for members only and similar to a tailgate party during which members pull up to the old Cow and Gate parking lot with loads of their promotional material and exchange brochures with other members. All businesses within the chamber are welcome to attend the swap, which also runs 5 to 7 p.m. May 17 at the waterfront.

The chamber is also planning a boat cruise for June, watch for more details as the date approaches!

Get on the bus with us for the 2007 FAM tour!

The 1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce is pleased to provide your staff with additional training at no cost to your business. Let us make your staff more knowledgeable about all the great places to see, shop, stay and dine in the 1000 Islands Gananoque region! Board the bus: Tour will take place May 23 from 9 a.m. to noon departure and return will be at the Gananoque Recreation Centre. Space is limited to four persons per business. We will do our best to accommodate your request. Registration deadline is Thursday, May 17. If you would like to provide brochures for our information bags or donate a souvenir, please drop off at the Chamber office at 10 King St. E in Gananoque. We hope to see on the bus with us!



Government announces more conservation initiatives

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce is shedding some light on a recent provincial decision to prohibit the use of inefficient bulbs.

Last month, the provincial government announced its intention to ban the sale of inefficient light bulbs by 2012. The Ministry of Energy will meet with industry, US regulators, and federal and provincial governments to develop new performance standards for lamps and to draft regulations to ban the sale of inefficient lighting by 2012 where alternatives exist in the market. In addition, as of today, the government will only purchase energy efficient light bulbs for its own buildings.

New efficient lighting such as compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) use around 75 per cent less electricity than standard old fashioned incandescent bulbs. Replacing all 87 million incandescent bulbs in Ontario households with CFLs could save six million megawatt hours annually or the equivalent capacity to power 600,000 homes.

The government has also launched five province-wide conservation initiatives:

Every Kilowatt Counts ~ a coupon and incentive brochure being mailed to every household in Ontario. The program provides coupons for CFL bulbs, ceiling fans, timers and other energy-saving devices.

Cool Savings Rebate Program ~ provides rebates for central air conditioner tune-ups and for the installation of energy-efficient central air conditioning systems and programmable thermostats.

Great Refrigerator Roundup ~ will help take old, inefficient fridges out of service. Every 1,000 refrigerators retired will save enough electricity to power more than 130 homes.

Summer Savings ~ offers residential and small business consumers an incentive for reducing power use: cutting use by 10 per cent during a set period gives consumers an additional 10 per cent rebate on their electricity bills.

Peaksaver ~ a voluntary program that allows local distribution companies to remotely cycle down central air conditioners, water heaters and pool pumps when the electricity system is stretched.

For further information, please see www.powerauthority.on.ca and www.energy.gov.on.ca

1000 Islands Gananoque Chamber of Commerce

10 King St E Gananoque, Ontario K7G 1E6

Phone: (613) 382-3250

Fax: (613) 382-1585

Email: info@1000islandschamber.com

www.1000islandsgananoque.com

