



## Three steps forward and no steps back.



### Three Steps Forward ...

At our most recent meeting the Board of Directors welcomed Madame Isabelle De Bruyn, Director General of the local CLD, and Mr. Remi Bertrand, Director General of the MRC. Both Madame De Bruyn and Mr. Bertrand were invited to share their knowledge of the economic development aspects of the Pontiac County. For those unaware of the role the CLD plays, it is responsible for the Provincial aspects of Economic Development in the Pontiac. Madame De Bruyn explained the many programs offered by the CLD to entrepreneurs and other businesses and associations involved in the not for profit sector of our economy. She explained many of the programs are geared for young entrepreneurs and groups who wish to provide services to the local population i.e.: snowmobile clubs, Les Chutes etc. Mr. Rémi Bertrand is the Director General of the local MRC, reporting to and following the direction of the Council of Mayors. He explained to the Board how the MRC func-

tions and detailed many aspects of how your Chamber can be more involved in many of the projects the MRC undertakes. Both Mr. Bertrand and Madame De Bruyn were very open to questions after their presentation and Board members took the opportunity to point out some of the issues we as Chamber feel need to be addressed. This meeting signaled a new level of cooperation between your Chamber and the local economic development agencies. The Board wishes to thank both Madame De Bruyn and Mr. Bertrand for their work on behalf of the businesses of the Pontiac and we as a Chamber look forward to working together to ensure that every business in the Pontiac can see new success from our joint efforts.

*Jim Thompson (President)*

### Cannon Dinner:



On February 4<sup>th</sup> the Government Relations Committee of your Chamber organized and hosted a fundraising dinner that had as its guest speaker our Member of Parliament, the Honourable Lawrence Cannon. The seventy-two attendees of this sold out event listened attentively to Mr. Cannon's

speech about the benefits of the 2009 federal budget. The speech outlined the Government's economic action plan that details provisions to (1) stimulate consumer spending, (2) build infrastructure, (3) stimulate housing construction, (4) support businesses and communities, and (5) continued tax relief for Canadians. After his speech Mr. Cannon accepted questions from the floor which dealt with a variety of topics, such as, the elected warden question, maintaining forestry roads, relaxing of business credit, and youth exodus.

In the future your Chamber will be hosting similar such events in the continuing effort to provide its membership with timely information from other authoritative sources so that its members have the opportunity to hear the information, evaluate it, and question it if so desired. The Government Relations Committee also wishes to thank fellow Chamber member *Sonia's* of Portage du Fort for the fine meal and hospitality provided for the launching of this series of events.

*Todd Hoffman  
(Executive Vice President)*

## Upcoming Events

RELAY FOR LIFE, FEB. 20<sup>TH</sup>

TOM McCANN (WOOD DRIVE),  
FEB. 28<sup>TH</sup>

BOARD MEETING MARCH  
18<sup>TH</sup>

EXECUT. MEETING MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

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TOM McCANN (WOOD DRIVE)

RELAY FOR LIFE

BUSINESS Q&A

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

# “We must become the change we want to see”

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### Tom McCann, wood drive

Mahatma Gandhi once said “We must become the change we want to see”. Though many know the quote it remains pleasant to meet those who practice it. Tom McCann is no doubt such an individual by volunteering his time to teach wood working skills to community children, all the while demonstrating valuable life lessons such as planning, patience, precision and healthy pride. We as a Chamber would like to show our support for this member. If you would like to make a donation of good wood, screws, finishing nails etc. you may do so on Saturday, the 28th of February, from noon to 4. You can drop them off yourself at Pontiac High or call Tom at (819) 647-5080 to arrange a pick up during the afternoon. Thank you for your support as a Chamber and as a community.

Jean-Claude Rivest  
(Vice President, Editor)



On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Pontefract Golf Club in Fort Coulonge (35 Chemin Terry Fox, Fort Coulonge) will be hosting a ‘Tubing Night’ in support of this year’s Relay for Life - Shawville. Between the hours of 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., for only \$10, you have unlimited tubing. Enjoy the experience with your family or friends, of



gliding down the hill, and use their Tubalift to get you back to the top to go again.

Warm up with hot chocolate, tea, coffee, or a spaghetti plate which will be available for purchase.

Even if you only slide once, you know that your money is going towards an important cause – the Canadian Cancer Society.

Contact:  
Jaime Christie  
Relay For Life – Shawville  
Steering Committee Head  
Tel. 819.647.3508  
[relay2009@live.ca](mailto:relay2009@live.ca)

### Business Q&A



*Is an employer required to give pay raises?*

**No.**

The employer has the choice as to whether or not he wishes to increase the wages of his employees. However, he must respect the minimum wage. Moreover, when the minimum wage increases, the employer is not required to increase wages that already exceed the minimum wage.

*Can an employer ask an employee to arrive 15 minutes before the start of his scheduled shift?*

**Yes.**

However, if the employer asks the employee to arrive 10 or 15 minutes earlier or to leave 10 or 15 minutes later, the employee must be paid for this time. All time worked or

## February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009

during which an employee is at his employer’s disposal must be paid. It is not the time when the enterprise’s doors open or close or the schedule that counts, but rather the length of time during which the employee is at his employer’s disposal.

*Can an employer subtract the equivalent of 15 minutes of wages because the employee arrived 5 minutes late?*

**No.**

An employer cannot subtract 15 minutes because the employee arrived a few minutes late. All time worked must be remunerated.

The employer may, however, impose sanctions other than the withholding of wages.

Commission des normes du travail  
[www.cnt.gouv.qc.ca](http://www.cnt.gouv.qc.ca)

Thank you very much for your continued input into this news letter. You will notice at the bottom of all submitted articles the name and sources from now on. This suggestion will no doubt continue to raise this news letters credibility and help it become the kind of letter that all can be proud of.

Thank you Todd H. for your customer growth tips in the last news letter among other great contributions.



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