

**ANTIGONSH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

**REPORTS - 2010**



**February 10, 2011**



## **2010 Board of Directors**

**President:** Phil Hughes, Antigonish Golf & Country Club  
**Vice President:** Carolyn Grant, Bergengren Credit Union  
**Treasurer:** Ron Sangster, Sangster & Associates Financial Group  
**Secretary:** Robena Stewart, Antigonish Career Resource Centre

### Directors:

Rose Boudreau, BioNovations Inc.  
Marilyn Dugas, Re/Max Newstyle  
Joe MacDonald, St. Francis Xavier University  
Madonna MacDonald, Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority  
Rose O'Connor, RBC Royal Bank  
Chris Smith, C.A. Smith Mechanical Ltd.  
David Tellum, Braemore Co-op



## **2010 President's Report**

### **February 24, 2010 – January 28, 2011**

It's hard to believe that two (2) years have passed and I am now finishing my term as President of the Antigonish Chamber of Commerce. It has been a real learning experience for me. I learned that a commitment is not a commitment unless it is concrete. I learned that if a former government made a commitment to put something, say a jail, in one location it was politically motivated but if a present government does the same thing it was because it was the right thing to do. I guess I'll never understand politics.

Speaking of Governments, why would the Feds possibly consider moving the Philatelic Center from Antigonish when year after year it has proven to be financially successful? It sounds like throwing out the baby with the bath water. There you go with Politics again. Before I leave Politics, I have to say that over these two (2) years, I have seen first hand, the tremendous work that Mayor Carl Chisholm and Warden Herb Delorey along with their respective Councils have done for the people of Antigonish.

During these times of financial bedlam, Antigonish seems to be weathering the storm. Downtown Antigonish has seen a number of new businesses opening and Antigonish County continues to grow and prosper. This is certainly a plus for our economy. With the 104 by-pass scheduled to be open sometime in 2012, the importance of the Antigonish Gateway is paramount. What takes place during the first two years the by-pass is in operation is going to be crucial to the idea of getting people to get off the highway and into Antigonish. A lot needs to be done in a short time and all concerned must work together toward this end.

It was a good year for the Chamber. A member's survey was completed with the top two (2) priorities being Marketing Antigonish and Buying Local. The Chamber Events Committee has developed a plan regarding the type and number of events the Chamber will hold each year along with a new sponsorship plan for these events. If this year's Business Gala is an example of this plan the results could not have been better. It was a huge success with a full slate of sponsors and requests for next year already received.

I would like at this time to sincerely thank all those people who have sat as a member of the Board of directors during my two years as President. Anything good that has come out of these two years is because of your efforts. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with you. Not enough can be said about the incredible work that has been done by our Executive Director, Ann Marie MacKenzie. You are something else girl!

To all, THANK-YOU.  
PHIL HUGHES—SOON TO BE PAST-PRESIDENT!!



## **2010 Education Committee**

### **Scholarships**

Your chamber again this year offered two(2), twelve hundred dollar (\$1200.) scholarships which is a partnering project of the chamber with chamber members Antigonish Mall, Bergengren Credit Union, and Ross Screenprint.

The recipient of the Anne Cusack Memorial Entrepreneurial Scholarship, awarded to a graduating student of the Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional School was Tracey Tate. Tracey is currently pursuing studies in the Business Administration – International Food Business program at Nova Scotia Agricultural College.

The recipient of the Entrepreneurial Scholarship, awarded to a graduating student of the East Antigonish Education Center/Academy was Tara Hanlon. Tara is currently pursuing studies at St. Francis Xavier University.

### **Junior Achievement**

As many of you know Junior Achievement (JA) has and continues to be a passion of our chamber presidents; to further develop our relationship with the local JA advisors the board has tasked the education committee to act as liaison for the chamber.

Currently we assist in recruiting more volunteers to assist in the delivery of the grade six (6) program “Our Business World” and the grade nine (9) program “Economics of Staying in School”.

We thank all those members of the business community for allowing the “company program” existence in Antigonish, your commitment in many forms: financially, thru space for meetings, and in mentorship of these young entrepreneurs is the reason this program is viewed as top shelf on the provincial JA scene.

Ron Sangster, Chair  
Marilyn Dugas  
Len P.D. MacDonald



## 2010 Events Committee

The board in 2010 agreed with the recommendation of the events committee to adopt an annual calendar of events; along with an aggressive sponsorship program for these events. In September the committee went to work and reached great success with the sponsorship program having sold all sponsor opportunities with the exception of four (4) spots there are fifty (50) spots in total.

Annual list of chamber events:

AGM & President's Dinner  
April Breakfast  
June Breakfast with Golf Tournament  
September Breakfast  
Business Gala  
December Luncheon

### **Breakfasts & Luncheons**

The 2010 year saw the continuation of the breakfast and luncheon series with a goal to offer all members with informative information sessions while providing opportunities network with other members of the Chamber and business community. The speakers for this year included:

Wayne Long – Events & Impact on Community (June)  
Terri Smith – Branding (September)  
Jim Gourlay – The Story of SaltScapes (December Luncheon)

### **Small Business Week & Business Gala**

ACC joined other community partners in the planning and organizing of the week's activities. The Ian Spencer Award for Excellence in Business was presented to R. Maclean Forestry Ltd; the Outstanding Customer Service Award – Individual was presented to Barry Chisholm, Central Home Improvement Warehouse. The committee was pleased with the new format of recognizing all nominees at the event; and the feedback received was overwhelming satisfaction.

### **Annual General Meeting**

The committee is pleased to welcome Don Mills, for our Chamber AGM to address the membership.

Special thanks is given to all Chamber members who provide ongoing sponsorship support to events, through the purchase of banner ads, sponsorships, or ticket purchase and attendance of events

Carolyn Grant  
Rose O'Connor  
Kim Silver  
Robena Stewart  
Rosie Vermeulen



## 2010 Membership

### An overview of membership:

- 191 members in 2010
  - ❖ 10 new members
  - ❖ 181 of 195 renewed memberships from 2009

### Below is the overview of 2010 membership by sector:

Accommodations	4%	Financial Services	7%
Agriculture/Fishery/Forestry	2%	Government	3%
Automotive	6%	Health	8%
Business – Industry	6%	Housing	4%
Business - Services	16%	Insurance	4%
Community Groups	5%	Legal Services	2%
Construction / Trades	7%	Shopping	15%
Culture & Entertainment	1%	Sports & Leisure	2%
Dining & Take-Out	6%		
Education	2%		