

Pilot Mound & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting for 2008 was held at the Homesteader Restaurant on February 25th, 2009.

The dinner meeting was well attended with 36 people present. President Carolanne Bayne welcomed everyone and Rev Irene Onuch asked the blessing.

Mayor Brent Checkley gave a report on the town's financial support on protective services, transportation, environmental, the conservation district, the Recreation District and the water / sewer situation.

Roland Desrochers reported that the new sign for the Sports Complex will be on the east side of the arena and will be installed as soon as the weather permits. Also Roland reported on the progress of the new hotel. Weather has held up construction as well as tradesmen being busy elsewhere, but the hotel will be completed soon.

Gord Arbuckle spoke at length on the progress and eventual opening of the PMMRC, and the dedication of the many volunteers that have put together this project. The ice has been put in the hockey side and will soon be in the curling rink. This has been a quest of many people in Pilot Mound for over 10 years and it is finally coming to a completion with a Sports Complex. We can all be very proud. It has been a dedicated effort to ensure the future of sport in our area.

Lois Lynch reported on a successful year at the Fellowship Club with membership increased in 2008. The Club received a 50/50 grant from Community Places to replace the back deck and flooring. The Club is in the waiting stage of another renovation grant from New Horizons. The rentals have increased as well. The 35th Anniversary of the Fellowship Club was celebrated with 5 of the original members in attendance at a gathering at the club. The 'Rock' continues to rent the premises and have weekly meetings.

Susan Peterson reported on the Chamber's Pilot Mound website - www.pilotmound.com with over 200,000 hits since inception. Real estate is the page most viewed, but recently, we have very few houses for sale. Other pages viewed are Coming Events, PMMRC, the seniors and family pages, also history of Pilot Mound and area, and local business and jobs.

Jackie McCannell reported that her curling team won the Legion play downs at Swan River and will be representing this area in B.C on March 14th. They will be taking about 50 'goodie bags' and asked for donations. Watch the Sentinel for further details. Well done team! Jackie also reported that her son Kyle has built a motocross track near their home and will be hosting Motocross races on the Manitoba Motocross Circuit on August 30th weekend, which should draw approximately 1,000 visitors. All profits will be donated to the PMMRC.

The President presented to Frank Wilson, 90 years young, the Community Volunteer of the Year Award. A brief history of Frank's dedication to volunteering in this area was read and a well deserved plaque was presented. Frank replied with thanks to the Chamber for this honor and praised the volunteers who work and have worked tirelessly at the Sports Complex.

Frank is our 'greeter' at the many Smorgs over the years with a ready smile and knows everyone by name from everywhere.

Also receiving a much deserved Community Volunteer of the Year Award from the President, were Margaret McIntosh and Bill McIntosh. They are known far and wide for bringing music to seniors functions and have been dedicating their time and musical talents for many years. The Chamber would like to acknowledge the contribution of many hours help at the Smorgs for many years as well. Margaret and Bill are the backbone of the set-up each Smorg. A plaque was presented, and Bill thanked the Chamber on behalf of his mother and himself.

These volunteers make up the fabric of our community and have done so over many years and we humbly thank them.

President Carolanne called the Pilot Mound & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting to order.

The minutes of the AGM for 2008 were read and adopted.

New Business: A motion passed that the Chamber reserve \$5,000.00 to help towards renovations of the Kinsman Hall kitchen, which the Kinettes have in progress at the present time, with \$500.00 being issued immediately.

The Pilot Mound Endowment Fund has placed a defibrillator at the Sports Complex and will be financially contributing towards the renovations at the Kin Center along with the Chamber.

Debbie Lambkin reported on the Kinettes efforts in the Kin Center kitchen. It is their work that has kept the kitchen going and will keep it going and serviceable in the future.

It was announced the Spring Smorg will be held at the Kin Center on May 3, 2009.

Carolanne presented the Chamber's 'Year 2008 in Review', which covered all the Chamber activities and donations for 2008. It was a very busy year.

The nominating committee presented a slate of officers for the forth coming year:

President - Carolanne Bayne

Vice-President - Mona Blackburn

Secretary Treasurer - Elaine Popplestone.

Motion to elect the slate of officers was passed.

The President thanked everyone for coming and to those that gave very comprehensive reports. Jane and staff were thanked for the delicious meal and keeping us fed throughout the lunch meetings every month.

Meeting was adjourned.