



THE CHAMBERS VOICE

SPRING 2022

THE BRIDGEWATER AND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE welcomes businesses of all sizes and type. We are committed to engaging our members in ways that inspire a progressive business climate and contribute to the steady economic growth of the South Shore. We're here to support you and help you face the future with confidence.



**Bridgewater and Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

Greetings Everyone,

The year is moving fast. It's hard to believe over 3 months have come and gone in 2022. There is a cautious optimism in the air as restrictions are lifting and we begin to enjoy some of things that have been missed over the past two years. As a member of our Chamber Board and a proud member of this community, I want to personally thank each and everyone who has worked so hard to get us to this point.

*We are excited that we will soon be able to meet face to face as in past years. Our first networking event is on **Thursday, May 5th at Northwood Custom Jewelry**. We are really excited to bring this to our members as a ['Welcome Back' Event](#). It is for members only and we have limited capacity, so be sure to RSVP today!*

Our educational programs and Lunch & Learn sessions continue, and are booking up quickly, so please visit our website to secure your spot. As well, we are planning our first in-person AGM in over two years to take place on June 16th. Watch for further information and please plan to attend. I hope to see you all there.

We will be planning more events in the months ahead to bring us closer together and to fully explore what your needs and concerns are. Let's work together to find solutions that will continue to foster growth and engagement in this great area, and in our organization.

*Thank you to those who responded to our recent survey, "**What are your top 3 concerns to maintain or grow your business?**" that was sent out to the South Shore business community. To date we have only received 20 responses, so we would appreciate more input to fully understand the challenges currently faced by the diversity of businesses and enterprises in our area. The survey is open until April 30 – [click here](#) to respond if you haven't already done so.*

*As 2022 marches on, I hope to see you all face to face very soon and look forward to hearing your ideas on how we can help better serve our members. If you wish to join and help, take part in one of our committees (see **How to Get Involved** in this newsletter). Please reach out through e-mail or our website and let us know. The more people involved, the more amazing things we can make happen.*

Thank you again for your continued membership and support, and thank you to our community and government partners who help make the Bridgewater and MODL area the fantastic place that it is.

Regards,
Jim Brown



**EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
KNOW ABOUT YOUR CHAMBER
IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS**
[Click here](#) to check it out!

IN THIS ISSUE:

Our first After Hours Networking Event of 2022
News from the Town of Bridgewater
Latest update from MODL
Business Resources
How to get Involved with Your Chamber
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Bridgewater and Area
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

invites ALL MEMBERS to our first networking event in a long time!



Northwood Custom Jewelry
517 King St., Bridgewater

Thursday, May 5th
6:30 - 8:30 pm

CATERING
27South

WINE
Petite Riviere Winery

BEER & CIDER
King Street Beer Company

Results from the recent survey will be discussed. Open conversation about how we can all help the South Shore business community thrive!

RSVP today! Space is limited: bridgewaterchamber.com/upcoming-events

This event is for members only. No admission fee. Each guest receives a drink ticket. Additional tickets for liquor purchases available.



There is still time to answer the survey question:

What are your top 3 concerns to maintain or grow your business?

We've extended the deadline to April 30. Results will be discussed at the After Hours event on Thursday, May 5th. Your feedback is very important to help us determine how we can help!

[CLICK HERE](#) to provide your answer.

FULLY FUNDED ONLINE PROGRAM

SKILLS FOR GROWING YOUR BUSINESS WORKPLACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We want your business to have all the tools for success, so we have partnered with the **NS Department of Labour and Advanced Education** to bring you a wide range of exciting fully funded training opportunities.

Go to the [Upcoming Events page on our website](#) to see what's on the go – the most popular courses do tend to be offered again, so watch for news by email or on the Facebook page.

Each training session has a **CAPACITY OF 12 ATTENDEES**. More courses will be on offer soon and you will have a chance to RSVP for them.



HAVE BUSINESS NEWS? TELL US!

Are you opening a business in or near the Town of Bridgewater? Have you worked with our Community Development Department to make sure your permits and permissions are all in place? Have you just moved and want to show off your new address?

Have you made major renovations to an existing building or received a Façade Improvement grant and want to talk about your project?

Is your business celebrating a milestone anniversary of 5, 10, 20 years or more? We're interested in helping you get the word out!

Email newsletter@bridgewater.ca and we'll make sure the good news gets shared via the Town of Bridgewater's social media!

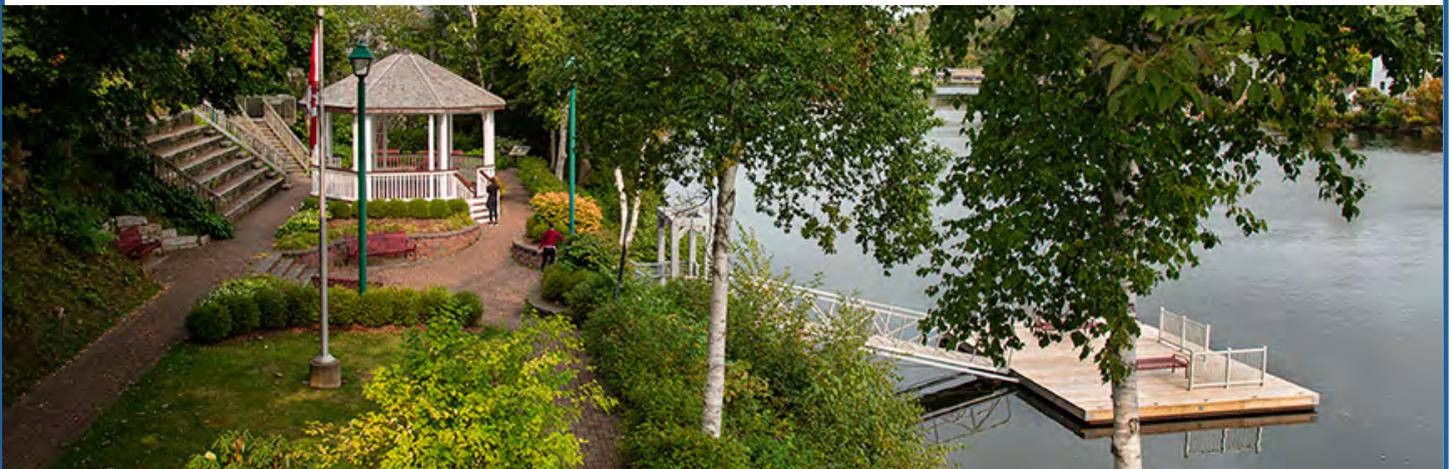
Bridgewater is a thriving town with a strong local business community – we want to help continue to make it grow and create an economically diverse community.

Are you ready to take your business to the next level or even acquire new land? You can reach out to **Economic Development Officer Greg Brown** to learn more about how we can help you grow your business. **Contact Greg at 902-530-4099.**

GRANTS TO ORGANIZATIONS

The Town of Bridgewater provides a process through which local organizations can apply for operational, community capital, and community development grants. Grants are available to organizations that are registered non-profit entities or charitable societies which are incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Societies Act. For more information, including application forms, please visit us online at www.bridgewater.ca/grants.

The next deadline for application is **September 1, 2022**, so start your planning now!



DOWNTOWN PLANNING ADVISORY

DID YOU KNOW that the Town of Bridgewater first rolled out its Façade Improvement program in 2017, and since that time **about \$100,000 in matching Façade Improvement grants** have been given out in support of building beautification projects in downtown Bridgewater?

Applications to the Façade Improvement program are received by the **Downtown Planning Advisory Committee**. The committee works closely with staff to guide applicants through the process and then makes recommendations to Town Council for funding approval (issued upon project completion). For program info visit www.bridgewater.ca/facade.

DEVELOPMENT INFO

You can keep up to date on the status of Development Agreement applications, including getting access to public files and proposals or learning about the public consultation process, by visiting the **Town of Bridgewater's Community Development Department** online at www.bridgewater.ca/DA

FIND A HOME WEBSITE TOOL

At www.bridgewater.ca/home you'll find one-touch access to local Facebook Marketplace and Kijiji listings, websites operated by property owners in our area, and links to Nova Scotia Public Housing.

The **Find A Home** page isn't meant to be a static resource – it will grow and change as our community does. If you are a landlord/developer in Bridgewater and you'd like to have your website and a link to available properties/units listed on this web page, visit www.bridgewater.ca/home to learn how to do so.



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at MODL

By Carolyn Bolivar-Getson, Mayor, Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

The Municipality of the District of Lunenburg recently engaged Nova Scotia company **Chrysalis Human Rights Agency** to assist us in our anti-racism and implicit bias work, and in identifying barriers to full economic and social inclusion.

The first piece of work they've completed is an **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy Audit**. This involves a detailed examination of our policies and strategic plans. In understanding the barriers to equitable access to municipal programs and services, we can create policies to achieve our equity, diversity, and inclusion objectives.

What is equitable access? There is a difference between equity and equality. Equality means each individual or group is given the same resources or opportunities. Equity acknowledges systemic barriers that exist for some groups and calls upon us to identify and remove them to ensure full access and equitable outcomes for all. For example, if all schools have computer labs with the same number of computers during school hours, that would be equal. To improve equity, schools in lower income neighbourhoods could have more computers provided at school, as students in lower income neighbourhoods are less likely to have the same computer access or internet at home as students in other schools.

Our region has played an essential role in Nova Scotia's history through shipbuilding, fisheries and economic development. However, in being part of Nova Scotian history, we are part of a system of privilege and oppression accumulated inter-generationally resulting in a social, economic and political disparity between groups.

Nova Scotians' historical treatment of Indigenous and Black populations has accumulated into inequitable outcomes in social and economic status.

Because municipal governments can enact by-laws and policies and control spending in a variety of areas, we have a significant impact on the quality of life of citizens. As we work to create equitable communities, we need to think about whether policies, by-laws and practices have differential outcomes for equity-seeking groups in the community.

Through our equity work we expect to find ways MODL can take actions that help create equitable access to programs and services and identify critical areas for action. As an employer and service provider, **we have a dual responsibility to promote EDI in the workplace and the public realm**. Therefore, policies that support EDI goals are the foundation for creating an equitable, inclusive and diverse workplace and community. While MODL complies with regulations regarding governance, employment, working with the public and providing services, using an EDI lens will allow us to explore how we can exceed the standards laid out in various legislations.

I look forward to sharing more information as we continue this important work.



Learn about projects and initiatives that are happening in your community and provide your thoughts to help make MODL a better place to live, work and play.

engage.modl.ca

BUSINESS RESOURCES:

A wealth of information and resources for the tourism industry: How to Start or Grow your Business, How to Market Your Business and Programs.

<https://tourismns.ca/>

Business Tools and Resources:

<https://tourismns.ca/business-tools-resources>

<https://www.novascotiabusiness.com/business>

Nova Scotia South Shore Tourism Co-operative is working to promote the South Shore as a year-round tourist destination

[Nova Scotia South Shore Tourism Co-operative](#)

Tools/Resources/Funding for a Small Business in Nova Scotia

CanadaStartups.org

NSIEC – inclusion, the untapped labour force; marginalized – look past ‘false perceptions’

<https://www.inclusionns.ca/>

The Canada Recovery Hiring Program. Learn more about the program to help you hire new workers or increase your employees’ wages or hours.

[Apply for the Canada Recovery Hiring Program](#)

Social media allows government to provide Nova Scotians with timely information, important resources, and responses to questions. click on the link for access to all the channels and latest information shared.

Novascotia.ca/connect

HOW TO GET INVOLVED with your Chamber

Your expertise and experience is valuable. We encourage each and every member to share your knowledge, and engage with your Chamber to help build a thriving business community here on the South Shore!

We invite you to join a committee:

Member Engagement

Join board members and volunteers to help with the planning of community and business events. We are also looking for creative ideas for new events.

Business Owners Insight Group

We are looking for business owners (or key people in larger business), from a broad range of sectors to discuss current economy, labour, immigration, etc. and commit to meeting once a month. The purpose of this group is to propose what should be brought forward to advocate.

Communications

We are looking to improve efficiency of document management for the Board and brainstorm ideas for effective communication to the members.

Education

Help with scheduling and organizing monthly Lunch & Learns. Work with members who wish to share their expertise or products with fellow members in creative ways.

If you are interested in getting on-board for an exciting year ahead, contact us info@bridgewaterchamber.com

Tell your fellow Chamber members about your business!
Share your successes, special offers and good news here:

[Chamber’s member-to-member Facebook group](#)

[Bridgewater Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page](#)

We want to hear from you!

MEMBER-TO-MEMBER LOYALTY PROGRAM

As a member of the Chamber, you have the unique opportunity to offer any type of gift, discount or incentive to your fellow members.

Contact us with your idea and we will share it on our member-to-member Facebook page and the website.

This community is committed to helping local businesses succeed! #shoplocal



Chamber members who shop at J & S PAINTS will be given a 25% discount on paint and 10% on sundries.

902-543-8210

215 Dominion St, Unit 3B, Bridgewater



Chamber members who market with SaltWire will be given a **15% discount** on print and digital products. Furthermore, any Chamber members will be given a complimentary print ad with any content campaign. <https://www.saltwire.com/>



Go to www.bridgewaterchamber.com/downloads to view this exclusive offer from Staples for Chamber members. Print out the loyalty card to use in-store or online for instant savings on eligible print & marketing products.



BIG PRINT PROMISE

where small businesses **print big.**

Take advantage of an exclusive **10% off your print order.**
From April 1st through 30th.

Contact your Staples Account Manager to redeem this offer.

NOW OPEN!

PROMOTIONAL OFFER 1: All Customers

Customers who spend \$200 or more on Print will get a \$50 Staples Gift Card.

PROMOTIONAL OFFER 2: Own the Neighbourhood

Current Clients!! Need help with a project?? For the month of April, we are offering 10% of print and promo orders. Valid on any order. Must be paid in-store to use coupon.

Ask Brad for details: brad.beardsey@staples.ca

LUNCH & LEARN

Lunch & Learns are an excellent way for members to share their expertise with the business community. There is one Lunch & Learn scheduled each month and runs from 12 -1 pm. Check the [Upcoming Events](#) page and calendar on our website to RSVP.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO A LUNCH & LEARN?

We are currently taking bookings for 2022. Now is your chance to present something of interest to the business community and connect with local business owners. **Please reach out to us** at info@bridgewaterchamber.com.

DON'T MISS THE AGM

SAVE THE DATE: Breakfast on June 16, 2022 at the Best Western in Bridgewater

Join us for our first in-person AGM in two years! Watch for more details in the coming weeks and a chance to RSVP.

We are so pleased to announce that **Susan Corkum-Greek** will be our guest speaker. *Former journalist and long-time community development advocate, the Honourable Susan Corkum-Greek was first elected to the Nova Scotia House of Assembly as MLA for Lunenburg in 2021. She serves as Minister of Economic Development and also sits on the Treasury and Policy Board.*



2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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VICE PRESIDENT

Blair Lipsett

PAST PRESIDENT

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Brooke Nodding

Stacey Mailman

Jayne Rhyno

Rae Ann Bonneville

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

We continue to meet monthly to work on how we can bring more value to our membership!

Friday, May 13	8:30 - 10 am
Friday, June 10	8:30 - 10 am
Friday, July 08	8:30 - 10 am

For information, please contact:

info@bridgewaterchamber.com



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www.bridgewaterchamber.com

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STUDIOS INC

Thanks to Stone Court Studios Inc. for their generous donation of the design and maintenance of our website and this newsletter

www.stonecourtstudios.com