



To Our Membership,

As we begin a very busy 2025, we need to look back and appreciate the accomplishments which have occurred in getting us to the cusp of this positive threshold we are currently at. Prior to us getting into our plans for the coming year, let's see what was accomplished over this last year.

Over 2024, our Membership increased yet again, increasing from 86 , we ended the year with a count of 93, with a couple of unfortunate attritions. We have continuously maintained a strong retention of our Members as well as engaging new businesses to join our group. The Membership has provided us with a variety of learnings whether it is small or large employee bases, or a range of industries, the core of our Chamber is proudly diverse.

Our outreach for 2024 included traditional occurrences as well as an attempt at some new events. Partnerships helped us provide a variety for Members to attend. We collaborated with North Grenville Chamber of Commerce, Brockville Chamber, Grenville Community Futures as well as other agencies including the Maple View Landing Committee and Ontario Approved Professionals. Interaction with the public has included the Prescott Trade Show, sponsoring the Spencerville Fair, speaking at Municipal Business of the Year functions or setting up a booth during Small Business Week. We also brought back the South Grenville Visitor Guide for folks who were travelling to our area. We have collaborated with North Grenville Chamber of Commerce reduce financial burdens on both Chambers of Commerce as well as providing another avenue of networking for our Members.

This year also brought us an abundance of opportunity which will not only assist our sustainability but also our value to the community of South Grenville. In October, we announced the assumption of the Fort Town Night Run as our signature fund raising event for the year. We also were very fortunate to make the announcement late in the year that Amber Vanderzwet joined the South Grenville Chamber of Commerce team. As Administrator, Amber has already helped with the website, Membership and the organization of events. We look forward to the value Amber will provide us with moving forward.

We still work hard to be the voice of Business in South Grenville. Listening to our Members, we leverage the relationships with our MP and MPP as a conduit to communicate concerns direct. We have the ability to reach out and communicate to not only our Federal and Provincial elected officials but also our Municipal officials as well.

As we look forward to 2025, as mentioned, we continue to push to be the voice of Business in South Grenville, we have a booth at the Prescott Trade Show in April and the Fort Town Run fast approaching. Organizers are working hard for the success of this major event not only for businesses in South Grenville but also the participants and agencies who will benefit from the proceeds of that event. Help if you can!

We look forward to seeing you out at events, our AGM will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 at the South Edwardsburgh Community Hall. If you are not able to make it for that, please consider becoming involved in our Chamber in some other capacity.

Thank you,

Kevin Spencer