

CHAMBER CHATTER

JANUARY 2009

The Chamber would like to welcome our newest members:

- * Liberty Tax Service— Ernest El-Imam
- * Carleton Place Curling Club
- * Scott Reid MP
- * Mississippi Golf Course

Nominate Someone for Business Person of the Year!

How? Print a nomination form from our website www.cpchamber.com

Why? Because excellence should be celebrated.

When? The winner will be announced at our AGM in March.



Message from the President

Happy New Year! We have an exciting 2009 planned for the Chamber and its' members, starting with a networking event on January 14th, 7 to 9 pm at Staples Business Depot. MP Scott Reid is our featured speaker, we're celebrating our 93rd birthday and we're launching a unique proposal writing/research service to our membership! The evening is free for members and \$10 for non-members. Please RSVP the office at 613-257-1976.

Establishing continuity is always a challenge for volunteer organizations. And while the Carleton Place & District Chamber has a record of longevity, we're planning for a future that includes strong visibility (in the form of a building, signage and gift shop) and economic sustainability. Proposal writing and research is one of the ways we intend to improve our finances while providing strong membership support.

Like you, I'm deeply interested in hearing what Scott Reid has to say to us from a business, economic and political perspective. As the government announces new infrastructure spending plans we intend to closely monitor where the dollars go and how they might benefit the local business community.

On a broader basis, the Ontario

and Canadian Chambers of Commerce lobby the provincial and federal governments on issues affecting their members. Breaking down inter-provincial trade, labour and investment barriers, and encouraging skilled trades and apprenticeships are two Chamber-led initiatives reflected in the Throne speech.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of the Chamber for the past two years, and I strongly recommend the value of serving as a board member. At our AGM in March, the Chamber will elect a new executive and board (see box at right for details.)

Contributing to the growth of a Chamber with such a rich heritage has been my privilege. In January of 1916, 29 local business men declared their intent to form the Carleton Place Board of Trade. In January 2009, we celebrate the vision of those founding members—a vision of a strong, resilient economy, business community and home that we share 93 years later.



CALL FOR DIRECTORS

We are currently accepting applications and nominations for the position of Director for our Board.

Directors attend monthly board meetings, help plan functions and chair or participate on committees.

Committees requiring extra help include Event Planning, Golf, and Communications.



150 Industrial Ave., Carleton Place, ON K7C 3T2



613-257-8282
866-557-8282
24-Hour Emergency Service

COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

- Refrigeration
- Heating
- Air Conditioning
- Ventilation
- Geothermal
- Fireplaces
- Heat Pumps
- HRV Units
- Hot Water Tanks

CARLETON PLACE & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

175 Bridge St.
Carleton Place ON K7C 2V8
Phone: 613-257-1976
Fax: 613-257-8170
Email: manager@cpchamber.com



We are on the web!
www.cpchamber.com

Upcoming Events:

January 14th - Networking Event at Staples! Come learn about our Proposal Writing/Research service and celebrate the Chamber's 93rd birthday! MP Scott Reid is our featured speaker.

Time: 7pm to 9pm Cost-Free!

Please RSVP to the office, 257-1976 before January 12th!

January 15th— Carleton Place Farmers Market, Arena (downstairs) 7pm; Guest Speaker Bob Chorney—How Farmers Markets Contribute to the Local Economy

February 20th - Accessibility Breakfast, Waterside. Our guest speaker is a specialist on Accessibility. Come and learn about Ontario's new Accessibility Legislation and how it will effect your business!

March - AGM, Special Speaker, Business Person of the Year and More!

Happy 175th Anniversary to St. James Anglican Church!

Since we seem to be celebrating heritage and longevity in this issue, it's entirely fitting that St. James Anglican Church is our featured member this month. Founded in 1834, the church is celebrating its' 175th anniversary this year with a series of special events.

The church recently joined the Chamber (our first church member) as Father David Andrew said he felt it important to maintain a profile in the community beyond the church doors. With a membership over 700 strong, the church's members are inextricably interwoven through out the Carleton Place community.

Father David was called to the ministry later in life and ordained in 1999, after a strong entrepreneurial background and involvement in initiating the Rideau Chamber of Commerce. Certainly the parish's anniversary provides a great opportunity to promote the many accomplishments of the congregation over the

years, and realistically speaking, the buying power of a group of its size in a town of 10,000 is noteworthy.

If you're a history buff at all, go and visit the church—it's a beautiful piece of Victorian Gothic architecture with fine wood craftsmanship, historic tapestries, an imposing Casavant Pipe Organ, a unique "star" chandelier and a pair of stained glass windows believed to be the work of 19th century British artisan William Morris. The current building (second church on this site) is 126 years old.

When they began to research the parish history in preparation for the 175th anniversary, it was something of a surprise to actually realize that its existence pre-dates confederation. As part of Upper Canada, St. James was incorporated in the diocese of Quebec, and its original parish records reside in Quebec City.

St. James' organist, Ralph Langtry has put together a booklet document-

ing parish history over the past 175 years. And, as Father David points out, beyond a place to gather for worship, the real gift of the church lies in its members and the contributions they make to their community in all walks of life. "Soup kitchens, schools and many a hospital started out in a church. Our members are active in the town in every imaginable way, from the hospital, schools, town hall, voluntary organizations to sports associations the life of this church is indivisibly linked with the life of this town."

Congratulations and Happy 175th to St. James Anglican parish! Consider joining them for one of their many celebrations throughout 2009. For more information, call 613-257-3178 or visit their website at www.stjamescarletonplace.org

Have a success story you'd like to share? Just give us a call!

Passport to Prosperity—Supporting Local High School Students!



Calling all employers with the Carleton Place & District chamber of Commerce—local high school students need your support!

The new employerregistry.ca is an online community connecting businesses across Ontario with students through a range of exciting learning opportunities. It makes it easy for employers and educators to work together to help develop tomorrow's workforces.

You can quickly and easily register your interest in helping our local students through career talks, mentoring, co-op education, youth apprenticeship, job shadowing etc.

I would like to encourage you to please register at <http://employerregistry.ca>

today! It should only take a few minutes of your time to complete the registration and then you will have access to the most up-to-date learning programs in Ontario.

I am happy to help if you have any questions or concerns!

Carmen Cousineau
Passport to Prosperity Coordinator,
Lanark, Leeds & Grenville Counties
1-866-380-8252
Carmen.cousineau@uclc.ca

MEMBER 2 MEMBER BENEFITS



Tax time is upon us once again and Laura Forbes, H&R Block is offering members and their employees a 10% discount on tax preparation services.

Please contact the Chamber office to obtain a coupon!

If you are willing to participate in our Member 2 Member benefit program, please contact the office!

Business Funds, Financing & Loans

With the new year upon us, what kind of funding is available for the business person?

While the proposal writing/research service is still in its early days, we're beginning to develop relationships with people in various government and funding organizations to learn the ins and outs of their particular processes and what they have to offer.

To date we have spoken with program officers at the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, Valley Heartland, Celebrate Ontario, Ontario Cultural Attractions Program, and the Ministry of Small Business and Consumer Services. Here's a snapshot of what we've learned so far.

Financing for fixed assets: up to 90% to a \$250,000 limit towards cost of an asset at a fixed or floating rate.

Export: 50-50 cost sharing to cover costs incurred to develop export sales in a foreign market (non US).

Access to capital: for retail & tourism

facade improvements or retrofits & development of vacant properties.

Green initiatives: a number of Next Generation Funds to stimulate bio-economy (clean technologies, digital media, health, pharm.); a number of Eco Energy Retrofit incentive funds offering up to \$10 per gigajoule saved for up to 25% of project costs.

Staffing & Training: fully funded positions for 6 months to a year, wage subsidies, training cost recovery programs for targeted industries, training program development funding to address sector-wide gaps, signing bonuses for business hiring youth apprentices upgrading to meet registration requirements, post-graduate youth internship funding

Technology transfer, R&D: a number of interest-free loan or contribution programs.

Business plan consulting: up to 90% of costs to \$5,000 limit.
marion@cpchamber.com, 257-1976