

CHAMBER CHATTER

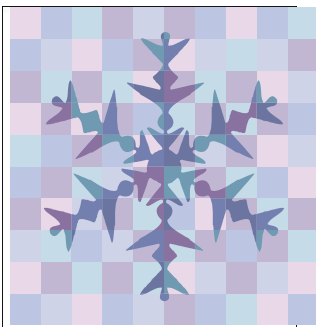


Welcome our newest members!

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Message from the President

For those of you who still head out to celebrate the end of one year and the start of a new one, the gods have smiled on you and arranged for a weekend for recovery. For those of you who enjoy maintaining your bedtime routines and will be snuggled under the covers long before midnight on December 31, more power to you!

I long ago gave up on making resolutions to ring in the New Year. I hate to start a fresh and shiny new year with failure, and I have invariably failed to follow through on every resolution I have ever made. On the bright side, I have become quite adept at using this time as a great opportunity to take a really unbiased view of the "year in review" and trying to gain at least some form of personal insight for the New Year. This year I will again be looking back at the year and all of the joy and challenge it has brought me. Hopefully, a bit of time and distance will allow me to understand what part I have played in my successes (and failures) and to put them into perspective. Since there will always be someone willing to point a finger or place blame (human nature being what it is) I will attempt to place some perspective on the things that have created disappointments for me this year. More importantly, I am going to attempt to give myself a little more credit for some of the things I am proud of (gee, this almost sounds like a New Years resolution, doesn't it).

I have worked with some wonderful people this year and I want to be sure that I take the time to thank them for their help in keeping me sane and on track. Hopefully I have become better at acknowledging them. I guarantee that I've also annoyed these same people with my requests and so let's hope that one helps to balance the other. There have been some amazing memories created with my family, friends and colleagues and I am looking at 2010 with eagerness to add to these.

I have enjoyed every moment this year, meeting new people, catching up with old acquaintances, and hearing what is making them happy, and what is driving them crazy. I've avoided H1N1, met my new granddaughter, seen the Olympic Torch come through, and met so many new people I've lost count.

This has been my first year as President of the Chamber of Commerce, and I want to extend my deepest thanks to everyone who has helped me in 2009. The current executive, Tracy Lamb, Janet Foster and Terry Perkins, have patiently shared their wisdom and experience with me. Donna O'Donahue, previous president, has been there guiding and advising. The Board of Directors has been there while I stumbled through those first few meetings. The BIA, and more people at Town Hall than I can mention, have opened their doors to me. And of course, I can't forget to mention Sharyl Ann Andrews, our previous office manager, and Jackie Kavanagh, our new office manager, for keeping the train on the track. I think everyone feels much more settled into our new information center at the Train Station.

Thank you to those Chamber members I've had the opportunity to meet with this year. For those of you I have yet to meet, or who have not yet joined us, don't be a stranger! This is a wonderful town with an amazing history and even more amazing future ahead of it, come jump on board!

From all of us here at the Carleton Place and District Chamber of Commerce, I'd like to wish you and your families a very happy and healthy New Year.

Cindy Hobbs



Annual Wine & Cheese A Great Success

It has been a busy month of settling in at the Chamber of Commerce but I am happy to say that I have had the chance to speak with many of our members either in person or by telephone in the short time that I have been here.

I have also had the opportunity to attend 2 exciting networking events over the last month including a Lunch & Learn session at the Carleton Heritage Inn and our Annual Holiday Wine & Cheese party at the Thirsty Moose Restaurant & Pub. Both events were very well attended and lots of fun.

Congratulations to all of our Wine & Cheese door prize winners including Chris McWebb of the Canadian Gazette who won an embroidered Carleton Place scarf (I expect to see him wearing it out and about) and Carolyn Arnott of Staples who went home with a pair of Senators tickets generously donated by Sharon Sinfield of the EMC.

Our next Networking Session will be a business breakfast held in co-operation with the Carleton Place BIA. A representative from the Police Services Board will

talk about what the police are doing locally to help businesses, how to file a police report and the proper follow up procedures after a report has been filed. This is a great opportunity for business owners to get first hand information from local law enforcement officials.

We have also made incredible inroads at the Visitor Centre, Gift shop and Gallery in the past few weeks. In addition to having all of the information on community events, facilities, local shops and restaurants available, we now have a full scale retail operation running with a virtual treasure trove of gift items.

In addition to the beautiful artwork available through Arts Carleton Place, the gift shop also stocks items such as locally produced maple syrup, honey, jams and beeswax candles as well as hand knit mitts, scarves, holiday wreaths and stained glass Christmas ornaments.

Our exciting line of Carleton Place merchandise features branded scarves, cooler lights, pewter train station ornaments, wooden train whistles and fun kitchen timers – everyone on your Christmas list will want one. Make sure to drop by the Train Station for a visit and a chance to take a look at all of the great products we have available.

As we start into the New Year I look forward to the many exciting events scheduled for 2010 including our AGM slated for March, the Showcase Carleton Place Trade Show which will be held in May and of course the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the end of the summer. If you have any questions about any of these events or would like to be involved please do not hesitate to contact me at the Chamber office at 257-1976. Happy Holidays from all of us at the Chamber office.

Business Breakfast

Mark your calendar for January 13th, 2010. That's the date for the BIA/Chamber of Commerce Breakfast Networking Session at the Carleton Heritage Inn.

Police Services Representatives will be on hand to talk about filing a police report and follow up after a report has been filed.

Breakfast will be served at 8:30am. Tickets are \$10.00 for this event.

For more information please contact Jackie at the Chamber Office at 257-1976 or Cathie McCormond at the BIA 257-8049.



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Upcoming Events:

December 2009—Bumblebee's Timeless Treasure's is offering 20% off of everything in the store. Get out and support one of the newest retail ventures in C.P.

December 19 –Jan 3—**FREE** swims at the Carleton Place Pool Call Pool office for times and dates. 257-1005

December 19th—Yuk Yuk's comedy at Broadway Bar & Grill. Show starts at 9:30pm. Tickets are \$10. If you eat dinner at Broadway's and see the show, you will receive a \$10 voucher back that is valid that night. For more info call 253-0707.

December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 28th, 29th, 31st from, 1:30 – 2:30pm **and December 19th-20th** 2-3pm—Tim Horton's **FREE** skate.

December/January—Logo Central is offering 80% off selected Wearables—winter and summer. (not co branded) Contact John Larose at 884-1040 or 521-3328 – for more details.

January 1st 2010— New Year's Levee—Come out to celebrate the New Year with Town Council at the Arena. **FREE** skating, hot dogs and hot chocolate from 1pm –3pm.

January—Carleton Place Women's Group meets every second Tuesdy of the month at the Heritage Inn at 7:30am. For more infor www.wbgrouup.ca

January 13th—The Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the BIA presents a Business Breakfast at 8:30am, Carleton Heritage Inn. A Police Services Board representative will talk about filing a police report after an incident and follow up after the initial report.

25 % off on all large orders of \$100.00 or more

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Hundreds Turn Out for Torch Run

Hundreds of excited spectators lined Bridge Street on Sunday morning as the Olympic Torch came through Carleton Place.

Spectators were emotional as Kelly Lopes brought the torch down main street towards the Town Hall. In front of the Town Hall 2010 Olympic torch relay bearer, Dwight Hounsell, received the flame from Kelly.

The Olympic flame began its 45,000-kilometre trek across the country on October 30th in Victoria, British Columbia. Olympic athletes Simon Whitfield and Ca-triona Le May Doan lit the torch in front of the B.C. Legislature and ran the first leg along Victoria's Inner Harbour.

The flame had arrived in Victoria earlier that day after being flown from Athens, Greece. The Olympic flame will be welcomed in over 1,000 communities across Canada in the next few weeks.

The Olympic cauldron in Vancouver will be lit Feb. 12, 2010 as the Winter Olympics get under way.



UPDATES FROM THE CHAMBER OFFICE

We are sad to say that the JCP contracts for Heather Whiting and Julie Argue Moffat have come to an end. Heather has moved on to an exciting new job at Transport Canada and Julie will be devoting more time to Foodies, her restaurant and food shop in Almonte as well as developing a local Bed & Breakfast at Hayshore. Julie will continue to volunteer on various committees for the Carleton Place Chamber. We wish Heather and Julie continued success.

Member to Member News

Our lunch and learn held at the Carleton Heritage Inn this month offered members a great opportunity to learn about benefits offered to them by other members of the Chamber of Commerce. Heather Allin of Doucett Insurance was our key speaker.

Heather explained some of the benefits of our Group Insurance Plan. The Group Insurance plan is offered to Chamber of Commerce members who are looking for a flexible plan that they can design to suit the needs of their company. They offer a full line of benefits including extended health care, dental care, disability, critical illness and group term life insurance. This group plan is available for companies with 1 –50 employees in any industry including home based businesses and farms. Fully pooled benefits within the plan means that your company rates do not increase substantially from year to year.

This really is a big company plan designed for small companies. If you would like more information about the Group Benefits Package, please contact Heather Allin at 613-253-2410.

New Website for Small Businesses

Small Business Week saw the launch of the new Canada Business Network website (www.canadabusiness.ca). The site is designed to provide entrepreneurs and business owners with relevant information that they need to help make their business successful.

Canada Business is a one-stop shop: in person, online, or by phone. It provides information for entrepreneurs on government programs and services. The new site offers the ability to customize information by province and type of business. It is also designed to reduce the time and effort required by small businesses to find information from all three levels of government.

For business, it means that information on relevant government services from start up, financing and growth, to permits and licences, can all be found in one place.

For a brief introduction to the site and some of its features, please visit www.canadabusiness.ca/eng/blog/entry/2598.

