

# CHAMBER CHATTER



## Message from the President



I sat watching the Olympic Opening Ceremonies along with rest of the world Friday night. I felt tremendous pride in my country standing on the world stage. I was awestruck by the beauty of the show; teared up as the Georgian team entered the stadium with their sombre expressions and black armbands. I cheered for our national team, wondered at the energy of the dancers performing on the sidelines throughout the ceremony and shook my head at the snafu with the final torch lighting.

This was, of course, something that generated lots of discussion over the weekend and at work on Tuesday. A recurring theme seemed to be "leave it to us to mess up in front of the world". I admit that this was my initial reaction as well. We Canadians are famous for beating ourselves up.

Then I found myself thinking about this from an enterprise perspective. How many of us have avoided every pitfall, poor choice, and bad break in business? If you have managed to do so, I suggest you go out and buy a lottery ticket immediately. The planning and implementation process for the Olympic Ceremonies didn't happen overnight. The number of individuals involved would be difficult to calculate. Tremendous creativity and brain power was corralled and we can all be assured that there were numerous planning sessions, critical reviews, and dry runs prior to D-Day. What we are forgetting to celebrate is the magnificence of the ceremonies themselves, the emotional connection we all felt with one another, and the recognition of human potential and brotherhood shared by 82 nations along with our ability to deal with unexpected challenges.

We all work to be the best we can be. We look for new avenues to follow, we set new goals, research and welcome expertise when we need it, test and implement our plans. On a good day, it all comes together. On a not-so-good day we experience a hiccup, speed bump or complete melt-down. Do we throw up our hands at that point? Of course not, we're Canadian! We make a strategic decision and make the best of a difficult situation. Moving forward is the only option. We regroup, learn from it and build on the experience.

Trust me, I've learned from the challenges I've met and created in life and I've endeavoured to find a positive outcome from them. Most people are happy to share, so be sure to learn from others mistakes (it's much less painful) and be sure to share your own- I have LOTS to share. And at the end of the day, we will find ourselves moving on to focusing on something else, like Alexandre Bilodeau's gold medal.

GO CANADA GO

Cindy Hobbs, President



### Welcome our newest members!!!!

#### Mark's Work Wearhouse

Welcome to the first place to come for the best possible first impressions. With a full line of comfortable and attractive work wear for men and women, Mark's Work Wearhouse knows that first impressions count. They also offer a special line of integrated brand apparel and can cover your employees from head to toe in everything from uniforms to custom t shirts.

#### Juice Plus+ Franchise

Juice Plus+ is a convenient and affordable way to add nutrition to your diet from fresh, raw, fruits and vegetables. Consisting of 17 nutrient dense fruits, vegetables and grains, Juice Plus+ is the most thoroughly tested nutraceutical in the world.

Contact: Kate Collins, Wellness Co-ordinator 613 492-0291

## Office Update

As we look out the window to the longer days, spirits seem to lift and people seem to start emerging from the chill of January. For many businesses it's a sign of the "light at the end of the tunnel". This year was tough for many of our

members and we salute the efforts and diligence that it takes to keep the doors open in times like these.

In 2010 I look forward to many opportunities to help you grow your business and corporate identity. The Chamber's trade show, planned for May 15 & 16 promises to bring local awareness to the diverse business people within our own Carleton Place community. Members interested in registering should send an e-mail to

jackie@cpchamber.com and e-registrations will be sent to you.

Learning and networking sessions are also a monthly plan of the Chamber. On February 25 join us at the Curling Club for a lunch and learn session with Tomahawk Technologies addressing the Power of Social Media.

The 2010 AGM will take place March 25th at the CP Canoe Club. "Meet us on the Mississippi" for a little bit of business followed by a CASINO COCKTAIL night. For tickets contact the Chamber Office.

Finally, don't forget to nominate a local business/ business person for our Business Person of the Year Award. The forms are available on the website or just send me a quick email. The award will be presented at our AGM/ Casino Night and the deadline is February 28th, 2010.

If you have any questions or concerns please give me a call at 257-1976. Jackie

## Meet us on the Mississippi- Casino Night

Join us for our AGM 2010 and odds are you'll have a great time. It's a win-win if you RSVP and pay for your ticket prior to March 15th. Early Bird ticket prices are \$20 for members and \$25 for non members. Ticket prices after March 15th are \$25 for members and \$30 for non members.

Ticket prices include \$5000 in gaming tokens and hors d'oeuvres throughout the evening. To **RSVP** for our AGM/Casino Night and to **CONFIRM YOUR SPONSORSHIP** please contact Jackie at jackie@cpchamber.com or call at 613-257-1976.

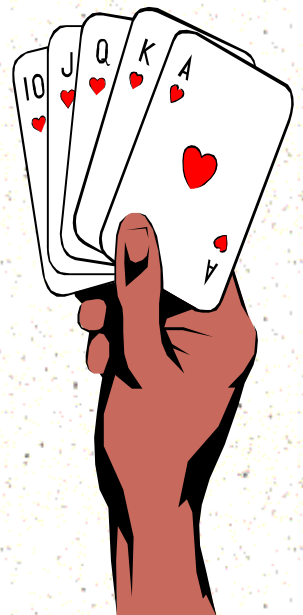
### AGM /Casino Night Sponsorship

**Table Sponsor:** \$250.00

- \* Logo and company name to appear on sponsor sign at gaming table of your choice
- \* Company name/logo to appear in AGM program guide
- \* Representation in March and April Chamber newsletter

**Slide sponsor:** \$25.00

- \* Company name/logo to appear as part of ongoing Power-Point slide presentation





132 Coleman St.  
Carleton Place Ontario  
Phone: 613-257-1976  
Fax: 613-257-8170

We are on the web!  
[www.cpchamber.com](http://www.cpchamber.com)



### Upcoming Events:

**February 23rd:** The Labour Marketing Group of Renfrew & Lanark will be holding a seminar on Successful Management and Retention of Young Workers, 7-9pm, Carleton Heritage Inn. If you are interested in attending or would like more information please call 613-735-4292 or [renfrewlanark@gmail.ca](mailto:renfrewlanark@gmail.ca)

**February 25th: CP Curling Club,** "Power of Social Media" Lunch & Learn session. 12-1:30pm, \$20 for members \$25 for non-members. To RSVP [jackie@cpchamber.com](mailto:jackie@cpchamber.com)

**February 27th: Broadway Bar & Grill,** "Yuk Yuk's Comedy Night". 9:30pm, \$5 per person at the door.

**March 8th:** International Women's Day 2010, Lanark County Style, 7pm at **CP Cinemas** in Carleton Place FREE and open to men and women of all ages! Hosted by Lanark County Interval House. Visit [www.lcih.org](http://www.lcih.org) for more info or call 613-257-1115.

**March 19th/20th: Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre** with The Mississippi Mudds at The Carleton Heritage Inn. Show starts at 6pm/cost is \$45.00pp. Order tickets now at 613-257-2525.

**March 25th: Carleton Place Canoe Club,** "Chamber of Commerce AGM & Casino Night". Mark your calendars and don't miss the chance to "Meet us on the Mississippi" for a night at the Casino.

**May 15/16th: CP Arena,** "Showcase Carleton Place" trade-show. An expanded version of our Business Expo, get your booth early, spaces have sold out 2 years in a row! Contact [Jackie@cpchamber.com](mailto:Jackie@cpchamber.com)

### **3 SIMPLE WAYS TO SUPPORT "LOCAL"**

- 1. Eat local– try any or all of the eateries in your own community!**
- 2. Shop local– for gifts and products made within 100km of your home!**
- 3. Live local– walk in your community, pay attention to what it has to offer and proudly tell others !**



**Accessibility for Ontarians with  
Disability Act**  
**Councillor Gerald Kirby:**

***Barriers to Accessibility***

There is a new law being implemented in Ontario, it is called the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act*. The Act is commonly referred to as the *AODA Act* and was passed in 2005 by a unanimous vote of the Ontario Legislature. The Act is to be implemented incrementally to 2025.

It is important to note that in Canada, one person in seven has a disability? That means that of the approximately 10,000 persons in Carleton Place, 700 (or 14.3%) of us have a disability of one kind or another. Our Town more than fits the national profile.

***What is a Barrier?***

Barriers are obstacles that stop people with disabilities from doing the day-to-day activities that the majority of us take for granted. Barriers can make working, shopping, getting garbage stickers, stamps, a book at the library, or going to school impossible or unnecessarily difficult.

Types of barriers may include:

a) **Structural**; a building having steps but no ramp; b) **Attitudinal**; assuming that a person with speech impairment can't understand you; c) **Information**; print that is too small to read; d) **Technology**; a website that can't support screen-reading software and e) **Systemic**; a hiring policy that is not open to people with disabilities.

Improving accessibility can be as simple as asking someone with a disability how you can help. There is often an easy and cost effective solution.

***The Act:***

There will be five Standards that make up this Act. Many are still in the developmental stage but on January 1, 2010 the **Customer Service Standard portion of the act** became law in Ontario in the public sector. The private sector is required to comply by 2012.

Under the Customer Services Standard the public can expect organizations that do business in Ontario to; train staff to meet the needs of customers with disabilities, to ensure that staff communicates appropriately with customers with disabilities and to allow service animals on the premises.

***Why Remove Barriers?***

We know that accessibility is good for business. In Canada every year people with disabilities spend \$25 billion. With the number of persons having disabilities rising as our population ages, organizations can no longer afford to ignore the demand for greater accessibility.

But in these uncertain economic times, businesses and organizations will, rightly be concerned with the costs necessary to implement the accessibility standards. To be fair to business, municipalities and other organizations the five standards are to be implemented in phases. This should give everyone time to build the accessibility requirements necessary for that entity into its long-term plans. You can find out more information on this act and on its implementation at [www.accessON.ca](http://www.accessON.ca)



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## The Carleton Place Farmer's Market Wants to Hear from You

The Carleton Place Farmers Market is gearing up for the 2010 season and wants to hear from you. The CPFM has developed an on-line survey for existing and new customers so that they may gain a better understanding of what their customers are looking for. The survey may be found at [www.cpfm.ca](http://www.cpfm.ca) and includes questions on customer's current and future purchasing preferences.

"We hope to better gauge what our customers are looking for in their local farmers' market, so our vendors can begin preparing now to grow / produce these items for the upcoming season," said Scott Dunlop, the new President of the Farmers Market. "We are hoping customers can take the time to provide input not only on products, but also what events or entertainment they'd like to see while shopping and spending time at the Farmers' Market."

The customer base has been growing steadily at the Market's new location on Beckwith Street (at the former Canadian Tire building), but there's always room for more improvement. For example, there are many local residents who still don't know that Carleton Place has a Farmer's Market. "Our research indicates that the majority of our current customers are within walking distance from our Market location," says Scott, "but as the local population grows we need to let new residents know that we're here."

The Farmers' Market has been working closely over the past several years with the Carleton Place Chamber of Commerce, the Business Improvement Association and the Town to revitalize the Market as a much desired community gathering place. "We look forward to continuing our collaboration with these important community organizations" says Scott. "As we gain a better understanding about what our customers want to see and experience at the Market, we become better equipped to provide a more holistic and enjoyable shopping experience for those visiting the Town's downtown core on Saturday mornings."



## The Carleton Place Farmers Market is looking for New Vendors for 2010



After a successful year at our new location at the corner of Beckwith Street and Lake Avenue East the Carleton Place Farmers Market (CPFM) is looking for new vendors for the 2010 season. In particular, the CPFM is looking for new local vendors of fruit, vegetables, meat, crafts and baked goods to meet an increasing demand for these products by our customers.

To support our vendors and customers the CPFM is working closely with the Town, the Business Improvement Area, the Chamber of Commerce and provincial groups to promote the Market and local businesses in Carleton Place.

For more information on becoming a vendor, please contact Scott Dunlop at 6B-253-3561, [cp\\_farmers\\_market@yahoo.ca](mailto:cp_farmers_market@yahoo.ca) or visit the Carleton Place Farmers Market homepage at [www.cpfm.ca](http://www.cpfm.ca)

The Carleton Place & District Chamber of Commerce  
proudly presents our first



in conjunction with the 2010 Annual General Meeting  
**THURSDAY MARCH 25th**  
Carleton Place Canoe Club

5:30pm - Cash Bar and Business Networking

6:15pm - Chamber AGM, Presentations and  
Business Person of the Year Award

7:00pm - Casino Night



**EARLYBIRD TICKETS ARE ONLY \$20**

*and include a wide selection of delicious  
hors d'oeuvres and nibbles, and \$5000 in Casino Cash!*



*Tickets purchased after March 15th or at the door are \$25*

**CALL THE CHAMBER OFFICE AT (613) 257-1976 or email Jackie Kavanagh at  
[manager@cpchamber.com](mailto:manager@cpchamber.com) to reserve your tickets!**

**HURRY, THESE WILL SELL FAST!**

*Gather your colleagues, clients and associates and let's have some fun!*