



Perth & District Chamber of Commerce “Bridges” January 2015 Newsletter

Volume 1 – 2015

“Building Bridges in Business for over 125 years”

Chamber General Manager Opportunity

It is with mixed emotions that the Board of Directors announces that our very own Pauline Fitchett, General Manager for the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce, is moving on in her career as the Executive Director for The Perth Enrichment Program for Older Adults. We wish to thank Pauline for the endless hours and superb commitment to our organization.

With this announcement we are actively recruiting a new General Manager for the Perth and District Chamber of Commerce and would ask that you pass this on to anyone you feel would be a suitable candidate for this high profile role in the Perth community.

The deadline for applying is this **Friday, January 9th**. A job description is listed on the Chamber’s website. A more detailed job description is available by contacting Debra Bellevue, Vice-President of the Chamber at debra.bellevue@rbc.com or at 613-267-2400.

Would You Like To Be A Vendor At The Festival of the Maples?

If you would like to participate as a vendor at the Festival on Saturday April 26, 2015, please let the office know? You can display and sell your product on the main street of Perth! With thousands of people attending this Festival, it is a great opportunity to get your name out there.

For complete details on being a vendor at the Festival, please contact Jennifer Perkin at the Chamber office (613 267-3200).

Sponsorship Opportunities will be sent to you shortly as well.

DID YOU KNOW

In celebration of our 125th, we will be giving you tidbits of information about the Chamber over the last 125 years! *Did you Know* that the Chamber was registered under the Board of Trade Act on January 20th, 1890 and our first meeting was held on January 28, 1890 in Perth.

Our very first Chairman of the Perth Board of Trade was Mr. William Meighen. He was appointed on a motion by M. Matheson, seconded by L. Allen. Mr. Meighen was elected President unanimously.



If he could only see us now!

Membership Renewals

Well, we are at the beginning of a new year and the Chamber would like to thank everyone for their support in 2014 and we look forward to working with all of you in 2015. Please note that your Membership Renewal Letter will be going out the first week of January. We have asked that you please make payment by **February 13, 2015** but in actuality the renewal begins on January 1, 2015. In order for there not to be a lapse in benefits we need to receive the payment by the 13th of February or sooner if possible.

I thank you for your consideration. We would also ask you to let us know if the number of employees you have working for you has changed. If you should have any questions about your membership dues then please contact the office and we would be happy to answer any questions. Also, we would appreciate it if you could let us know when you became a member. With it being our 125th we would love to know who our longest standing members are.

Nominations for Chamber Board of Directors

The Perth & District Chamber of Commerce is requesting **applications for its Board of Directors**. If you are a Chamber Member and are interested in sitting on the Chamber Board of Directors please contact the office immediately for more information. Our Annual General Meeting will be taking place in March at which time new directors will be elected to the Board. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Chamber also welcomes members to sit on any of our many committees. Please contact the Chamber Office for more information.

Update on “Feels Like Home” Buy Local Campaign



I hope you were able to hear one or all three of our “Feels Like Home” radio ads on Lake 88.1 We were excited to be part of the ads along with our sponsors; Advanced Alarm Systems, Bistro 54 Italiano, Smiling Cat Inc. and Storm Internet Services. We had a lot of positive response about our 10 Reasons to Buy Local Contest and our Pop-Up Store.

Congratulations to our winner of the 10 Reasons contest, Alison Everest, The Mortgage Advisors, Perth. Alison was thrilled to win the basket and to have supported our community by shopping local.



Chamber is Celebrating its 125th in 2015

In 2015, your Chamber of Commerce will celebrate its 125th Anniversary. Please join us on January 28th as we start the celebrations off by having our first Board Meeting for 2015 on the exact same date that it was held in 1890! That's right – 125 years later on the same date.



Stop by at 5:00pm for a meet & greet before Town Crier – Brent McLaren welcomes us. The meet & greet is followed by a very short Board Meeting at 5:30pm at the Best Western Plus Perth Parkside Inn & Spa. Then our anniversary celebration begins.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for Upcoming Chamber Events!!



Chamber Night at the Blue Wings

Date: Friday, January 16, 2015

Time: Tickets to be sent via email

Cost: Receive a ticket free for being a Chamber Member – details to come.

Let's all cheer on the Blue Wings Hockey Club. The Chamber will be highlighted as well as our President dropping the ceremonial puck. Be sure to be a part of the Chamber Cheering Section.

Business Accreditation Program – 1st Course for 2015

Conflict Resolution

Location: Algonquin College, 7 Craig Street, Perth

Date: January 21, 2015

Time: 5:30pm Registration / 6pm – 9pm – Presentation

Presenter: Christine Peringer

RSVP: the Chamber Office by January 14, 2015 – Invitation will be sent in the next couple of weeks

Chamber 125th Anniversary Celebration

Be our guest and help us celebrate the Chamber's 125th Anniversary

Location: Best Western Plus Perth Parkside Inn & Spa, 82 Peter Street, Perth

Time: 5:00 – 5:30pm – Meet & Greet / 5:30pm – 6:00pm – Board Meeting / 6:00pm – 8:00pm Anniversary Reception

Cost: Free / Cash Bar Available

RSVP: Chamber Office - Your invitation will be coming to you the first week of January.

Chamber Night With the Senators

Join your Chamber along with neighbouring Carleton Place & Smiths Falls Chamber Members at a Sens Game on March 10, 2015.

Be there to cheer on our Sens as they play Boston as well as network with other Chamber Members. Your ticket price of \$99.00 includes the game and a buffet dinner at "The Ledge" carvery & bar.

Location: Sens play the Bruins at Canadian Tire Place

Date: March 10, 2015

Time: Game starts at 7:30pm Bus will be leaving Perth at 5:45 pm sharp (if there are enough people for a bus)

Cost: \$99.00 (tax included) / Bus: \$10.00 per person if you choose to take the bus.

RSVP: The Chamber Office

"After 5" Networking Evening

Date: February 3, 2015

Location: The Table Community Food Centre

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Cost: Free

RSVP: the Chamber Office by January 27, 2015

Member Profile of the Month:

(Submitted by Cogeco Cable Inc.)



Cogeco Cable Inc.

Cogeco Cable Inc. (www.cogeco.ca) is a cable operator telecommunications corporation. It is the 11th largest ca in North America operating in Canada under the Cogeco Cable Canada name in Québec and Ontario, and in the United States under the Atlantic Broadband name. Its two-way broadband fibre networks provide to its residential and business customers analogue and digital television, high speed Internet and telephony services. Through its subsidiaries Cogeco Data Services and Peer 1 Hosting, Cogeco Cable Inc. provides to its commercial customers a suite of information technology services. Cogeco Cable Inc.'s subordinate voting shares are listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX:CCA). TVCOGECO is a volunteer based, local television service providing coverage of politics, sports, special events and other community initiatives. It is available exclusively to Cogeco Cable television customers and is distributed locally on cable channel 10.

Contact:

Ron Harrison
270 Brockville St Unit C
Smiths Falls, ON, K7A 5L4
613-283-8404
Ron.harrison@cogeco.com www.cogeco.com

(If you would like to be considered for Member of the Month and have not been in the past, please let the Chamber know).

M2M Value Plan Participant Update

New M2M Discount

conex design: 15% discount off Regularly Priced Services

You will be receiving your **new 2015 M2M Card** when the Chamber sends out your Paid Invoice after renewing your membership with the Chamber.

It is as simple as showing your card to participating businesses. Why not take advantage of the discounts available to you as a Perth & District Chamber of Commerce Member. Start saving today.

Participating Members offering discounts or benefits include:

Best Western Plus Perth Parkside Inn & Spa, Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) North & East Ontario, Perth Athletic Centre & Martial Arts Club, WOW FIT, Perth PC, Ottawa Senators Hockey Club – Dave Chadala, Images Inter Alia, Rental Village, Mex & Co, The Masonry Restaurant, Aloette Cosmetics – Mary Kilgour, Backbeat Books & Music, Ground Waves, Kelly's Flowers & Gift Boutique, Lavender & Lace Lingerie, M&M Meat Shop-Perth, Modern Baby Children's Boutique, Shadowfax, Streve Design, The Bookworm, The New Runway, The Real Wool Shop, Trailer Country Ltd., All Tech Consulting Group, Cynthia DeRoche, Registered Massage Therapist, Enviro Window Solutions – Perth, Edward Jones Investments, Evergreen Concepts, Financial Fitness for Families, Johnson Chiropractic Clinic, Kicking Horse Media Web Design & Development, Reiki Associates, Shakti Kriya Yoga and Wellness, Whistlewood Custom Woodworking, YAK Youth Services (summer promotion) and conex design.

You can always view all the member businesses participating by going to our website;

<http://perthchamber.com/membership-information/m2m-value-program/>

We can accept offers on an on-going basis. Just ask the office to send you a M2M Registration Form and we will get you signed up.

Start saving today.

If you have any questions please call the office and we will be happy to give you the scoop. I would love to hear from you as to how the program is working. As with any new program we expect there to be some growing pains. Please remember when using your card it is for you and your staff.

We Welcome Our Newest Members

Penny's Lane – Suite Miss Scarlett	Very happy to become a new member of the Perth & District Chamber of Commerce community. Penny's Lane offers 100 majestic acres of hiking/ski trails and extended gardens just minutes from Perth. Enjoy peace, privacy and luxurious amenities in the bohemian chic timber framed Suite Miss Scarlett, as well as two other charming rooms available in the 1800's farmhouse.
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Possible Job Grant Opportunity & Canada Apprenticeship Loan Opportunity

Information about the new **Canada-Ontario Job Grant**; a grant that gives businesses funding to help train workers can be found at: www.ontario.ca/employeetraining or by contacting Community Employment Service at 613-267-1381.

In addition, the Government of Canada has introduced the **Canada Apprenticeship Loan**; an initiative to help apprentices in a designated Red Seal trade. Starting in January 2015, apprentices can apply for up to \$4,000 in interest-free loans per period of technical training. The money will be available to help apprentices pay for tuition, tools, equipment and living expenses etc. Apprentices will not have to make payments on their Canada Apprenticeship Loan, and no interest will accumulate until after they complete or leave their apprenticeship training program. This information will be posted shortly at: www.canada.ca; for more information, or if members have any questions about the Canada Apprenticeship Loan, please encourage them to contact Service Canada at: 1-800-622-6232.

Lanark County Tourism Association (LCTA) Cycling Map

Put your business on the map, literally!

In an effort to develop a product that promotes sustainable tourism the Lanark County Tourism Association (LCTA) is creating a county wide cycling map that will be produced and distributed for the spring cycling season. The goal is to not only produce a map but to cultivate and develop a cycle tourism environment in the county.

All LCTA members will receive a listing on the map, identifying their business location, additionally; there are several advertising options available to increase your business' exposure. Your business will receive exposure amongst a much targeted audience who are looking for specific information. Businesses that cyclists are seeking include accommodations, food and beverage and attractions/experiences. The map covers the entire county highlighting 24 routes that vary in length and difficulty.

Advertising options are limited which ensures that you'll receive a strong presence, the two options are; Option A - a 3 ½ "x 3 ½" front cover space for \$500 of which there are only two and Option B - a 2"x2" space for \$250, only 12 are available

To reserve your ad space please send an email to lanarktourismassociation@gmail.com by **January 12th, 2015** and include your advertising option, billing address as well as your artwork.

All questions are welcomed at the above email address.

Important Information regarding Accessibility Requirements

From the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

**NEW ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS ARE COMING INTO EFFECT
JANUARY 1st: HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Please note that there are new accessibility requirements coming into effect on January 1, 2015. Businesses need to be ready to comply with these new accessibility requirements.

Accessibility requirements are dependent on the size and type of an organization.

As of January 1, 2014:

A business or non-profit organization that has **20 or more employees** must file a second accessibility compliance report by **December 31, 2014**.

Businesses that have **50 or more employees** must:

- have accessibility policies to achieve accessibility goals, and tell employees and customers about them
- have a multi-year accessibility plan that outlines what will be done to meet accessibility requirements now and in the future, and put it on their website
- consider accessibility when purchasing or designing self-service kiosks
- make sure that any significant website updates, new websites and new web

- content are accessible

Starting January 1, 2015:

If a business or non-profit organization has **20-49 employees**, it must:

- [create accessibility policies](#) to help achieve accessibility goals, and tell employees and customers about them
- consider accessibility when purchasing or designing [self-service kiosks](#)

If a business or non-profit organization has **50 or more employees**, it must:

- [train staff on Ontario's accessibility laws](#)
- make surveys, comment cards or other [feedback processes](#) accessible upon request

Need help?

Please visit ontario.ca/accessibility for a step-by-step guide on how to file your report and a complete list of all your legal requirements under the AODA.

Failure to File

Please note that organizations that do not report by December 31 could be subjected to action on behalf of the Government of Ontario, including inspections, Director's Orders and financial penalties.

Questions or Comments?

Contact the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario:

Toll-free: 1.866.515.2025 / 416.849.8276 TTY Toll-free 1.800.268.7095 / 416.325.3408

Email: accessibility@ontario.ca

At The Chamber

Thank you to everyone that participated in our "Feels Like Home" Buy Local awareness campaign. We received a lot of positive comments on the radio ads, the contest and the Pop-Up Store. We are looking forward to continuing the excitement in 2015.

Please take note to the upcoming events in January and February. We would love to see you at one or all of our upcoming events, especially the 125th Anniversary Celebration on January 28th.

I would also like to take this time to thank all of you for your support during my time as Manager of the Chamber. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at the Chamber and although I am leaving as Manager I will be supporting the Chamber in a different role, as a member. I will be working at the Chamber through the end of January but look forward to keeping in touch with all of you through the many networking events and seminars. I would also like to say a special thank you to the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers at the Chamber. Our Chamber is very lucky to have such a committed group of individuals who truly do want to support businesses and organizations that make Perth & District great. Thank you!

I wish you all the best.

Pauline

Visit the Perth & District Chamber Website: www.perthchamber.com for links to Canadian Chamber Member Benefits.



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Let the Chamber keep you up to date on what's happening in Perth & District