



Perth & District Chamber of Commerce “Bridges” November 2014 Newsletter

Volume 11 – 2014

“Building Bridges in Business”



The Perth & District Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner

Thank you to our Sponsors, Supporters, Guests & Volunteers

We thank our Sponsors

The Perth Courier

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Enbridge Gas Distribution

Sponsor of the Lanark Leeds Home Builders Association Award

Valley Heartland CFDC

Sponsor of the Young Entrepreneur Award

Town of Perth

Presentation of the Perth Medal

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Cobra Pools & Spa Inc.
The Stone Cellar Restaurant
Perth Outfitters
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Lake 88.1 FM

Thank you to Randy Hillier, MPP LFLA, Apropos, Foodsmiths, Jennifer Willard Photography, Perth Museum, Rental Village – Perth, Joan Adam, Pauline Augner, Kirsten Coughler, Joel LeBlanc, Brian Perkin, Jennifer Perkin, Barb St. Arnaud and Kyle Woods for their support of the evening!



Business Achievement Award

Michael McLean



LLHBA Member Achievement Award

Alison Alexander for Chris Samson



Perth Medal

Jeff Dean



Young Entrepreneur Award

Kyle Woods

Business Accreditation Course Certificate Recipients:

Barnabe's Independent Grocer, Carolina Retirement Suites, Clarith Inc., Ground Waves, Kelly's flowers & gift boutique, Maximilian Dining Lounge, Modern Baby Children's Boutique, Perth Athletic Centre & Martial Arts Club, Perth & District Portable Toilet Rentals, Scotiabank, Sound Hardwood, Tay River Reflections, The Masonry Restaurant and WOW Fit.

Go Sens Go! Membership has its benefits!

Purchase seats for any Ottawa Senators game using the promotion code: CHAMBERS and save \$\$\$.

Choose your games. Note that seats are subject to availability. You can purchase tickets to any Senators game at any price level and choose your own seats.

Visit the Capital Tickets website to purchase tickets. Select Promos/Presales and enter the Promotion Code: CHAMBERS. A list of games for the season will appear. Simply select your game, select your seats and check out.

If you have any questions contact Dave Chadala at chadalad@ottawasentors.com

Members' Corner (1)

(Please note: This space is available to any member wishing to place an advertisement. Please contact the Chamber office for details. Submitted by The Merchants of Codes Mill).



The Merchants of Code's Mill Holiday Open House
November 8th & 9th
11am - 4 pm
Fun and Entertainment for the Whole Family

The Merchants of Code's Mill are a group of businesses located in the Code's Mill Building, all connected by the beautiful atrium just outside their doors. This group of businesses, include Coutts & Company Coffeehouse Emporium, Fiddleheads Bar & Grill, Ground Waves Home & Gifts, kellys floral & gift boutique and the Curly Red Head.

Code's Mill Atrium, 17 Wilson Street, East
Perth, ON
www.codesmillatrium.com

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for Upcoming Chamber Events!!



Business @ Breakfast

Join Carleton Place & District Chamber of Commerce Members for a Business @ Breakfast Presentation.

Location: Temple's Sugar Bush, 1700 Ferguson Falls Rd., Lanark

Date: November 12, 2014

Time: 7:30 am – 9:30 am

Cost: \$15.00 for Chamber Members / \$20.00 for Future Members

RSVP: by November 6, 2014

PresentationTopic: Content Marketing to Increase Sales – Metroland Media

Chamber “After 5” Networking Evening

Location: Merchants of Code’s Mill, Code’s Mill Atrium, 17 Wilson Street, East

Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Time: 5pm – 7:00pm **Cost:** Free **RSVP:** The Chamber Office by November 11, 2014

Chamber Christmas Social: Plans are still under way but we are looking at December 3rd as the expected date. Invitation to follow shortly.

Seminars at the Small Business Advisory Centre

Tax Tips and Planning Seminar for Small Business: November 18, 2014, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Cash Rules! A workshop for making sure you don’t run out: November 25, 2014 9:30 am – 12:30 am

Pinterest for Business Workshop: December 2, 2014, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

For more information about times contact the Small Business Advisory Centre at 613-283-7002, ext. 108 or 109 or at smallbusiness@smallbizcentre.ca

WELL Wednesday

Women Entrepreneurs of Lanark & North Leeds

Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Contact: Bridget Joynt, Valley Heartland CFDC at bridget.joynt@valleycfdc.com or at 613-283-7002, ext. 110

Business Accreditation Program – Upcoming Courses for 2015

Expected Courses to include: Conflict Resolution, Business Law, Writing Strategies and Selling Success. Look for your invite to the first of our 2015 series. Our first course is set for January 21, 2014. Thank you to Algonquin College for agreeing to deliver these courses again this year.

Member Profile of the Month:

(Submitted by Wheelers Pancake House & Sugar Camp)



Wheelers Pancake House & Sugar Camp

A 700 acre working maple sugar bush open daily all year long. See how our certified organic maple syrup is made and enjoy a hearty pancake meal in our log chalet dining room. Hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski through our maple forest or browse through our museums. Our Maple Museum holds the Guinness World Record for 'the largest collection of maple related artifacts'!

Open 9-3 every day but Christmas Day.

Contact:

Vernon and Judy Wheeler & Family

www.wheelersmaple.com

1001 Highland Line, McDonald's Corners

(613)278-2090

M2M Value Plan Participant Update

Our M2M Value Plan Program is continuing to grow! Please find below, the newest editions to the program. You can always view all the member business participating by going to our website; <http://perthchamber.com/membership-information/m2m-value-program/>

Be sure to take your M2M card with you when you are out shopping for those special Christmas purchases! Stop by the Chamber Office if you haven't picked up your card yet.

New Participants Offering Discounts or Benefits:

Financial Fitness for Families: Complimentary initial visit to discuss whatever financial problems or questions you may have in your personal or professional lives.

Mex & Co: Free Mex & Co Appetizer nacho with the purchase of 2 main courses

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

<p>Lanark Mortgage Fund Bob Parks 10 Sunset Blvd. Perth, ON K7H 2Y2 613-267-4700, ext 106 scross@lanarkmortgagefund.com</p>	<p>The Lanark Mortgage Fund was established 40 years ago by a group of professional business people in Perth. The management committee pools the RRSP contributions of its members and the pooled funds are invested in mortgages with the profits accruing to the participants.</p>
<p>Similar Solutions Natural & Preventative Health Care Karin Christlmeier 30 North Street Perth, ON K7H 2S7 613-812-5682 kchristlmeier@gmail.com</p>	<p>Similar Solutions offers innovative natural and preventative health care treatments to achieve and maintain health and vitality. This is primarily done by using bio-therapeutic drainage to gently detoxify the body and restore proper physiological functioning.</p>
<p>Dagmar's Designs Dagmar Sagat 8 Drummond St. E. Perth, ON K7H 1E5 613-267-2886 dagmardesigns@gmail.com</p>	<p>Best European tailoring experience in town! Whenever you're looking for a custom made creation for a special event or need alterations or repairs on your garments, Dagmar's Designs custom sewing business offers it all including window treatments, design consultations and upholstery. Conveniently located close to downtown Perth on 8 Drummond st E, visit by appointment or by chance. Visit dagmarsdesigns.etsy.com for one of a kind unique gifts</p>

Mollypops

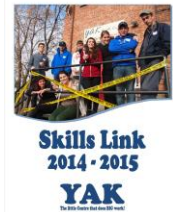
Molly McNulty
613-812-3009
molly@mollypops.ca

"Mollypops is a graphic design company based out of Perth, Ontario, specializing in branding, print and digital design. Created and operated by Molly (McNulty) Mahon, Mollypops can work with you to create unique and custom design solutions that represent the story you need to tell, to leave your mark on the world.

If you have an idea that you need created, if you're interested in bouncing ideas or just simply want to say hello, contact Mollypops at molly@mollypops.ca"

Skills Link is back!

YAK Youth Services is once again hosting another Skills Link Employment Readiness Program for youth between the ages of 16 and 24. The program will provide employment readiness skills through work experience and workshops to 24 youth from our region. The project will provide an opportunity for participants to develop networking and life skills, gain work experience and to work with mentors to help them make a successful transition to the labour market or return to school. YAK is accepting applications from youth from Perth, Smiths Falls and the surrounding rural areas. YAK is also currently looking for employers and mentors who would be willing to show youth the "ins and outs" of their business. In exchange for your time, YAK will pay the wages, MERCs and WSIB for the young worker placed with you over a 14 week period.



For more information, contact Tanis Cowan or Kat Watson at 613-264-8381

Keeping You Updated

Ontario Chamber of Commerce RAPID POLICY UPDATE GOOD NEWS FOR EMPLOYERS ON EI AND WSIB PREMIUMS

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT LOWERING EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PREMIUMS

The federal government has just announced that it will be lowering Employment Insurance (EI) premiums for small businesses, paid by employers and employees, in an effort to boost hiring at a time of sluggish growth. The government is referring to this premium reduction as the Small Business Job Credit. The freeze is expected to save small businesses more than \$550 million over the next two years.

The move comes shortly after Statistics Canada reported a decline of 11,000 jobs in August. Last year, the Parliamentary Budget Officer accused the government of keeping premium rates "higher than necessary" in an effort to balance the books in the short-term.

What does this mean for business? According to the [Department of Finance](#), businesses that pay EI premiums up to \$15,000 will be eligible for the break, which reduces the premium from \$1.88 to \$1.60, per \$100 of payroll. That is a drop of 15 percent in EI costs for eligible businesses.

Close to 90 percent of all EI premium-paying businesses in Canada will be eligible for the break. The Canada Revenue Agency will automatically calculate the credit on a business' return, in an effort to reduce paper burden.

The OCC applauds the federal government's decision, but continues to advocate for reforms to the EI program, particularly in how benefits are distributed regionally. Because of the program's current structure, Ontario employers and employees end up subsidizing industries and workers in other provinces, despite the fact that Ontario's unemployment rate is above the national average. For more information on the OCC's proposed reforms to the EI program, read the OCC's report [A Federal Agenda for Ontario](#).

WSIB PREMIUMS UNCHANGED FOR SECOND YEAR

The Government of Ontario announced that Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) premium rates would be frozen for a second consecutive year. Only one rate group, Local Government Services, will see an increase in premium rates as a result of expanded coverage for firefighters--an issue that the OCC is tracking closely.

The WSIB also announced that their compensation system is more than 64 percent funded, and will be 80 percent funded by 2022 and 100 percent by 2027. The funding ratio has improved significantly, up from 56.9 percent in 2012.

The OCC is repeating its calls for more competitive business premiums. Despite a steady decline in the frequency of work-related injuries in the province, Ontario's average employer premium rate is still one of the highest in Canada. This is due largely to the surcharge associated with paying off the WSIB's unfunded liability, which employers have been forced to absorb as a legacy cost.

For more information, read the OCC's agenda for WSIB reform, [Caution Work Ahead](#).

Questions or comments? Contact Josh Hjartarson, VP of Policy & Government Relations.
416-482-5222 x 2320 or at joshhjartarson@occ.ca

At The Chamber

In case you weren't there, the scoop at the Chamber Annual Dinner was that you should "Save the Date". January 28, 2015! The Chamber will be celebrating its **125th Anniversary!!**

It is hard to believe that the first meeting of the Board of Trade of the Town of Perth was held on **January 28, 1890**. It is even harder to believe that the Chamber still has the actual Board of Trade Minute Book from 1890. If you are in the office ask to take a look. It is quite a thing to see.



Remember to keep January 28, 2015 in mind because you will be invited to our Birthday Celebration taking place at the Best Western Plus Perth Parkside Inn & Spa. More information will be sent out in December but plan to be there and help us celebrate. We will be having a very brief Board Meeting to commemorate the first meeting in 1890 and then there will be a reception to follow.

The Chamber is currently working on a “**Feels Like Home**” awareness campaign on why we should remember to shop locally. Within the next few weeks you will hear radio ads as well as be sent information that I hope all of you will pass along to encourage everyone to think Perth & District first when planning on making that next purchase, looking for a service business or dining out. We have it all and let’s celebrate by showing our support of each other!! Thank you to our sponsors of the radio ads; Advanced Alarm Systems, Bistro 54 Italiano, Smiling Cat Inc. and Storm Internet Services.

We once again have a busy few weeks approaching. I thank everyone that has attended our events and seminars over the last months and hope that you will consider attending our Business at Breakfast, our next After 5 or our Christmas Social in the coming weeks.

Have a wonderful month.

Pauline

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



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in Ontario's Highlands

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