

Stay Connected... WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

RETURNING MEMBERS JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2016

1425219 Ontario Inc.
2230688 Ontario Ltd.
AAA HDTV Antennas
Affinity Distinctive Jewellery
Alexander & Houle Funeral Home Ltd.
Barry Fraser & Associates
Bechard Insurance & Financial
Bennic Machine Inc.
Bob's Motorsport Ltd.
Brian's Drywall
CEO International Inc.
Chatham Burgers
Chatham Foot Clinic
Chatham Kent Construction Products
Chatham Kent Ready Mix
Chatham Outreach for Hunger
Chatham Tree Service Ltd.
Chatham-Kent Big Brothers/Big Sisters
Chatham-Kent Family Health Teams Inc.
Chatham-Kent John D. Bradley Convention Centre
Chatham-Kent Victim Services
Chris Lenover Enterprises
Cktechconnect Inc.
Classic Nail Plus
CM Appleton Holdings Inc.
Copies & More
Craven Financial Planning
Dean & Barb's No Frills
Deb's Cleaning Services
Dr. Ray D'Hondt
End of the Roll
Everitt Kitchen Saver
Family Lending.ca
George H Willson Realty Ltd.
Gilhula & Grant
Global Industrial Services
Goudreau Chiropractic & Acupuncture
Grandma & Grandpa Richardson Daycare
Hollis Wealth Jamieson Vandermeerch
Private Wealth Counsel
Homes by Warwick
Imperial Club
Industrial Metal Fabricators Ltd.
Intrepid General Limited
James Gray Renovations

JM Designs
John Harris Concrete Ltd.
Ken C. Horney, CPA, CA
Kent & Essex Mutual Insurance
Kent Condominium Corporation # 11
Keyway Locksmith & Security
L.P.Wood Ltd.
Leadwave Technologies Inc.
Libro Credit Union
Lundy Insurance
Maple City Billiards/Maple City Kustom Karts
Maple City Marine
Mares Insurance Services
Mark Tomen Medicine Professional
McGregor Naturopathic
McIntyre Paramedical Services
McLemore Concrete & Excavating Services Inc.
Murray Duff Enterprises
North Kent Mutual Insurance
Pete's Carpet & Upholstery
Pinwood Truck Parts Inc.
Pizazz Floral & Balloons
Pole & Kingham
Quality Home Inspections
Rain & Shine Behavioural Counselling
Ravata Drywall & Acoustics Limited
Renee Carrievau Law Office
Rondeau Capital Inc.
Rotary Club of Chatham Sunrise
Royal LePage Peifer Realty Inc.
RSTECH Limited
Scotiabank
Spanky's Chatham Hotel Inc.
St. Clair Insurance Brokers
Swain Brothers
Syd Kemsley Florists
The Duffy Group
The Giffin Group
Toonstra's Cartunes
Trend Barber Shop
Utley Financial Group
Veolia ES Canada Industrial Services Inc.
Whittall & Company
WOW Rustic

MUNICIPAL UPDATE & ADDRESS WITH MAYOR RANDY HOPE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH, 2016
RETRO SUITES HOTEL- 2 KING STREET W, CHATHAM



In co-operation with:



Sponsored by:



BREAKFAST: 8:00 a.m. - Presentation to follow

TICKETS: \$25 (HST included)

No refunds/cancellations after May 18th, substitutions permitted.

To order tickets, please contact the
Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce office.



Annual CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND, 2016
WILLOW RIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
439 CHATHAM STREET S, BLENHEIM

A DAY OF GOLF FOR ONLY \$105 (+HST)

- Includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner, and a prize for everyone!
- Design your day, your way!
- The entire day is based on your time, your budget and your choice.

**18 HOLE TOURNAMENT | SHOTGUN START
BEST BALL | SPECIAL HOLES | CONTESTS & PRIZES**

To register, please fill out the enclosed registration form.



CHATHAM-KENT
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

Newsletter
March 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Change comes in many forms and is often difficult for those facing it, especially when they feel that change is happening *to* them rather than *for* them. But like all change it needs to start at home. And over the past year the Chamber has gone through an extensive plan to reimagine, reinvent and rejuvenate itself. To reimagine what is possible for our members and our community we needed to acknowledge the demographic shifts in our labour market; to be more equipped to assist local businesses evolve into the globalized player we believe they can be. We needed to align our structure to new strategies that optimizes our value and effectiveness at implementing critical changes. It has included a reinvention to more accurately reflect the current environment and adapts to a strong desire to create constructive partnerships rather than combative ones. With initiatives currently underway through our collective ambition, we are creating strategies that are building more diversity of thought, experience and inclusiveness. A new model that ensure we are maximizing opportunities in every relationship built into the future. It's this greater purpose we have crystallized into our accountabilities of action, influence and advocacy that we are rejuvenated by an elevated sense of our higher standards and values.

To begin with, a premium must be placed on education by building on technology developments and by demanding even more innovative thinking. Over the years Chatham -Kent has moved away from employment that creates physical widgets and needs to dream big about innovating digital ones. We were an economy of production and manufacturing and have overly depended on *"traditional"* employment. The empty lots and buildings scattered around us don't need to be replaced with car manufacturing or food processing plants to resemble a Chatham-Kent of 20 years ago. It will be the creative and innovative businesses that today can start up at a click of a button and rapidly expand their global reach through emerging technology like social media that will carry our economy forward. All of this is done from the comfort of a home office and as a result we will continue to see shifts in our labour landscape. Chatham-Kent's ability to sustainably grow and move forward economically will demand we accept change at a pace like none experienced ever before.

To thrive in these new global economies we need to help businesses become more agile and more nimble. It must be our collective ambition to accelerate our next generation of business owners and workforce into a leading economy and a Municipality of collective strength.

In a recently conducted survey through Workforce Planning: Of all new hires in the past 12 months, 43% were for part time occasional employment and 20% contract or seasonal. In the same survey, for those planning to hire within the next 12 months, only 25% are considering hiring permanent full time while 42% being contract or seasonal employment.

What is the challenge ahead of us; population estimates predict moderate growth, yet Chatham-Kent continues to see declining enrolment rates at our schools that are 9 times that of the province.

Currently with our schools at 70% capacity and an expected decline to 64% by 2029 we need to re-evaluate our protectionist ideals that keep us divided. Since 1998 LKDSB has needed to close or consolidated 14 elementary schools, 2 secondary schools and 1 Adult Learning Centre. What we are facing is significant learning and skill gaps created by disproportionate funding for dated and costly facilities that no longer meet standards and requirements for today's learners. Education *"is"* a social fabric of *our* community; it is *"not"* the bricks and mortar that hold any community together. A school consolidation is not a loss of social significance. It does create the means to maximize financial resources, to build modernize facilities, class rooms that incorporate *"smart"* technology, it buys 100's of new computers and funds leading education programs.

Though it can't stop there!

The #1 reason for positions that are "hard to fill", a lack of education, industry credentials or technical skill! Two thirds of employers today require a Trade Certificate, College Diploma or University Degree as the minimum level of education for meaningful employment. Sadly 60% of CK residents have no postsecondary education. In short our labour force has fallen behind, it lacks the skill and educational background required for local businesses to grow and expand. It limits our attractiveness for higher paying, more competitive and fulfilling careers.

What we have recognized is the need to further post-secondary education. **This is a priority**, and through the Community Leaders Cabinet we must improve our education achievements. In order to attract businesses that are creative, innovative, that provides meaningful employment we need to develop a capable workforce. One that is skilled, trained and educated enough to create new local employment opportunities in an effort to retain our most talented people. In a joint community effort with key partners we are focused on championing the Canada Learning Bond. As a government incentive program within existing RESP structures it comes at no risk or cost while encouraging families to invest in higher education. Sending more CK children to college or university is a strategy everyone needs to get behind. Our goal to increase the number eligible families receiving "free government" funds from 23% to 70% in over the next 5 years can be achieved when we decide to work as partners in this community.

If moderate population growth in Chatham-Kent can be attributed to immigration, either foreign or domestically we need to embrace the differences that make us all the same. This is why the Chatham-Kent Chamber has created a Diversity Council dedicated to work in partnership with existing Community and Municipal groups to better understand and leverage the collective strength a diverse municipality offers. With a clear understanding of unique challenges we become better equipped to support our First Nation community, help single parent families, both mothers and fathers, find **meaningful** employment where they can shop local, buy local and stay local.

Engaging with our municipal libraries as a key strategic partner to learn about the needs of newly immigrated Canadians we can work to develop business initiatives with employers that are inspired through diversity to see the value and competitive advantages our new friends create. Making Chatham-Kent an even more dynamic tourist destination where a universal culture is encouraged, celebrated and demanded for all businesses to succeed.

The message I wanted to share with you is about change. But the change I am talking about can't happen in our future. That change happens now! As leaders in the community we need to help businesses and employee's transition into a modern global workforce; one that enables them to thrive in an even more globalized economy. To achieve that Chatham-Kent needs to modernize its thinking, its attitudes and its actions. We will work harder to foster innovation, accept our growing diversity and shed any conscious and unconscious biases. If we are willing to do that we can challenge ourselves by building on existing partnerships and finding unfamiliar ones. We can capture the opportunities that emerging economies bring. The Chamber is capable and willing to accept that challenge.

Resiliency, by definition means the ability to recover quickly from setback.

Chatham-Kent, it's been 20 years!

h. June

Christopher June
Chair

Follow the CHATHAM-KENT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE on...



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128TH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

THURSDAY, MARCH 31ST, 2016

CLUB LENTINAS
250 NATIONAL ROAD, CHATHAM

AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION WITH THE...

- *Business of the Year*
- *Industry of the Year*
- *Corporate Citizen of the Year*
- *Citizen of the Year*
- *Business Professional of the Year*
- *Youth Entrepreneur of the Year*
- *Entrepreneur of the Year*
- *Youth Entrepreneur / Professional of the year*

RECEPTION: 6:00 PM

DINNER & PRESENTATION: 7:00 PM

TICKETS: \$85 (+HST) | TABLE OF 8=\$680 (+HST)

Tickets available by contacting the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce.

No ticket sales after Thursday, March 24th, 2016.

No refunds/cancellations after March 24th, 2016. Substitutions permitted.



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2016

HOST:



WILLOW RIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
439 CHATHAM STREET SOUTH, BLENHEIM

TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. | COST: \$5.00 AT THE DOOR

Networking | Appetizers | Prizes

M.C.'S



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2016

HOST:



LOCATION:
235 ST. CLAIR STREET, CHATHAM

TIME: 5:00 - 7:00 P.M. | COST: \$5.00 AT THE DOOR

Networking | Appetizers | Prizes

M.C.'S



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2016
CHATHAM-KENT JOHN D. BRADLEY CONVENTION CENTRE



New! CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT...

Business After Hours Complimentary Annual Card

*How it works...
It's easy - and it's included!*

You or an employee of the member business will bring the Business After Hours Card each month to receive one complimentary admission. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to network, socialize and meet your community business partners as a perk of membership!

With your paid membership renewal you will receive our THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT and your **Business After Hours Complimentary Annual Card!**

Also...

Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce Members...The Business After Hours Card will be available to purchase if you would like additional cards for your employees, business partners or clients.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AFTER HOURS CARD
Includes: Admission to 10 Business After Hours Events
Cost: \$45 (HST Incl.) (That's a 10% savings & no expiry date!)

If you would like to purchase a Business After Hours Card, please contact the Chamber TODAY!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR OFFICE SPACE?

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce has Office Space for Lease!

- Available April 1st, 2016
 - Private Front & Rear Entry
 - Reception Area
 - 4 Offices
 - Meeting Room
 - Kitchen & Staff Area With Additional Washroom
 - A Designated Parking Space
 - 1,000 sq. ft.
 - Adjacent to Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, in the heart of downtown
- For more information, contact the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce



2016 FEBRUARY FEATURE INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH



KEARNEY PLANTERS

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016

HOST:



ROSSINI'S RESTAURANT
634 GRAND AVENUE EAST, CHATHAM

