

## Chamber Members...

### OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW!

You are reading the last hardcopy of the Chamber newsletter. Watch for your new e-copy Chamber Member Newsletter!

### ARE YOU AWARE OF THE MEMBERS ONLY FACEBOOK GROUP?

Want to join the group?  
Contact Sarah at sarah@chatham-kentchamber.ca



## Stay Connected... WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP

RETURNING MEMBERS APRIL/MAY 2016

Arctic Glacier  
Brisco and O'Rourke  
Business Development Bank  
CAA Travel South Central Ontario  
Campbell Toyota  
Carey Leasing Limited  
Centennial Windows  
Chatham Denture Specialists  
Chatham-Kent Veterinary Hospital  
Club Lentinas  
Downtown Deli  
Eat What's Good Inc.  
Express Employment Professionals

Frendz Restaurant & Lounge  
Honda House JRB Electrical  
N.H. Global Design Inc.  
Oldershaw Builders Supply Ltd.  
Rona Cashway Building Centres Inc.  
Rubies Inc.  
Saw Solutions  
Staples  
Stephen J. Andari, Barrister & Solicitor  
Stompin' Grapes  
Storey Samways Planning  
TD Canada Trust  
The Chatham Voice

## 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RURAL URBAN DINNER & AWARDS

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS...

#### SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR:

- Agriculturist of the Year
- Agriculture Innovator of the Year
- Friend of Agriculture

If you would like to nominate a Chatham-Kent Business or individual for this year's Rural Urban Dinner & Awards, please fill out the enclosed nomination form and return to the Chamber office, or visit [www.chatham-kentchamber.ca](http://www.chatham-kentchamber.ca) for the form.

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



Proud Partner:



THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LA CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE DU CANADA

[www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca)



[www.occ.on.ca](http://www.occ.on.ca)

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## 2016 MAY FEATURE INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH



### ENVIROSHAKE

## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016

HOST:

Thank-You...  
FOR INVESTING IN  
CHATHAM-KENT!



LOCATION:

PORTUGUESE CANADIAN SOCIAL CLUB OF CHATHAM  
346 GRAND AVENUE EAST, CHATHAM

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

In recognition of Small Business Month this Business After Hours will showcase new businesses located in Chatham-Kent who have 'opened their doors' within the past year.

If you have located a new business in Chatham-Kent between August 16, 2015 – August 31st, 2016 or know of one, please contact the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce to take advantage of this great opportunity to showcase your business to other business representatives through a complimentary booth at this event.



CHATHAM-KENT  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE

Newsletter  
June 2016



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As we continue in our efforts to be open, partner and work with fellow proactive groups that, together, act to enhance Chatham-Kent's economy, we have recently met with our M.P.'s Dave VanKesteren and Bev Shipley. In doing so, we joined with our local Chambers of Commerce and brought some common ground issues to the table. Our meeting with Dave and Bev was the first sit down with both elected officials, together, representing our municipality. The concept of joint Chambers and Chatham-Kent's elected Members of Parliament seems to make great sense as we make the most of time and energies. While the conversation wasn't all smooth sailing, we appreciate the difference of opinion as we work to understand and deliver on the needs of our business and community. We're now working with our MPP's to secure a June meeting date that works best for all.

Speaking of provincial government, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the issue of the day, one that is quite troubling. Suggestion is that natural gas usage could be affected within the proposed 'Climate Change Action Plan'. Be informed, should anything drastic happen we, Chatham-Kent, should be gravely concerned. Although details are yet to be confirmed, we understand the dire effect this could have on one of our largest employers, Union Gas. What does this mean for the Company? What does this mean for their employees? What does this mean for you, their customer? And, what does this mean for the local organizations and initiatives Union Gas and its employees support? Let's realize that we are the host community to this large and vested company and, as a province, they are also integrated in every community they field. If they are able to support less community, and you are unable to afford the changes, just what does happen to costs of business and local economies?

Notably, hiking the minimum wage has potential to do considerable harm. The direct effects may decrease employment opportunities among low-skilled workers—the very group these policies are intended to help – if not reducing new employment outright. Hiking the minimum wage could lead to a reduction in hours or degrade other benefits (such as on-the-job training) for those employee's that retain their jobs. In Canada, there is enough empirical data examining the effects of minimum wage as a result of Provincial management and the wide range from top to bottom across all provinces.

By making it harder for low-skilled workers to obtain entry-level positions, a higher minimum wage perversely hinders the development of human capital and harms the long-term career prospects of the very people it's desperately trying to help. In fact, Canadian research has found that hiking minimum wage has "no statistically significant" impact on poverty and in some cases causes further disparity by increasing the gap of those that have and those that have not.

Undeniably, in any event, there is more at stake than an over simplification of potential lost jobs for low-skilled workers. As employers are forced to pay higher wages for routine manual or routine cognitive work, irrevocably it gives incentive to cut back on other forms of compensation - such as job training, skills development and health benefits. Employers will increasingly make that investment in automation and technology. As consumers we are

likely to see the "pass along" effect of the increased cost of minimum wage while creating an unintended consequence; a disproportionate impact on the poor that furthers the gap and lessening the purchasing power of any wage increase they may have received.

**"It's good for local economies, because those folks aren't 'banking' the added income. They are out spending it!" said Andrea Horwath, Provincial NDP Leader, at the recent Ontario Chamber of Commerce AGM.**

In my view, that is a short term band-aid. The fact that most minimum wage earners are already struggling to save substantially; first for themselves, secondly for any unexpected emergency financial situations or their children's future is concerning to me. It doesn't address the underlying long term concerns of expecting a reasonable retirement income beyond what CPP, OAS and GIS may provide. The quality or standard of living is not measurably improved with incremental changes to minimum wage, nor does it sufficiently address the level of financial support required for future unexpected financial needs. Many of those earning minimum wage will remain the group largely dependent on a continuing need for social support mechanisms both today and in future.

**"Give a man a fish; he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish; he will eat for a lifetime."**

As I've discussed in previous articles, all of this further amplifies the need to rethink and take action immediately on initiatives that improve education opportunities, skills training and development. As more traditional labour jobs become reliant on technology we run the irreversible risk of leaving behind a core of Chatham-Kent's population that a higher minimum wage is designed to help. However, with a well-designed and executed incentive program to help small and medium sized businesses invest in training and development, current and future employees will be skilled enough to rise above the work of automation and robotics, including routine manual or routine cognitive work.

On April 25th Blackburn News reported the Greater Essex County School Board's plan for a school consolidation in Kingsville. Education Minister, Liz Sandals, announced \$44 Million to help fund a Brand New "State-of-the-Art" Kindergarten – Grade 12 School that will also double as child care facility. The consolidation will incorporate Harrow District H.S., Jack Minor Public School, Kingsville Public and Kingsville District H.S. "You will have a school where there is a critical mass of students, which will allow the Board to provide a broader range of programs for students" explains the Minister. The money comes from a pool of \$750 Million the Province has set aside as the Provincial Government is looking to create more efficiencies and Community Centric Hubs.

You have to wonder what a \$44,000,000 investment into Chatham Kent would provide?

Christopher June  
Chair

## ARE YOU LOOKING FOR OFFICE SPACE?

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

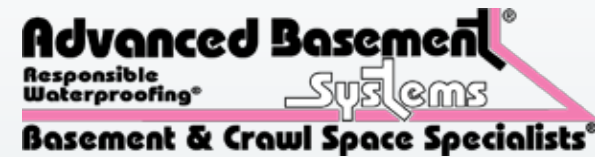
- Private Front & Rear Entry
- Reception Area
- 4 Offices
- Meeting Room
- Street Level
- Kitchen & Staff Area With Additional Washroom
- A Designated Parking Space
- 1,000 sq. ft.
- Adjacent to Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce, in the heart of downtown
- \$1,100<sup>00</sup> +

For more information, contact the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2016

HOST:



The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) and the Ontario Chamber Network is proud to be a part of the ambitious campaign, Small Business: Too Big To Ignore.

This campaign highlights the important contributions of small businesses to our economy and communities, and seeks to actively engage small businesses across the province in investigating the top barriers to small business growth - and identify solutions to overcome those challenges. To kick off this campaign the OCC has released the report, Top 3 Obstacles to Small Business Success.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce looks forward to leading discussions in our community about the underlying challenges that are weighing on small businesses and stifling job creation.

A strong and vibrant small business sector is important for all business. Small businesses are the wealth creators, job creators and risk takers. Small businesses have important relationships with big businesses as part of the economic ecosystem. Big businesses are often highly dependent on small businesses as suppliers, distributors, customers, innovators, and for developing a skilled and experienced workforce to draw from.

**Small businesses also make up the vast majority of our local membership, our volunteers, and are often the people actively involved in community service.**

## Annual CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22ND, 2016  
WILLOW RIDGE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB  
439 CHATHAM STREET SOUTH, 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.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS & SUPPORT THE CHAMBER IN A FUN VENUE?

HERE ARE SOME GREAT WAYS!  
LOOKING FOR HOLE SPONSORS, PLAYER PRIZE DONATIONS, GOODIE BAG GIVEAWAYS &...GOLFERS

**HOLE SPONSOR**  
(COST: \$150)

Your business will be recognized as a sponsor with hole signage, on Team Scorecards, promotion on Chamber Social Media through website, e broadcast, Facebook and Twitter.

**ENHANCED HOLE SPONSORSHIP**  
(COST: \$300 + A GIVEAWAY)

Your business hosts the hole with 1-2 of your representatives, bring a table, giveaway, and tent, if you choose. Your business will be recognized as a sponsor with hole signage, on Team Scorecards, promotion on Chamber Social Media through website, e broadcast, Facebook and Twitter.

**PLAYER PRIZE DONATIONS**  
OPPORTUNITY TO DONATE A PRIZE FOR THE PRIZE TABLE.  
(MINIMUM VALUE: \$25)

Your business will be recognized as a prize donator on the prize table as well as on the Chamber website and Facebook.

**GOODIE BAG GIVEAWAYS**  
(COST: PROVIDE 150 PROMOTIONAL ITEMS)

Your business will be recognized within the goodie bag as a goodie bag sponsor as well as on the Chamber website and Facebook.



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016

HOST:



LOCATION:

780 ST. CLAIR STREET, CHATHAM

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

Networking | Appetizers | Prizes



## BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2016

HOST:



LOCATION:

PARKFIELD RESTAURANT- 1099 PARK AVE. W., CHATHAM

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

Networking | Appetizers | Prizes



## ANNUAL MUNICIPAL UPDATE & ADDRESS WITH MAYOR RANDY HOPE WEDNESDAY, MAY 25TH, 2016



Sponsored by:



Guests from across Chatham-Kent came to hear Mayor Randy Hope's Municipal Update & Address and learn of the achievements, trials and tribulations of the Municipality from the Mayor's perspective. Great things are happening in Chatham-Kent!