

2015 Year in Review...



CHATHAM-KENT
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

Newsletter
January 2016



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Happy New Year! It seems so *wild* to believe how busy we have been, working through another year. The Holiday madness or excitement (depending on your perspective) will soon quickly fade and, I'm sure, I just made the same New Year's resolution that resembles something like last years... and the 5 years before that.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber has been busy. In fact, we have been very busy creating our own New Year's resolutions for 2016. We started with renewed vigor and energy to re-engage our membership; to create more value, to provide clarity and transparency, while working closely with each of you and all levels of government.

Our newly stated Vision Statement:

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce will be the Recognized Voice of Visionary Leadership for our members, business and community stakeholders, meeting the diverse needs thus enhancing the economic prosperity and the quality of life of Chatham-Kent.

You are assured, as members of the CK Chamber, we will work tirelessly to help bring economic growth and sustainability to Chatham-Kent.

Our Mission Statement:

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce champions business excellence by encouraging progressive infrastructures, by fostering entrepreneurship and business linkages, by integrating business and community wellness while actively promoting Chatham-Kent.

This reflects the path we are forging to bring more to our members and our community.

Embedded into our renewed statements contains our Values Declaration Statement that boldly announces the standards to which we expect to be held accountable to. Each Director and Committee has spent time in 2015 re-evaluating each of their roles and functions within the Chamber to ensure we continue to provide more member value, seek more feedback through your engagement and provide more timely and relevant information to help your business succeed in the next decade. As a result we have two newly created committees to help us achieve those goals.

The Government Affairs Committee aims to be the leading advocate and influential voice of our members on topics and policies that will bring more prosperity to our Chatham-Kent. Its secondary goal is to provide greater access of information and provide greater support to our members that will help your business flourish and succeed.

The Diversity Committee is taking on a steep challenge and believes that, working together, to educate, support, innovate and foster a more inclusive workforce that Chatham-Kent can successfully equip itself for a larger global footprint. By embracing our uniquely qualified differences, skills, experiences and thinking we can accelerate our ability to rapidly respond to emerging opportunities. Prosperity can be had by all if we are willing to have a deeper understanding of each unique business challenge, hurdle and obstacle being faced in the decades to come. It also requires us working together as a community to create a more diverse workplace and workforce. Jobs of the future are going to look and sound very different. Are you ready?

As each of us is aware, Canada has responded to the continuing global conflict and is committed to bringing 25,000 refugees to Canada. Our Municipality, in kind, has responded openly "Chatham-Kent is an open and inclusive community." Our Municipality has created an information page for answering questions about our opportunity to help and support the many refugee families that will be in need.

www.chatham-kent.ca/news/pages/refugees-chatham-kentisreadytohelp.aspx

"There are no shortages of Causes in the world today, only a shortage of leaders that inspire others to pursue them."

As leaders of the business community, we have a chance to embrace the opportunity and challenge that is before us. Each of us is capable of doing one small part to bring our community together and unify Chatham-Kent as a Thriving and Welcoming Community. If you would like to know more about your Chambers activities, community involvement, sub-committee work and Board of Directors, I strongly encourage you to visit the Chamber Website www.chatham-kentchamber.ca/.

Find us on Facebook or Twitter and leave us a comment, we would like to hear from you.

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



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Christopher June
Chair



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, DEC. 9TH, 2015

HOST: ST. CLAIR COLLEGE
CAPITOL THEATRE

M.C.'S
COOL 95.1



A **BIG** thank-you to all that donated to Outreach for Hunger!



SPONSORED BY:



128th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH, 2016

LOCATION: CHATHAM-KENT
JOHN D. BRADLEY
CONVENTION CENTRE

TIME: 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast
COST: \$15 (H.S.T. incl.)

For reservations, please contact the Chamber office.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP...



Whether you're a solo entrepreneur, home based business or part of a larger firm, benefits are a very important part of your financial security.

The Chamber Plan lays a solid foundation for that security, based on a benefit program designed specifically for you and your company!

YOUR CHAMBER PLAN REPRESENTATIVES:

Jamie Giffin
The Giffin Group
C/O DPM Insurance
Phone: 519-352-4343

Joe Mares
Mares Insurance Services Inc.
Phone: 519-354-9797
Email: jmares@cogeco.net

Contact for a quote today!

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS...

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HOSTING OR SPONSORING?

2016 dates are filling in!

Consider hosting a Business After Hours, the format is to provide a casual, light atmosphere with the focus on business while providing an opportunity for the guests to visit one on one with the hosts and sponsors of the evening.

The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce will promote your event in the following ways:

- 1) Within the C-K Chamber Newsletter (over 500 businesses and associates)
- 2) E-broadcast Advertisement
- 3) Advertising on the C-K Chamber website
- 4) Advertising on the C-K Chamber Facebook Page & Twitter
- 5) Advertising in 'The Scoop' Newsletter
- 6) TVCOGECO (prior and post event with pictures)
- 7) Local media sources
- 8) Local radio promotion

If you are interested in booking, or further information, please contact the Chamber Office.



THE CHATHAM-KENT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFERS...
PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT PLANS
FOR CHAMBER MEMBERS

Think of the benefits...

- No worries of a membership renewal
- Improve you cash flow, budget your membership payments over 12 months directly through your bank account.
- Reduce administration through credit card option

Contact the Chamber office for more information, or fill out enclosed sign up form.

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17TH, 2016

Looking for a host...

If you are interested, please contact the Chamber office.

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



M.C.'S



BUSINESS AFTER HOURS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

HOST:

Children's
TREATMENT CENTRE
FOUNDATION
OF CHATHAM-KENT

LOCATION:

355 LARK STREET, CHATHAM

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

Networking | Appetizers | Prizes

Are you a **Not-For-Profit organization** and interested in having a sponsor table at this Business After Hours?

Take this opportunity to showcase the work and contributions your organization provides to our Municipality and citizens of Chatham-Kent.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and show support of the Not-for-Profit Organizations (Deadline to register is January 13th, 2016)

COST FOR SPONSOR TABLE:

Chamber Members: Complimentary
Non-Chamber Members: \$50 (HST included)

SPONSORED BY:



M.C.'S



Mark your calendar...



128TH BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Thursday, March 31st, 2016,
Club Lentinas- 250 National Rd., Chatham

An evening of celebration!

Preferred Pricing for Chamber Members...

VISA/MASTERCARD MERCHANT SERVICES
AFFINITY PROGRAM WITH FIRST DATA



Full Suite of Products, Ecommerce, Wired & Wireless Terminals, First Data Mobile Pay, Gift Cards Solutions, TeleCheck Electronic Cheque Acceptance

PREFERRED CHAMBER PRICING

VISA 1.49%
MASTERCARD 1.49%
DISCOVER 1.60%
CARD BRAND 0.15%
NQA 0.21%
INTERAC DEBIT \$0.05/TRANSACTION
ASK US ABOUT AMEX MONTHLY ACCOUNT FEE \$5.00
*ADDITIONAL PROCESSING FEES MAY APPLY

For sign up information, please contact the Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce office.

2015 DECEMBER FEATURE INDUSTRY OF THE MONTH



SCHINKEL'S LEGACY