



# ANNUAL MAYOR'S LUNCHEON

Each year, the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) is honoured to host his Worship Mayor Don Mitchell to speak to the membership at the Annual Mayor's Luncheon.

Hosted in the luxurious Compton Room at the Royal Ashburn Golf Club, this event provides the membership with the opportunity

to get an update on various Town of Whitby topics, while enjoying a three-course plated lunch.

Mayor Mitchell is looking forward to highlighting the ongoing commitment to the 8 Strategic Priorities, the Downtown Whitby Action Plan, details of the budget just recently passed and other key information impacting economic

development in the Town of Whitby.

As this luncheon is quickly approaching, members are encouraged to save a spot by registering today.

Thursday, May 11  
11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Royal Ashburn Golf Club

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

May is just around the corner. With the amount of the showers we've had in April, I'm assuming we'll be seeing a lot of flowers!

The Chamber transformation continues, with some new faces and growing enthusiasm. Welcome to Samantha Wallace our Marketing and Communications Coordinator, and Greg Frankson our Engagement & Outreach Manager. Heather Bulman's promotion was exciting to celebrate and we're close to hiring an Event Management Coordinator. Thank you for your support, warm wishes and increased membership – it is definitely a time of growth and new beginnings!

While on boarding new teammates, Chamber staff are feverishly working on several key events and initiatives, including launching a new website at the end of May, hosting MP Celina Caesar-Chavannes and a federal government procurement specialist at the next Connect Breakfast, and celebrating the

30th Annual Golf Tournament at the beginning of June.

The Board continues their support of our activities and newly elected members have begun attending our monthly meetings. Look for a summary of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Day at Queen's Park in this newsletter, provided by our newly appointed President of the Board and Advocacy Committee Chair, Matthew Mackenzie.

I'm also excited about some new partnerships we're forging with folks like the Abilities Centre, Business Advisory Centre Durham, Durham Sustain Ability and with the Town of Whitby's Age Friendly strategy. Some exciting announcements coming!

Stay tuned,



**Natalie Prychitko,**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

## MEDIA PARTNERS



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ANNUAL MAYOR'S LUNCHEON

Royal Ashburn Golf Club

Thursday, May 11

11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## CONNECT BREAKFAST: CELINA CAESAR-CHAVANNES

TBD

Friday, May 26

8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## 30TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Royal Ashburn Golf Club

Tuesday, June 6

10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## LYNDE CREEK CLEANUP | **NEW THIS YEAR**

Kinsmen Park Pavilion

Friday, June 16

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

## YEP CHAMBER SMASH & BEACH BASH

Canlan Ice Sports

Thursday, June 29

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce's biggest night of the year, the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards gala, will be hosted at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility on November 16.

The opportunity to nominate a friend or colleague for these prestigious awards will be opening soon - stay tuned!

# THANK YOU














# ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

March and April have been busy months on the Advocacy front. March 27 marked the second annual Ontario Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Day at Queen's Park and both Matthew Mackenzie, President of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) Board of Directors and Natalie Prychitko, Chief Executive Officer, WCC, attended to represent the interests of the membership.

"It was an impressive sight to see Chamber's from across Ontario come together to advocate for business and put on a real show of force around the legislature and various ministries," said Mackenzie.

The Minister of Economic Development and Growth attended the opening reception to welcome Chamber representatives and several other Ministers and opposition MPPs

attended throughout the day to answer questions. Premier Kathleen Wynne also attended the closing reception to address the group.

In that afternoon, Mackenzie was part of a delegation to the Ministry of Government and Consumer Services to speak specifically about regulatory reform for business in Ontario. Further to the Policy Resolution passed by the WCC, a big focus of this discussion was on reducing the cumulative regulatory burden on business. A large part of the discussion involved the delegation conveying to these officials where more could be done and some areas where Chambers could support them in providing valuable feedback to tweak their direction in some areas.

In addition, Prychitko attended the breakout session on health

care, where she participated in a conversation regarding innovation in the healthcare industry and how the leaders worldwide are making gains in bridging health equity gaps.

The Advocacy Committee has also requested meetings with the elected officials here in Whitby and Durham Region to meet for a constructive dialogue focused on partnership. The goal of these meetings is to share what the Advocacy Committee's pillars are moving forward based on the feedback and direction from members. These discussions with elected leaders provide further insight to their priorities and an opportunity to identify areas where support can be provided to ensure mutual success.

The Advocacy Committee is comprised of very passionate and dedicated volunteers working hard to move the bar forward based on member feedback.





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On March 21, Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) members gathered by the lake to see what was on the horizon.

Hosted at the Whitby Yacht Club, members enjoyed each other's company while taking a look back at the accomplishments of 2016 and getting a peak at what is in store for 2017.

Continuing tradition, the 2016/17 WCC Board of Directors was released of their actions and the 2017/18 slate was announced, including new directors voted in by the membership. Mayor Mitchell also swore in the Board's executive positions: Matthew Mackenzie, President; Kyle Paterson, Vice-President; Brandon McBride, Secretary and Kevin Bathe, Treasurer. "I couldn't be more honoured

to contribute to the great work of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce in this new capacity," said Mackenzie. "I'm very proud to say that when I graduated university, one of the first job interviews I had was here at the Chamber. Life had other plans for me at that time, but this makes having the privilege to serve as President even more special to me now."

After motions were passed, Natalie Prychitko, Chief Executive Officer, WCC, announced some exciting initiatives in the works such as the revitalization of the Ambassador program and a revamped nomination process for the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards. "It was a great opportunity for me to meet our membership! I hope

guests enjoyed themselves and, most importantly, made lasting connections," said Prychitko.

Members in attendance also got a sneak peak at the new WCC website, currently in development and set to launch at the end of spring. The website will be a modern hub for members and the Whitby business community, featuring a focus on Chamber stories, benefits and events.

Finally, guest speaker Regional Councillor Derrick Gleed addressed the membership, giving them a peak at the many developments on the go in Whitby, including plans for the Fire Hall and the Land Registry Office.



# IN THE TOWN



Spring is finally upon us! However, as the snow clears, it reveals the litter collected throughout the town in the winter months.

Fortunately, the Town of Whitby and many of the businesses within are dedicated to maintaining a clean and garbage-free downtown.

On Earth Day 2017, the Town of Whitby held its fifth annual Downtown Whitby Spring Clean Up event. The event invites community members and businesses to help clean up Downtown Whitby and is run by the Whitby Sustainability Advisory Committee and Downtown Whitby Development Steering Committee.

“With the support of more than 50 volunteers, the Downtown Whitby Spring Clean Up was a great success this year,” said Meaghan Craven, Sustainability Coordinator, Town of Whitby. “The clean-up makes a tremendous impact in our downtown and we hope to build on that momentum next year.”

In addition to the annual event run by the town, many local businesses put in a concentrated effort to keep the streets and creeks neat and tidy.

Whitby Chamber of Commerce’s (WCC) very own Natalie Prychitko also attended 360insights second annual Earth Day event where she joined more than 30 volunteers who got up early on a Saturday morning, donned their work gloves and pitched in to clean up Lynde Creek in Whitby.



## MEMBER 2 MEMBER DISCOUNT PROGRAM

The Member 2 Member (M2M) Discount Program is designed to encourage local shopping and networking by giving members exclusive discounts when doing business with their fellow members.

Every Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) member and their staff have the opportunity to be a part of, or take advantage of, this program.

By offering a M2M discount on products or services, businesses receive exposure to the entire WCC membership. Members

can also cut costs by taking advantage of the growing list of M2M deals.

Interested in promoting products and services through the M2M Discount Program?

### Contact:

Greg Frankson,  
Engagement & Outreach  
Manager  
[greg@whitbychamber.org](mailto:greg@whitbychamber.org)



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## **DURHAM ESCAPE ROOMS**

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## **DURHAM FIRST AID INC.**

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[www.durhamfirstaid.com](http://www.durhamfirstaid.com)

Durham First Aid Inc. is a training partner of the Canadian Red Cross offering First Aid and CPR/AED training to the public and to private companies. They also offer youth programs including the Babysitter Course, Stay Safe! and People Savers.

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Founded by Allison Morris-Rosnak, good word communications is a communications/public relations (PR) agency known for its PR knowledge, media relations expertise and excellent writing abilities.

## **METRICS VOCATIONAL SERVICES**

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DURHAM REGION

**JOIN THE WALK  
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Sunday May 7, 2017  
Registration: 10am  
Walk Starts: 11:30am  
Location: Oshawa Civic Field 1 - Terry Kelly Field  
Address: 99 Thornton Road South, Oshawa

It's easy to register and start fundraising.  
Visit [walkforalzheimers.ca](http://walkforalzheimers.ca)

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## FEATURED NEW MEMBER

### PLANK + BARN

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) is happy to welcome Plank + Barn to it's ever-evolving membership and to the downtown Whitby core.

Owners Ashley and Jeffrey recently celebrated the grand opening of their new storefront on April 8. Inside Plank + Barn customers will find modern, rustic and industrial furniture and décor for sale. The storefront also doubles as a showroom for JMF Custom Wood Features, also owned by Ashley and Jeffrey, which offers custom barn wood builds and installations.

In 2011 their obsession with barn wood began when they started building projects in their own home. Six years later they are able to share their passion and provide custom work to their hometown of Durham Region.

## FEATURED RENEWING MEMBER

### BLYTH ACADEMY - WHITBY

Blyth Academy is Canada's leading private school by enrollment. With 11 schools across Canada and one in Washington, as well as a campus opening in Florence, Italy in September, Whitby is honoured to have a location in the heart of the downtown centre.

In addition to providing outstanding secondary school programs, Blyth Academy also offers programs and facilities for students in grades 6 to 8. Focusing on individuated teaching and an experiential approach, the faculty guide students in comprehensive full-time, part-time and semi-private programs and summer school classes. Furthermore, Blyth Academy Online, allows high school students across the province to experience the Blyth Academy difference.

Blyth Academy – Whitby became a member in 2012 and the Whitby Chamber of Commerce is happy to work with Kim Hacker who is the Head of the School, bringing years of educating experience to Blyth Academy and the Town of Whitby.

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# UOIT CANADA 150 AWARDS

For Canada's 150th birthday, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) has launched the Canada 150 Student Awards. Their goal is to provide financial awards of \$500 to 150 students.

All students enrolled in the 2017-18 academic year are eligible to apply.

Please be part of Canada's 150th birthday by supporting UOIT students. The university will ensure your organization is recognized and a charitable receipt will be issued.

**To donate, or for more information contact:**

[www.uoit.ca/Canada150](http://www.uoit.ca/Canada150)  
905-721-8668 ext. 5652

**The Whitby Chamber of Commerce is proud to provide financial support to students through UOIT's Canada 150 Award!**

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# YEP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Established in 2013, the Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals (YEP) Committee was established by a group of volunteers from the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) membership with the goal of designing specific programs and services for members under the age of 40.

Since its inception, the YEP committee has evolved, planning a unique series of events throughout the year, including the Curling Funspiel and the Crazy Cozy Ugly Christmas Sweater Social. These events welcome members of all ages to network in a fun atmosphere while flexing their competitive and team building muscles.

In addition to executing fun-filled events, the YEP committee is committed to helping young entrepreneurs and professionals flourish in Durham Region.

Through the WCC's relationship with Spark Centre, the YEP committee is proud to host the Ignite Pitch Competition Reception in the fall, bringing WCC members to the Centennial Building to mix and mingle over hors d'oeuvres before the competition. Members are then welcome to watch the region's budding entrepreneurial minds pitch their businesses to the panel of judges.

Over the past year, the YEP committee has put great effort

into the development of a mentorship program for the WCC membership, which will help support a strong local economy that fosters business development, retains talent and accelerates growth. The mentorship program is just steps away from launching its pilot phase, where a handful of mentees will be matched with mentors.

Stay tuned for more information on the mentorship program and other YEP committee initiatives.

Interested in participating in the mentorship program?

**Contact:**

Heather Bulman,  
Marketing & Communications  
Manager  
[heather@whitbychamber.org](mailto:heather@whitbychamber.org)

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER NEIL JOSHI

Neil Joshi has been working in financial services for more than 18 years and recently got the opportunity to work closer to home as a Commercial Account Manager at RBC – Durham Financial Services. Working closer to home has given him more time to spend with his two children and wife Erin who also works at RBC in Durham.

Before starting in the financial industry Neil worked in the restaurant business, including a Sri Lankan restaurant in Toronto, serving Masala Dosa's to university students and tourists. Neil volunteers with Denise House Women's Shelter and sits on a Women's Employee Resource Group within RBC, which aims to foster an environment that supports women in building successful and rewarding careers.

An active member of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) since 2015, Neil sits on the Advocacy Committee as well as the Golf Tournament Planning Committee, where he is currently helping the Chamber team prepare celebrations for the 30th anniversary of this historical signature event.

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