



ABILITIES CENTRE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PRESENTS:



BREAKFAST CONFERENCE

LEARNING LOCALLY

Education in Durham Region

@ABILITIES CENTRE | AUGUST 16, 2017

7:30AM - 9:00AM



Once again, the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) and the Abilities Centre have teamed up to bring a morning of education to the community.

In 2017, the two organizations decided to collaborate on a series of four breakfast conferences. The last conference was a great success, bringing more than 80

guests to listen to Ontario's first Patient Ombudsman, Christine Elliott.

The third part of the series is the Learning Locally Breakfast Conference which will focus on options for education in Durham Region.

Join fellow members to listen to

a panel of representatives from Durham College, Trent University Durham and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology.

[This event will take place on Wednesday, August 16 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the state-of-the-art Abilities Centre. Register today!](#)



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WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I've decided that when the Whitby Chamber of Commerce throws an event outside, it rains. I'm sure everyone is feeling like that this month – but I suspect I'm complaining about it most. You've all been very flexible and understanding: playing golf in rain, rescheduling beach volleyball and moving indoors for our Milestones at Milestones event.

Many of you have mentioned how busy you've been this summer, and we certainly haven't slowed down. With our Board and Committees continuing to meet all summer, and events ongoing. Highlights include:

- Monday, July 31 is the deadline for Business Achievement Award nominations! Hope you all considered businesses and individuals in our community who should be recognized.
- Milestones at Milestones was terrific fun, and for a first-time event, very successful – thank you all who attended and congratulations to our milestone members.
- We also kicked off our new and improved Luncheon Learn series in partnership with the Business Advisory Centre Durham.

- Our new website has launched, and thank you to members for your feedback to date, our inaugural advertisers and those that have started to update their member profiles.
- Advocacy efforts continue this summer, with our Fair Workplaces Legislation Summit with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce on July 18th, amongst other pieces of work we'll tell you more about soon

I hope you had the opportunity to visit Whitby Rib Fest! Lots of community events in Whitby this summer, and this one was tasty and fun. Our team worked the entrance way on opening day, and I'm happy to sing my 'ribfest collect money' song for anyone who asks! Congratulations to the Rotary for another stellar event in our community and to our membership who was there engaging participants at their individual booths.

I continue to have the opportunity to meet our membership at different events; and every time I do, I feel absolutely blessed.

Natalie Prychitko,
Chief Executive Officer
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS

YEP CHAMBER SMASH & BEACH BASH | RAIN DATE

Canlan Ice Sports
Thursday, August 3
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LUNCHEON LEARN SERIES - DIGITAL PRESENCE

Whitby Chamber of Commerce
Tuesday, August 1
12 to 1 p.m.

CONNECT AFTER HOURS - COOKING AND CONNECTING

Durham College, W. Galen Weston Centre for Food
Wednesday, August 9
5 to 8:30 p.m.

LEARNING LOCALLY BREAKFAST CONFERENCE

Abilities Centre
Wednesday, August 16
7:30 to 9 a.m.

DURHAM REGION BUSINESS SUMMIT | EARLY BIRD TICKETS

Ajax Convention Centre
Wednesday, October 18
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PETER PERRY & BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility
Thursday, November 16
6 p.m.

MEDIA PARTNERS



THANK YOU



FAIR WORKPLACES BETTER JOBS ACT 2017 SUMMIT



Concerned professionals and local community members gathered on July 18 at the Durham College W. Galen Weston Centre for Food to participate in the Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act 2017 Summit.

The event was organized by the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) and featured special guest Karl Baldauf, Vice-President, Policy & Government Relations at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC). He noted that interest level across the province is very high in the proposed legislation and that he would be visiting 25 additional communities after making stops in Pickering, Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington that day.

Baldauf gave an overview of the proposed changes, provided information about advocacy steps the OCC is undertaking on behalf of Ontario businesses and spoke about how to help employers make the transition to life under the Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act, should Bill 148 be passed in its current form. "Many businesses are telling us that the minimum wage is the least of their concerns," said Baldauf.

In addition, four local business owners shared their views on the potential impacts of the bill as part of the event's panel,

including John Vickery, Vickery Electric Contracting Ltd.; Kevin Casey, QJS Specialty Cleaning Inc.; Diana Moore, Eggsmart Whitby Shores and Howard Humphrey, Manufacturing & Technology Centre.

Concerns raised in the question and answer segment included the potential negative effects the legislation could have on seasonal businesses, possible reductions in youth employment opportunities, loss of apprenticeship spaces, mental and physical health implications for employers and employees, taxation concerns for municipalities, and many more.

The WCC will continue to advocate strongly on your behalf so that your voice is heard on Bill 148, which will have far-reaching ramifications on how business is conducted in Ontario.

Visit the [Keep Ontario Working Coalition website](#) to have your voice included in the OCC's upcoming research report, slated for release in September.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CT INSURANCE BROKERS INC.

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CT Insurance Brokers is a professional insurance brokerage dedicated to group benefits and personal insurance plans. They offer group benefits for employees to small businesses through their access to over 20 benefit providers.

COMMUNITY PLUS DURHAM

(289) 278-3310
www.communityplusdurham.ca
Community Plus Durham was created to assist in the development and growth of businesses throughout the Durham Region. Their overall goal is to give back to the community as well as keep business local.

DOWNTOWN BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT AREA

whitbybia@gmail.com
The Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area is a group of dedicated entrepreneurs, volunteers and professionals committed to the improvement of our Downtown.

RAPIDFIRE PROMOTIONS

(905) 626-4966
www.rapidfirepromotions.com
RapidFire Promotions is a brand agency located in Whitby. They provide everything from graphic design, website design, stylized photography, video production, copywriting and much more.

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NOVEMBER 17, 2017
DEER CREEK GOLF & BANQUET FACILITY



Nominations are now open and close July 31, 2017.

Please visit whitbychamber.org

FEATURED RENEWING MEMBER PERRY HOUSE CHILD CARE SERVICES

905-668-9476

Perry House Child Care Services has been offering quality childcare in the Whitby community since 1976 and is a non-profit organization that has multiple centres located very near to the downtown core on Perry Street. They believe that each child is special, with individual likes, needs and skills. Their caring, professional teachers will provide the children with age appropriate learning opportunities for exploration and discovery in their daily environment. The staff will enhance each child's self-esteem and their physical, social and cognitive development.

An active member since 1992, Perry House Child Care Services is celebrating 25 years as a chamber member in 2017.

IN THE TOWN

The Façade Improvement Grant Program provides Downtown Brooklin and Downtown Whitby business owners an opportunity to partner with the Town of Whitby to acquire grants of up to \$5,000 to match private investments that improve commercial property façades. Projects include signage, painting and landscaping improvements, as well as the development of new storefronts. The Façade Grant Improvement Program continued to experience growth in 2016, with over \$65,000 in grants approved for 19 projects resulting in approximately \$190,000 in investments in Downtown Whitby and Downtown Brooklin.

On July 19, representatives from the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) joined members of Council, the Downtown Business Improvement Area and other members of the community to recognize the 2016 Façade Grant Improvement Program recipients and their important contribution to improving Downtown Whitby.

Among the businesses recognized were many WCC members, including Copetti & Co., Lashes By Design, Plank + Barn, and Rawlicious.

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



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M2M DEAL OF THE MONTH: 1 STOP CONTRACTING

1 Stop Contracting is offering the Whitby Chamber of Commerce membership 10 per cent off of all services or Contractor pricing on all materials.

P: 905-999-6878
E: mike@1stopcontracting.ca
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ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Advocacy Committee continues to meet over summer months as they work with Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) staff to reshape their objectives and structure. Many activities have been taking place this month including:

- Participating in an Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) conference call with the Minister of Energy, Minister Glenn Thibeault.
- Supporting the development of the Ideas Summit collision event focusing on issues and opportunities to continue tech growth and development in

the Durham Region.

- Working with the OCC to plan the Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act 2017 Summit so that members can add their concerns and learn more about the impact of this legislation and the speed in which it is attempting to be realized.

The committee's focus in the coming months will be to leverage the insight from the Fair Workplaces Better Jobs Act 2017 Summit and move various advocacy files forward so that we're running full speed this fall.



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Through the efforts of this committee, the voice of the WCC membership is being heard.

THE WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS MOVING!

As you know, the offices of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) are moving. The Town of Whitby will be redeveloping the 128 Brock Street South location, which fits perfectly into the downtown strategy. Having said that it means that the team is looking for a new location.

The WCC has engaged a realtor, but would be happy to discuss partnering, co-location opportunities, and other considerations the membership has in terms of supporting the Chamber in finding a long-term home in the downtown area.

Please contact [Natalie Prychitko](#) if you would like to discuss opportunities!

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FEATURED NEW MEMBER REPTILIA ZOO AND EDUCATION FACILITY

905-553-4022

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) is happy to welcome Reptilia Zoo and Education Facility to its ever-evolving membership.

Reptilia will be opening a state of the art zoo and education facility in early 2018. You'll be able to visit this new facility at the previously occupied Rona building located at Victoria and Thickson. Complete with large exhibits showcasing hundreds of different reptiles and amphibians. Watch their cast at work in the lab, their food preparation area and the venomous workshop. Each day, there are a variety of opportunities to interact with their animals and learn from their cast members during their shows, tours and animal feedings!

Reptilia Zoo and Education Facility will be a welcomed member of the community offering a refreshing and exciting facility to the Town of Whitby. Keep an eye out for their grand opening!

FEATURED VOLUNTEER KAREY LARGE

With a passion for baking and creating fantastic cakes in both taste and design, Karey Large has been recognized for her talents globally. The owner of Kake Kreations Custom Cakes, Cafe & Catering was the first-ever Canadian to appear on Food Network's Cake Wars and Slice's Cake Walk.

In 2016, Karey won Business of the Year at the Whitby Chamber of Commerce's (WCC) Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards. She has been involved with the WCC since 2015 and has been a very active member since day one. She currently sits on the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards Planning Committee, Membership Committee, where she chairs the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee, and has most recently joined the planning committee for Connect Women 2018.

In addition to her involvement with the WCC, Karey is the Vice-Chair of the Downtown Whitby Business Improvement Area and the Secretary Treasurer of the Oscar Racing Club. Her business is also heavily involved with numerous charities and takes on co-op students from both the high school and college level to assist in furthering their education and passion. Karey finds enjoyment in golfing and plays every Thursday as a member of the Business Women's Golf League. In the minimal amount of spare time that she has, she enjoys spending time with her children at home.

ONTARIO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WORKING TOWARD MENTAL HEALTH: A TOOLKIT FOR EMPLOYERS



On July 11, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) released Working Toward Mental Health: A toolkit for employers.

Mental health conditions in the workplace are being diagnosed

with greater frequency. Disability claims for mental illness is the fastest growing claim type in Canada. The cost of mental illnesses to the Canadian economy is estimated at over \$50 billion annually, with \$20 billion of that stemming directly from workplace losses. On average, mental health issues cost businesses almost \$1,500 per employee, per year.

Nevertheless, instead of being recognized and managed, these problems are too often misjudged or disregarded. For

most employers, it is easier to cope with an employee's physical injury than a mental one.

The OCC's toolkit identifies the mental health action gap between what businesses believe and how they are taking action on mental health.

In addition, it outlines the case for mental wellness in the workplace and identifies strategies that any size of business can employ. The report and a list of resources can be found on the [OCC website](#).

YEP COMMITTEE UPDATE



While the pilot phase of the Mentorship Program is underway, the Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals (YEP) Committee is working to identify areas of improvement for the official launch later in the year.

Each year, the YEP Committee hosts a reception for the Spark Centre's IGNITE Pitch Competition hosted in the fall at the Centennial Building. This year, the committee intends to use this opportunity to put a focus on the value of mentorship in growing a thriving business.

Due to the abundance of rain this summer, the first-ever YEP Chamber Smash & Beach Bash was rescheduled. However, with rain comes rainbows – registration is still open! If you couldn't make it on the original date, join us at Canlan Ice Sports

on Thursday, August 3. Register by yourself or in a team of four.

Even though it's still summertime, the committee is already dreaming up ways to revamp their annual Crazy, Cozy, Ugly Christmas Sweater Social in December. Last year guests ended up with cookies on their foreheads – what's next!?

Want to stay in the loop on everything the YEP Committee is up to? They've got your back! Join the [Whitby Chamber Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals Facebook Group](#).

CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

THREE NATIONAL CHAMBERS CREATE ALLIANCE TO BUILD A NEW NAFTA



The national chambers of commerce of the U.S., Canada, and Mexico are launching the North American Economic Alliance, a platform for the three private sector organizations to speak with one voice to the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican governments about the most effective way to enhance the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Thomas J. Donohue, President and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Juan Pablo Castañón, Chairman, Consejo Coordinador Empresarial of Mexico and Perrin Beatty, President and Chief Executive Officer, Canadian Chamber of Commerce stood together to announce the Alliance, surrounded business and political leaders from all three countries.

In a joint statement, the leaders expressed the basic principles that need to guide NAFTA

discussions, if they are to lead to increased competitiveness and a stronger capacity to create jobs in North America:

1. Any effort to update NAFTA must not undermine the strong foundation that already exists. Put simply, we must "do no harm." We should not disrupt the \$1.3 trillion in annual trade that crosses our borders.

2. An updated deal must remain trilateral. For more than two decades, companies have relied on the existing trilateral NAFTA framework as a baseline for our cooperation. Creating divergent rules would undermine our competitiveness by raising costs for businesses and disrupting existing trade flows—as well as the jobs that depend on them.

3. Leaders must understand that modernization should mean updating NAFTA while retaining the current benefits.

4. We must act swiftly. Business thrives when the future is clear and apparent risks can be addressed, so lingering uncertainty about the future of North American trade will only suppress economic growth in all three countries.

5. It is vital that all three governments keep consulting with the private sector during the negotiation process. With input and involvement from the business communities in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, the process will be more predictable, and it will be easier to build broad support across North America.

The benefits of North American integration are vast, but we must identify ways in which the public and private sectors can support those that may have been negatively affected by changing economic and technological developments. With this in mind, it is our commitment to more effectively engage workers, farmers, companies and local chambers across the country and region into this dialogue.

"NAFTA has become the cornerstone of our three countries economic partnership. We are grateful to be able to count on the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Consejo Coordinador Empresarial as we continue our efforts to modernize the agreement", said Beatty. "It'll also be essential to work at making a new NAFTA more inclusive, so that everyone can see, and feel, the benefits."

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