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Napanee & District Business News

2011 March/April

Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce Newsletter
Serving Napanee & Area Since 1995



**AT WORK FOR
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THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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**ONTARIO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

FEBRUARY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

It was the Chamber's turn to host Business After Hours in February. Pictured below from left to right are Victor and Mary Ann Smith of PPL Legal Services, Jennifer Richardson of



[POWERDRIVE](#) and Chamber Membership & Ad Sales Rep Wayne Offer. The Chamber reviewed some of its services and activities to those in attendance. Pictured below from left to right are Bernice Kennedy of [The O'Connor House](#), Doris Lucas, owner April's Image Clothing and Lisa Bird, [BIA Coordinator](#).



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chamber's AGM was held on March 22, 2011 at the Napanee Business Centre. President Dan Atkinson provided a report on the organization's 2010 activities. Secretary/



Treasurer Peter Veltheer provided the Treasurer's Report. Brad Way provided a summary on the Chambers Group Insurance program while Kathy Medd provided a report on Chamber and Tourism activities. Vice-President Brad Way (pictured above at left) of Marlin Financial thanked President Dan for his service with a gift. Nominations for the 2011 Board were received and approved.

The 2011 Board of Directors includes:

President	Dan Atkinson, Welch LLP
Vice-President	Brad Way, Marlin Financial
Secretary/Treasurer	Peter Veltheer
Director	Janet Flynn
Director	Jack Green

Welcome to our two new board members:

Shaune Lucas	Carpet Warehouse
Stafford Murphy	Napanee Area Community Health Centre



CHAMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board of Directors

President - Dan Atkinson
 Welch & Co. • 613.354.2169
Vice-President - Brad Way
 Marlin Financial • 613.354.9678
Secretary/Treasurer - Peter Veltheer
 Mainstay Foods • 613.354.4769

Directors

Janet Flynn
 RBC-Napanee • 613.354.2107
 Jack Green
 RE/Max • 613.354.5435
 Shaune Lucas
 The Carpet Warehouse • 613.354.2107
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Membership Sales/Office
 Wayne Offer • Kathy Medd

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 Brian Patterson • Brad Way

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MARCH BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

[Mineral Pro](#), owned by Troy (pictured below in middle) and Michelle Dickerson, hosted the March Business After Hours at Mainstay Foods-Buy the Grape, owned by Peter Veltheer.



The Chamber's business networking socials are a great way to meet other business people in a casual environment. It's also nice to meet business owners in their shops where you can learn more about the services and products they offer.



Suzy Shetler, pictured above at right, highlights some of the services and products available at Mainstay Foods-Buy the Grape. Congratulations to Shaune Lucas on winning the monthly wine draw and sincere thanks to Mainstay Foods for their donation to the wine draw.



OCC MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS TO WSIB REVIEW

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce made recommendations to the WSIB Funding Review reflecting the views of businesses from across the province. OCC argued the government monopoly on workplace safety insurance is not the only – or even the best – model for Ontario. The OCC believes employers should have a range of options for achieving workplace safety, and that flexibility and choice are the hallmarks of a successful system.

The OCC calls on the government to ensure that all areas for improvement are considered through initiating a comprehensive review of the causes of, and solutions to, the Board's financial crisis.

OCC President & CEO, Len Crispino, presented the OCC's submission to the WSIB Funding Review panel. The OCC will continue to gather input from its members in order to present to the [WSIB](#) and Ontario government with credible solutions informed by the priorities of the business community.

OCC INPUT AT RED TAPE REDUCTION COMMISSION

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce outlined its members' top priorities for reducing red tape in a [formal submission](#) to the federal government's [Red Tape Reduction Commission](#).

The OCC's recommendations stem from a 2010 [report, Red Tape Holding You Back?](#) developed in consultation with OCC members. Taken together, they represent an ambitious reform agenda that has the potential to move Canada into a global leadership position. In particular, the OCC highlights the need for:

- Improved analysis of the economic impact of new regulations
- Innovative models for private sector engagement
- Formal recognition of industry-led programs and standards as substitutes for regulation
- Fewer obligations for lower-risk and/or lower-impact activities
- Greater inter-departmental and inter-governmental collaboration in designing and enforcing regulations

The Commission's work has been suspended due to the federal election. The OCC will not be taking a break from advocacy efforts, and will continue to press both levels of government for the changes that are in the best interests of Ontario's economy.

The federal government unveiled the Red Tape Reduction Commission in January, 2011. The Commission's stated mandate is to identify the top irritants facing business and devise permanent solutions to reduce the compliance burden over the long-run.

PROVINCIAL HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTIONS

In 2011 the Ministry of Labour continues to hold inspection blitzes on sector-specific hazards. The schedule of 2011-12 blitzes can be obtained on the [Ministry of Labour website](#).

Every year businesses are fined due to health and safety violations. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) encourages all of its members to take advantage of new Ministry [tools](#) which can help businesses review and update their health and safety practices regularly to ensure compliance with government standards.

Inspection blitzes are carried out every year as part of the Ministry of Labour's [Safe at Work Ontario](#) initiative. Safe at Work Ontario exists to improve the health and safety culture of workplaces, reduce workplace injuries and illness, avoid costs and create a level playing field for employers.

NEW LAND USE PLANNING GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES

The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing has introduced a new guide: [A Land Use Planning Guide for Businesses](#) which offers a solution to the red tape issues involved in the land use planning process. Land use planning and development may include, for example, rezoning to open a retail business in an industrial area. Far too often business plans are held up during developments such as these. This Guide is designed to help reduce the amount of these instances and make the process easier.

The Guide is a resource for businesses of all sizes and types in Ontario that may need a land use planning and development approval. It provides general information about the land use planning and development process, and can help businesses determine if they require professional assistance with approvals or can proceed independently. A copy of the brochure can be downloaded at <http://Ontario.ca/MunicipalLearning>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APR 14
NAPANEE BUSINESS CENTRE
BUSINESS AFTER HOURS
APR 27
THE ROYAL COACHMAN

CORRECTION

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 THE LENNOX COMMUNITY THEATRE IS**
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Administrative Assistant Day/Employee Appreciation

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Administrative Assistant Week **April 25 – 29**

Administrative Assistant Day

Wednesday, April 27

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Other Appreciation Dates to Remember

Volunteer Week: Apr. 18-24

Nurses Day - Friday, May 6

Mother's Day - Sunday, May 8

Father's Day - Sunday, June 19

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