

The President Reports:

## SIMPLY AMAZING

Hiring summer students provides all sorts of benefits for employers

This week marks the beginning of the most exciting time of year for every student: summer holidays!

Another school year comes to an end.

As a kid, I remember counting down the days till summer break with such excitement.

Summers for me while growing up were packed full of sports, socials, sun, and sand. It was a time to explore and vary from the regular routine.

Although there were lots of fun moments, summers for me also entailed numerous summer jobs. These summer jobs were foundational for me in discerning my career path, learning good work habits, and teamwork skills.



JASON SMALL  
President, FCC

Summer employment is a great opportunity for students to try different jobs to get a sense of what fits for them. These summer jobs teach valuable lessons that will serve them in the workforce in future years.

Summer students can also be a huge benefit for employers.

Sure, there are times when it is challenging and you feel like you're babysitting or constantly training people; but if you embrace the challenges, you will reap great benefits.

Today's youth bring energy, new ideas and technological savvy to the workplace. Hiring summer students is a great way to screen and recruit future long-term employees.

Summer students also allow gaps to be filled by helping to accommodate full-time staff holidays. Summer students provide temporary employment for special projects that can push your business forward.

Every summer I have hired several students and they have contributed greatly to our success and growth.

One of the unique aspects of my role in this community of Flamborough that I love is that I get to work weekly with business owners as well as with students. We have some of the most talented, sharpest young minds in the nation, right here in Waterdown.

This summer try something new: hire some summer students and pour into them.

You may just be shaping the next world-changers!



Photo courtesy of Wilf Arndt

Continuing a tradition, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) hosted a debate in anticipation of the June 12 provincial election. FCC Executive Director Arend Kersten (standing, left) was moderator of the debate. Some 225-250 people attended the debate at Waterdown District High School (WDHS) to hear candidates (from right) Donna Skelly (PC), Ted McMeekin (Liberal) and Alex Johnstone (NDP) explain their respective party platforms.

## WHAT THE LIBERALS PROMISED

### Ontario Liberal Party wins majority government What's their plan for Ontario businesses?

On June 12, the Ontario Liberals led by Premier Kathleen Wynne won a majority in the provincial election. Recently, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) asked Ms. Wynne's party to respond to the OCC's top five *Business Priorities* for the 2014 election. Here is what the Ontario Liberal Party says it will do to create a business climate that fosters investment and growth.

#### BUSINESS PRIORITY 1 – TACKLE THE DEBT AND DEFICIT

*What specific steps will you take to eliminate the deficit and pay down the debt, while protecting core services that Ontarians value?*

The Ontario Liberal Party is committed to balance the budget by 2017-18 in a fair and responsible way, and agrees with the OCC that across-the board cuts would hurt Ontarians and restrict our ability to balance the budget.

We have a strong record of fiscal management and achievement. We have maintained the lowest program spending per capita of any province. We have implement-

ed around 80 percent of the Drummond recommendations, while rejecting those that would diminish public services. We've kept spending growth overall at around 2.2 percent over the last three years; less than the growth of the economy and inflation.

The Liberal Plan does not include increases in income taxes on low-to-middle income earners, and does not raise general corporate taxes. Instead, we will:

- Bring in a modest increase on income taxes for those who can afford it—the highest earning 2 percent of the population
- Continue to restrain costs through an expenditure review process that will find savings of \$250 million for 2014-15 and \$500 million for each of 2015-16 and 2016-17
- Continue to manage compensation costs

Finally, we agree that the federal government must close the \$11 billion gap between what Ontarians pay in federal taxes and what we receive from federal spending and transfers. If Ontario was treated fairly, our deficit would virtually be eliminated.

Continued on Page 3



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Airport Transportation	Airways Transit, 35 Highway #5 W. ....905-689-4460
Attractions	African Lion Safari, RR 1 Cambridge .....519-623-2620
Auctioneers	Jim McCartney Auction Services, Box 476, Waterdown ..905-689-8778
Auto-Repair	Bill's Auto, Unit 5, 383 Concession 6 East .....905-689-7131 Dick's Transmission Service, 28 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-4882 Jay's Auto Service, 19 Flamboro St. ....905-689-5428 Waterdown Collision, 24 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-8262 CT&G Automotive Specialists, 941 Centre Rd. ....905-690-6660
Auto-Tires	Grisdale Enterprises Inc., 400 Brock Rd. Dundas .....905-627-0224

## B

Banks	Bank of Montreal, 95 Dundas St. E. ....905-690-8970 CIBC, 9 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-6685 RBC, 304 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-6459 Scotiabank, 76 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-6817 TD Canada Trust, 255 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-8772
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## C

Cable/Internet/Telephone	Cogeco Cable, 950 Syscon Rd., Burlington .....905-333-5522
Casinos	OLG Slots at Flamboro Downs, 967 Hwy. #5 W. ....905-628-4275
Carwash	Red Hill Car Wash, 200 Pritchard Rd, Hamilton .....289-244-0033
Caulking	Beverly Caulking, 971 Conc. 5 W. ....905-659-3367
Charities	United Way, 177 Rebecca St. Hamilton .....905-527-4543
Chiropractors	Parkside Chiropractic, 115 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-2777
Churches	Community Church, 271 Con. 6 E. P.O. Box 290 .....905-689-3979
Commercial Leasing	Flamborough Power Centre, 2500 Appleby Line, BU .....905-335-5204
Community	Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment ....905-659-5417 Judi Partridge, Ward 15 Councillor, 71 Main St. W. ....905-546-2713 Waterdown BIA, Box 198, Waterdown L0R 2H0 .....905-690-3744
Concrete-Precast	Coreslab Structure, 205 Coreslab Dr. ....905-689-3993 Wilkinson Heavy Precast Ltd., 588 Hwy. #5 W. ....905-628-5611
Construction	Kev-Art Contracting, Rockton .....519-647-2267 Shelterclad Construction, 1190 Westover Rd, Millgrove 905-659-3340 Van Hoeve Homes, 1044 Garden Lane, Millgrove .....905-689-6733
Construction - Residential	J. Elsebroek Construction, 556 Conc. 10 E .....905-659-1018
Consultants-Business	City/Hamilton, Econ. Dev., 1 James St., S., Hamilton ....905-546-4222 City/Hamilton Technology Centre, 7 Innovation Dr .....905-689-2400 Maria Demkowich Consulting, 109 Wimberly Ave.> ....905-515-8778 Soilleirich Communications Group, 14 Shetland Dr. ....905-536-6123 Birmingham Consulting Inc, 153-1235 Fairview .....905-921-2015 Stan Gray Consulting, 845 Upper James St., Hamilton ..905-528-9937
Consultant-Bus. Marketing	
Consultant IT	
Consultant-Personal Injury	

## D

Dance Instruction	Dancemakerz, 12 Innovation Dr. ....905-690-4777 Rising Star Performing Arts, 937 Centre Rd. ....905-689-3222
Dentists	The Firehall Dentist, 4 Barton St. ....905-689-9111
Dog Trainers	McCann Professional Dog Trainers, 929 Brock Rd. ....905-659-1888

## E

Economic Development	Economic Developers Ass. of Canada, 7 Innovation Dr. 905-689-8771
Electrical	Enek Electrical, Box 132, Millgrove .....905-971-6267
Employment Services	YMCA Employment Services, 1-427 Dundas St. E. ....905-690-9927
Engravers	Sherwood Engraving, 32 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-4973
Equestrian	Vector Equestrian, 995 Concession 8 W. ....905-699-0420

## F

Fairs & Exhibitions	Rockton Agricultural Society, Box 38, Rockton .....519-647-2502
Farm - Commodities	J. D. Smith Farms, 951 Safari Rd. ....905-659-7936
Farm Equipment	Galer Farm Equipment, Hwy. #5 W. ....905-628-0551
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Flood Damage	Al-Care Restoration Services, Box 1260 .....905-689-5298
Florist	Ridgeway Floral Design Inc., 291 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-8288
Freight Forwarder	Bridges International Freight, Box 1394 .....905-331-3774
Funeral Homes	Kitching Steepe Ludwig, 146 Mill St. N. ....905-689-4852

## G

Garden Centre	Terra, 8 Conc. 5 E. ....905-689-1999
Gifts	Dutch Mill Country Market, 533 Millgrove Side Rd. ....905-689-7253
Glass & Mirror	Grainger Glass, 25 Franklin St. ....905-689-6653
Golf Courses	Carlisle Golf & Country Club, 523 Carlisle Rd. ....905-689-8820 Copetown Woods Golf Club, 1430 Conc. 2 W. ....905-627-4653 Flamborough Hills Golf Club, 71 Hwy # 52, Copetown .. 905-627-1743 Pineland Greens Golf Course, 722 Safari Rd. Millgrove 905-659-1271 Greenville Gourmet, 161 Hwy # 8, Dundas .....905-627-7775 Rockton Berry Farm Country Market, 621 Hwy. 8 .....905-627-9720
Gourmet Shops	Harster Greenhouses, 250 Hwy #8, Greensville .....905-628-2430
Greenhouses	

## H

Hardware-Retail	Canadian Tire Associate, 11 Clappison Ave. ....905-690-3961 Weeks Home Hardware, 71 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-6618
Health, Fitness & Education	HEAL4Life, 33 Mill St., .....416-550-0497
Health & Wellness	Anytime Fitness, 1-115 Hamilton St. N. ....905-690-2400 Herbal Magic, 11-419 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-7546
Heating & Air Conditioning	Excel Heating & A/C Systems, Box 1170, Waterdown ....905-689-3446 Flamborough Air Systems, Waterdown .....905-689-0610
Home & Garden	Grasshopper Imports, 1134 Hwy. #6 N .....905-689-4079
Home Improvement	Custom Home Improvements, 304 Progreston Rd. ....905-689-1750 Gardstone Home Improvement, Box 905, Waterdown ..905-689-8616 Hickory Dickory Decks, 115 Dundas St. W. ....905-689-4774 Riverin Wood Products, 321 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-8494
Home	HealthKare Wellness Clinic, 323 Dundas St. E. ....905-601-5777
Homeopath	Home Theatre Excellence, 257 Freelon Rd. ....905-690-1162
Home Theatre	

## I

Ice Cream	Dairy Queen, 233 Dundas St. E. ....905-689-8514
Income Tax	Waterdown Income Tax, 245 Dundas St. E., .....905-689-7823
Industrial Maintenance	Complete Industrial Maintenance., 3820 Beverly Rd. ....519-740-7878
Industrial Millwright	Flamboro Main. & Mechanical, 730 Middletown Rd. ....905-628-6243
Industrial Minerals	Opta Minerals, 407 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-6661
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Arend Kersten

Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

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# WYNNE LIBERALS PROMISE \$29 BILLION FOR TRANSIT

Continued from Page 1

## BUSINESS PRIORITY 2 – CREATE A BETTER BUSINESS CLIMATE

*What will you do to create a more favourable climate for businesses and investment in the province?*

Our province is one of the most competitive jurisdictions in the world for new investment: in 2013 we led North America in attracting FDI. Corporate tax rates in Ontario are the fourth-lowest in Canada and almost 15 percentage points lower than any of our Great Lakes competitors. We will create a dynamic and innovative business climate by taking the following key actions:



Photo courtesy of Wilf Arndt

With FCC President Jason Small (right) holding the microphone, Glen Langton of the Libertarian Party addressed the crowd at the recent Election Debate at WDHS.

**Energy:** Working with the OPA, an Ontario Liberal government would expand and renew the Industrial Electricity Incentive. We will also continue to help businesses save by conserving electricity through our Industrial Conservation Initiative. We'll expand eligibility to more consumers (3MW and up). Our aim is to continue the 15 to 20 percent energy savings that businesses are currently achieving through this program.

**Red tape:** This March the Ontario Liberal government introduced The Better Business Climate Act which, if passed, would have helped to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens. This new legislation and renewal of the associated "Open for Business" initiative will save business over \$100 million and countless hours by 2016-17.

**Taxes:** The Ontario Liberal government has created a highly competitive tax system, especially for small business. We've reduced the general corporate income tax to 11.5 percent (down from 14 percent) and small business rate to 4.5 percent (down from 5 percent), with corporate income tax cuts delivering \$2.3 billion of tax relief per year.

Further tax cuts before the budget is balanced, as proposed by the PCs, would recklessly endanger Ontario's plans to balance the budget by 2017-18.

## BUSINESS PRIORITY 3 – INVEST IN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

*What specific steps will you take to address Ontario's infrastructure deficit? How will you pay for them?*

A re-elected Liberal government would commit up to

\$1 billion toward industrial infrastructure development in the Ring of Fire, with or without the federal government. Investing in this infrastructure is vital to the Ring of Fire development. Given the national significance of this project, the federal government should be supporting this, just like it does with nationally significant development projects in British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador.

A Kathleen Wynne Government will implement a 10-year infrastructure plan that invests more than \$130 billion, including \$29 billion for transit and transportation infrastructure projects across the province.

We will create two dedicated funds for transit and transportation: one for the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area, with up to \$15 billion available for investment in transit; and one for the rest of the province with nearly \$14 billion available for investment in roads, bridges, transit and other critical infrastructure.

This investment will introduce train service every 15 minutes on all GO lines. It will mean less congestion on the roads.

The plan includes a balanced and responsible approach to paying for these investments. The funds will be from dedicated sources of revenue:

- Dedicated gas tax, and HST on gas tax: \$14.54 billion or 50.3 percent
- New revenues: \$1.49 billion or 5.2 percent
- Asset optimization: \$3.15 billion or 10.9 percent
- Federal Building Canada Plan: \$2.55 billion or 8.8 percent

The funds will be allocated to specific projects between the GTHA and the rest of Ontario fairly, based on population.

## BUSINESS PRIORITY 4 – BUILD A 21ST CENTURY WORKFORCE

*What are your specific plans to address skills shortages in the province?*

The Ontario Liberal Party recognizes that the apprenticeship system is a key part of building the well-educated and highly-skilled workforce the province needs to compete in the current and future economy, and has a strong record supporting the growth of that sector in the last 10 years.

Since 2003, the number of apprentices has doubled to over 120,000 in 2013. New apprenticeships have also nearly doubled in the same period. In 2013-2014 alone, we have invested over \$165 million in Ontario's apprenticeship system, including programs that support apprentices and employers, capital investments for upgrades in state-of-the-art equipment, and loans to apprentices to buy tools and equipment that they need to kick-start their careers.

These investments will ensure Ontario has the skilled workers it needs to succeed in our economy. Moreover, our investment in better labour market information means that students and their educators will know what jobs to train for.

Ontario Liberals are the only ones with a plan to invest adequately in infrastructure: our \$130 billion, ten year building plan will mean thousands of good paying jobs for Ontario's skilled workers, who will be among the 110,000 Ontarians directly employed by this plan.



Photo courtesy of Wilf Arndt

Shortly after she was elected the leader of the Liberal Party of Ontario, Premier Kathleen Wynne was the guest of honour at the FCC Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA) awards gala held in February, 2013 at the Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club. MPP Ted McMeekin (above) introduced Premier Wynne to Bruce Barbour of Flamboro Downs. In the background in the father-and-daughter team of Nicole and Mike Martin (formerly of Skyway Life Insurance).

## BUSINESS PRIORITY 5 – ADDRESS THE PENSION PROBLEM

*How will you ensure that Ontarians are equipped with the resources they need to support themselves during retirement, without placing too great a burden on Ontario businesses?*

The Ontario Liberal Party is committed to a strong and secure retirement income system to help ensure that Ontarians are better able to enjoy their retirement years. There are economic ramifications for not acting to avert the retirement savings crisis. Retired people make up a large percentage of the economy. If their spending power goes down, the economy will suffer. And if people don't have adequate pensions, social assistance costs will soar.

We have a strong retirement income system in Canada, starting with the Canada Pension Plan (CPP). However, the CPP is not enough – the basic structure of its benefits has not changed since 1966. The maximum benefit is only \$12,500 per year, and the average benefit is just \$6,800 per year.

Privately available options do not work well enough to make up the difference; in 2012, there was approximately \$280 billion of unused Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) room in Ontario. Workers and employers must work together to help fund better retirement savings options. However, the federal government has rejected a nationwide consensus of Premiers, led by Kathleen Wynne in Ontario, and is refusing to enhance the CPP.

We choose to lead. In the absence of federal leadership, as part of our 10-year plan, a Kathleen Wynne government will create the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP), the first of its kind in Canada. The ORPP will provide a predictable stream of income in retirement, funded by investment returns and premiums from employers and employees, and will operate at a low cost.

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*Domenic DiFelice*  
Waterdown Collision  
*Hank Gelderman*  
Jan Gelderman Landscaping  
*Sandy Gray*  
Weeks Home Hardware  
*Bill Grisdale*  
Grisdale Enterprises  
*Jay Hughes*  
Jay's Auto Service  
*Karen Hunt*  
Rockton Dinner Theatre  
*Charles & Margaret Juravinski*  
flamboro downs  
*Wilf, Tom & Tim Langford*  
Langford Pharmacy  
*Archie McCoy*  
McCoy Foundry  
*Jim and Margaret Robertson*  
Pause Awhile Tea Room  
*Frank Spiridoulis*  
Lord Byron Steak &  
Seafood House

*Ron Steepe*  
Kitching Steepe & Ludwig  
Funeral Home  
*Ernie Weeks*  
Weeks Home Hardware

### BUSINESS GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2006 - *Hickory Dickory Decks*  
2006 - *DanceMakerz*  
2007 - *CHOICES*  
2007 - *Magnolia House Spa*  
2008 - *Dufferin Aggregates*  
2008 - *Aventix*  
2009 - *Langford Pharmacy*  
2009 - *Waterdown  
Optometric Clinic*  
2010 - *The Lock Hut*  
2010 - *Millgrove Gardens*  
2011 - *Greenville Gourmet*  
2011 - *McCann Professional  
Dog Trainers*  
2012 - *Opta Minerals*  
2103 - *Dancemakerz*

### TOWN OF FLAMBOROUGH AWARD

2006 - *Sylvia Wray*  
Flamborough Archives  
2007 - *flamboro downs*  
2008 - *Cpl. Chris Klodt*  
2009 - *Gail Bosma*  
Flamborough Food Bank  
2010 - *Ryan Ellis*  
*Mark Visentin*  
Canadian Junior Hockey Team  
2011 - *OH Canada Ribfest*  
Rotary Club of Flamborough AM  
Rotary Club of Waterdown  
2012 - *Wilf Arndt*  
Waterdown BIA  
2013 - *Wild on Waterdown*  
Community Church

### SANDRA GRAY/ WEEKS HOME HARDWARE AWARD

*Community Service  
by an Individual Award*  
2006 - *Deb Tigchelaar*  
Drummond House  
2007 - *Tom Jacques*  
Hickory Dickory Decks  
2008 - *Heather Johnston  
and Ted Lindsay*  
Flamborough Review



## SEEN AT THE OBA GALA

Brothers Chris (left) and Shawn Brenn – along with their wives Charmaine (left) and Lisa – are pictured at the 2014 *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* awards gala held in February at the African Lion Safari. The OBA gala – organized and hosted by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) – has evolved into the ‘social event of the year’ in Flamborough and honours and celebrates the very best in corporate excellence and community service. Shawn is a member of the FCC Board of Directors. Chris and Shawn are 4th generation family farmers. Agriculture represents over \$1 billion in economic activity in Hamilton each year – much of it in Flamborough.

2009 - *Peter Barnes*  
Waterdown Youth Centre  
2010 - *Marti Van Hoeve*  
Van Hoeve Homes  
2011 - *Dante DiFelice*  
Waterdown Collision  
2011 - *Norm Read*  
Beckett Lowden Read  
2012 - *Roger Wilson*  
2013 - *Glen Smith*  
*Merit Insurance*

COMMUNITY SERVICE  
BY A COMPANY AWARD  
2006 - *Flamboro Speedway*  
2007 - *Jay's Auto*  
2008 - *Terra Greenhouses*  
2010 - *Waterdown Dairy Queen*  
2011 - *Lafarge Canada*  
2012 - *Boston Pizza*  
2013 - *Staples*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
GREEN AWARD  
2008 - *Waterdown Collision*  
2009 - *Nathan Helder*  
Gelderman Landscaping  
2010 - *Sensible Life Products*  
2012 - *Rothsay*

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

2009 - *Haley Luckanuck*  
Spoiled Rotten Pet Services  
2011 - *Nicole Martin*  
Talent Search Summer Camp  
2012 - *Sarah Powell*  
Sarah Grace Photography

### FCC SERVICE AWARD

2006 - *Arend Kersten*  
Flamborough  
Chamber of Commerce  
2007 - *Lafarge (Dundas)*  
2008 - *COGECO*  
2009 - *Robert Pasuta*  
Councillor - Ward 14  
2010 - *Fred Eisenberger*  
Mayor - City of Hamilton  
2011 - *Dutch Mill Country Market*  
2012 - *Janet Barnard*  
J. Barnard Bookkeeping  
2013 - *Penny Gardiner*  
Hamilton Technology Centre

CIVIC RECOGNITION AWARD  
2011 - *Flamborough Women's Resource  
Centre*  
2011 - *Soroptimists International*  
*Dundas-Ancaster-Flamborough*

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# CAUTION URGED ON CREATING HAMILTON LOBBY REGISTRY

Council is currently considering whether to create a 'Lobby Registry' in Hamilton. At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) endorsed a letter sent to Council by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (HCC). What follows are excerpts:

The HCC strongly supports open and transparent government as being good for business. However, after consulting with member-based organizations in Ottawa and Toronto – two jurisdictions that have recently implemented lobbyist registries – we are not certain that adequate consideration is being given to the unintended consequences that this proposal might very well generate. As a result of our consultations, and after full review of the proposed by-law, we are concerned that it could significantly affect commerce and economic development in Hamilton.

Regardless of its positive intent or how well the additional municipal bureaucracy is implemented, this by-law:

- Does nothing to abate municipal regulatory burdens, when their diminution is considered to be a key component to facilitating business growth in the city;

- Will likely restrain the ability of the Chamber, a not-for-profit entity, to represent the interests of its members on an individual or collective basis;

- Could restrain the ability of the Chamber, as a pillar civic institution, to advocate for key city-building initiatives;

- Could limit the role of the Chamber in aiding the City of Hamilton in its attraction of new business into the community;

- Could expose sensitive preliminary negotiations and competitive interests of external businesses looking to relocate to Hamilton;

- Could expose the sensitive preliminary negotiations and competitive interests of Hamilton businesses looking to expand or stay in the city;

- Is likely to create a chilling effect on investment in this city; and

- Will certainly change how public office holders communicate with constituents and organizations that represent a broad range of perspectives.

Though the proposal ostensibly protects the economic interests of the City of Hamilton, this interpretation, along with the countless other judgment calls that will emanate from this vague by-law, depends on the reasonability of the Lobbyist Registrar. Unclear and ambiguous regulations that are vulnerable to arbitrary interpretation and enforcement undermine our community's quest to create a fostering business climate.

The feedback we have gathered from businesses and member-based organizations in Ottawa and Toronto indicates that there have been significant growing pains and continued ambiguity with their lobbyist registries. In particular, the City of Toronto registry was described by member-based organizations as complex and cumbersome to comply with, and likely thought to defeat

its purpose by driving a significant amount of lobbying activity underground. Also under-resourced, it is suspected that the insufficient capacity to enforce the by-law encourages even more secretive activity.

It was surmised by those we engaged that Toronto's lobbyist registry discourages legitimate and healthy business interactions with key decision makers as it becomes too uncertain for firms to engage (or being seen to engage) with City Hall.

As the voice of business in Hamilton, and at this critical juncture in the renewal of our city, that is a disconcerting forewarning.

The HCC values any opportunity to work with the city to reduce unconstructive regulatory burdens while improving the clarity of necessary regulations. Most important, we must give careful consideration to how we best implement transparency measures in this community.

Learning from Toronto and Ottawa – and all other such jurisdictions – would be a good place to start.

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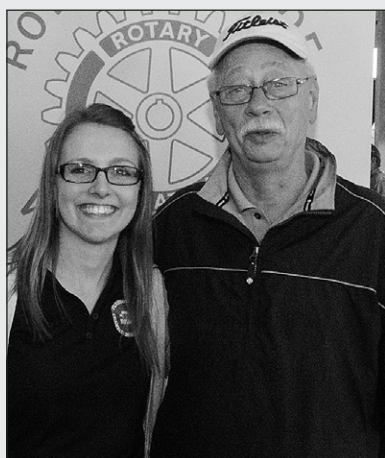
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Photos courtesy of Wilf Arndt

**FLAMBOROUGH OPEN - MAY 28, 2014**

The annual *Flamborough Open* - co-hosted by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) and the Rotary Club of Waterdown - represents the very best in a community partnership. The 2014 tournament was held at the Carlisle Golf and Country Club in May. ABOVE, LEFT: FCC Office Administrator Courtenay Gardiner congratulates Harry Kaprowski who won over \$500 in the 50/50 draw. ABOVE, RIGHT: Elizabeth Ferraiuolo (right) of Sherwood Engraving congratulates Beth Schilthuis, a member of the Serve Media team who won the ladies 'Longest Drive' contest sponsored by Brant Arts Dispensary (Tim Langford). BELOW: The team representing Kitching Steepe Ludwig Funeral Home included (from left) Rick Ludwig, Tyler Van Middelkoop, Ken Post and Albert Kasper.



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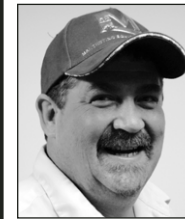


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# SPENCER HELPS AUTISM GALA RAISE \$10,000

*Due to a technical glitch, not all of the following article was published in the May edition of the Bottom Line. It is reprinted here in its entirety. We apologize for any confusion.*

Spencer Langdon was born in 2007, the youngest of three healthy happy children. When he was about 18 months old, his mother Jessica noticed that something just wasn't right.

Jessica is the granddaughter of Maria and the late Michael Demkowich, the former owners of the JDJ Trailers. Michael Demkowich is a recipient of the *Lifetime Achievement Award*, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce's (FCC) highest award.

Unwilling to simply dismiss Spencer's behavior as being a symptom of being the "baby of the family" (as so many people suggested), Jessica started asking questions and researching to see what was going on in Spencer's world. He didn't communicate, he didn't initiate physical or eye contact, he walked late, was a very picky eater and generally seemed to be off in his own world.

And oh yes, he screamed.

Constantly.

Jessica particularly remembers one day. She picked him from daycare and needed to get milk. So she went to the grocery store. The minute she left the daycare parking lot, Spencer began to scream ... and screamed throughout the grocery store ... and all the way home until they turned onto their street. Then it just stopped. Silence. Smile. Unexplainable.

Jessica now knows it was because she turned left instead of right out of the parking lot and Spencer just didn't have the words to tell her how that simple change in routine terrified him.

Spencer was diagnosed in 2011 after a 2-year battle for answers. Jessica is forever grateful that she is blessed to have family who could help financially to self-fund a diagnosis through a private clinic. That allowed immediate speech, behavioural and occupational therapy.

And that's what saved Spencer.

Spencer will always have autism, but he and his family now have the tools to make each day manageable and enjoyable. Simple things like fidget toys in schools, noise cancelling headphones and self-regulatory calm down strategies.

But not everyone is blessed with the financial resources that will facilitate access to early diagnosis. That's why Jessica and her family and friends created the annual Burlington Autism Gala – to raise money, to make their voices louder and stronger in the campaign for early diagnosis and intense intervention. It makes a difference –

Spencer is proof of that.

The 2014 gala – emceed by well-known television personality Connie Smith – raised over \$10,000.

But for many who attended the gala, the highlight of the evening was when Jessica emotionally presented some very personal reflections on what it is like to be the mother of an autistic child. Her comments need to be shared with the community.



Spencer Langdon (right) was the 'star' at the annual Burlington Autism Gala organized by his mother Jessica (back row, centre). Joining Spencer for a picture was his sister Mikayla, great grandmother Maria Demkowich (left - formerly of JDJ Trailers) and television personality Connie Smith who was the emcee at the gala.

## JESSICA'S SPEECH

I have sat down so many times over the past six months times over the past 6 months trying to find the right words to share with you tonight. You've heard our story. You've heard the facts. But I really want to make sure you understand what Autism is, what it means for me and my family and all the families affected by it.

April is Autism Awareness month, so instead of a story or speech, I saw a blog on Facebook with some of these thoughts and I thought I'd share them and my own with you to show you what Autism has made me aware of.

Autism has made me aware that sleeping through the night can mean only waking up three times.

It has made me aware that you can operate on a level of exhaustion you never thought possible.

It's made me aware that there is no such

thing as an autism expert. To assume that someone is an expert would be to assume that there's only one true way of experiencing autism. And that's just not true.

Autism has made me aware that the special needs kids I used to ride the bus with when I was in grade school and junior high deserve an apology from me. I'm so sorry that I ignored you all those years, that I never bothered to get to know you.

Autism has made me aware that the

answer those questions that dictate what kind of adults they become.

Autism has made me aware that while siblings often make the best advocates, they also have their own needs, and deserve those needs to be met with as much passion and dedication as is reserved for their special needs brothers and sisters.

Autism has made me aware that moments can be frozen in time, like in the movies, that can be replayed over and over and over again. Sometimes the moments are amazing and sometimes they are your moments of weakness when – even though you know it's not your child's fault – you still lose your cool.

Autism has made me aware that paper is not required to make a work of art. Walls, pianos, glass tables – they are all acceptable.

Autism has made me aware that there is no shortage of ignorant people.

Autism has made me aware the day I stop believing I can do something about those ignorant people, is the day I fail my son. And that's just not an option.

Autism has made me aware that I have a determination inside of me that can feel physical at times. I am determined to see a day where a diagnosis of autism is not devastating but just step one in an intervention program that begins immediately.

I am going to finish by saying that I am more blessed than you could ever imagine. Spencer tells me he loves me. He hugs me. He goes to school.

Autism is a spectrum disorder and I am so very aware that there are kids who can't and may never do those things – the simple little things that I have vowed to never take for granted.

I started this gala for Spence, realizing that he is the door that opened my eyes to this disorder called Autism (and how it is stealing our kids from us). He's the light at the end of the tunnel and proof of what early diagnosis and early intense intervention can do to a child on the spectrum. His laugh gives us all the hope to fight harder, yell louder and demand more for the one in 68 kids with autism.

Autism is a mystery. We don't know what causes it or how to fix it. So every dollar you spend tonight is so that we can one day Unmask the Mystery of Autism. For Spence. For Bryce. For Amelia. For Alec. For all of the kids, their brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles. For everyone affected by autism.

So, on behalf of myself, my kids, Parker, Mikayla and Spencer, and all of the people involved with creating this magical night, please enjoy yourselves, give generously and take pride knowing that you are helping us Unmask the Mystery!

same stretchy, glowing, piece of crap fidget toy can cost 99 cents – or 99 dollars – depending where you buy it from. Don't let fancy prefixes such as "adaptive" or "autism-friendly" fool you. A glow stick is a glow stick, no matter what someone claims it can do for your child. I'll tell you what it can do. It can glow. The end.

Autism has made me aware behavior IS language. Crying, biting, scratching, head-banging, self-mutilation. These are expressions of thoughts and feelings that need to be addressed.

Autism has made me aware the world is even more dangerous than I ever thought possible, and that sometimes, the very worst things can happen in the places you thought were most safe.

Autism has made me aware kids aren't born prejudiced. That's something they're taught. Kids are born curious and it's okay for them to ask questions. It's how we

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