

BOTTOM LINE

Ontario Chamber of Commerce

KEEP HYDRO COSTS DOWN

In the most widely consulted report in the organization's history, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) has called on the Government of Ontario to take immediate action and address the business community's rising electricity costs. The report, *Empowering Ontario: Constraining Costs and Staying Competitive in the Electricity Market*, makes five recommendations that government and energy agencies should take to curb costs and keep business in the province.

The report is accompanied by public opinion research from Leger, which cautions that soaring electricity prices have reached a crisis point for Ontario businesses and consumers. *The research finds that 81 percent of Ontarians are concerned that rising electricity prices will impact the health of the Ontario economy and the same percentage fear that rising electricity prices will impact their disposable income.* These numbers rise to over 90 percent in northern Ontario.

"The price of electricity in Ontario is set to rise over the next two decades, adding to the cost of doing business in the province," said OCC President & CEO Allan O'Dette, "If real and meaningful action is not taken to mitigate these increases, businesses will leave the province, jobs will be lost, and our economy will suffer."

Among the report's recommendations is to keep the Debt Retirement Charge on residential bills until it has been retired, spreading the burden of past government decisions across ratepayers. The OCC also recommends that government improve the transparency of electricity pricing and system cost drivers. By publishing average electricity rates and disclosing the costs of important investments, government will be held accountable for future decision-making. The lack of transparency in the system has led to reduced customer engagement and confidence in the electricity market. Currently, less than half of Ontarians understand the drivers that contribute to rising electricity bills.

"The OCC network of 60,000 businesses consistently hears that the price of electricity is undermining their members' capacity to grow, hire new workers, and attract investment," said O'Dette. "The Government of Ontario has before them a number of decisions that must be made in order to bend the trajectory of soaring electricity costs. A first step will be to increase the transparency of decision-making in the system so that there is clear accountability and confidence in the electricity market." The report also examines options that government should not take, such as importing hydroelectric power from Québec to replace nuclear generation and cancelling feed-in tariff (FIT) contracts. The entire report can be found at www.occ.ca.



CONGRATULATIONS CHRIS KLODT

Chris Klodt of Westover represented the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) during the 2015 Toronto Pan Am Torch Relay. Invited to nominate a community champion for the torch relay by the Ontario Lottery Corporation (OLG) - a 2015 Pan Am partner - the FCC selected Chris, a recipient of the prestigious *Town of Flamborough Award* at the annual *Outstanding Business Achievement* (OBA) awards gala. Chris was gravely wounded while serving with the Canadian military in Afghanistan and is now confined to a wheelchair. ABOVE, LEFT: Chris with his wife Deena and sons Jonathan (left) and Cameron after completing his allocated 'run.' BELOW: Cheering Chris on were parents Bob (left) and Joy Klodt as well as grandfather Roger Coutu. More pictures on Page 8.



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Arend Kersten

Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

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PASUTA'S PASSIONATE SPEECH NIXES COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR SOLAR FARM

Ward 14 Councillor Robert Pasuta is a man of a few words. He hardly ever speaks at meetings of Hamilton Council and its many committees. But when this Mountsberg farmer does speak, his colleagues sit up and listen. And they surely listened to him when he addressed the Samsung solar farm proposal at a meeting of Council. At issue was whether Council should provide a letter of support for the massive Samsung 'solar farm' proposal on the south-west quadrant of Centre Road and Mountsberg Road.

The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) had suggested to the Planning and Development Committee earlier in the week that consideration of the Samsung proposal be tabled to the Council meeting three days later so as to gauge community input at a public information session scheduled for later the same day the committee met. Ward 15 Councillor Judi Partridge was successful in getting her colleagues to agree to postponing consideration of the proposal until the Council meeting.

At the Council meeting, Councillor Partridge confirmed with staff that ultimate approval for the project lies with the province. The province could also ignore Council's current moratorium on windmill farms. After presenting amendments that would see continued involvement by both herself and the City, Councillor Partridge was prepared to provide support for the proposal.

At the Planning and Development Committee meeting, FCC Executive Director Arend Kersten argued that while the 'Voice of Business' in Flamborough enthusiastically supports 'green' or 'alternative' energy ("To speak against 'green' energy' is a little like speaking against motherhood," Kersten told the committee), the *official FCC position on projects such as Samsung is that they should not include windmills and should not be constructed on any class of*

cil would require the 'wisdom of Solomon' in making a difficult choice between green energy on the one hand and protecting productive agricultural land on the other.

Then Councillor Pasuta went to work.

In a long, deeply personal speech that was saturated with passion and emotion, Councillor Pasuta – without raising his voice – claimed that some Mountsberg area

The attention will now turn to Ancaster-Flamborough-Dundas-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin – the powerful Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the Premier Kathleen Wynne Cabinet at Queen's Park.

farmers had been approached by an individual to gauge interest in leasing their farms for both solar AND windmill energy projects

As the 'Voice of Agriculture' on Council, Pasuta said he had personally farmed the proposed site and added that while it may not be Class 1, 2 or 3 agricultural land, it is nevertheless productive agricultural land and a farmer 'could make a living off it.'

He finished his comments by pleading with his Council colleagues to not support the Samsung proposal.

One by one, Pasuta's Council colleague spoke up to support his position. And when it came time to vote, only Mayor Fred Eisenberger and Ward 3 Councillor Matthew Green (City Centre – East) supported Councillor Partridge's motion. However Councillors Partridge and Green did

receive unanimous support for a motion directing staff to develop a comprehensive city-wide policy regarding all future green energy proposals.

But Councillor Pasuta's eloquence and Council's final decision may be moot.

Through its Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), the province will make the final decision about alternative energy projects in Ontario.

IESO can override local objections and moratoriums and impose a decision that will see both solar and windmill projects go ahead in Mountsberg and elsewhere. That's why the attention

will now turn to Ancaster-Flamborough-Dundas-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin – the powerful Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in the Premier Kathleen Wynne Cabinet at Queen's Park.

IESO will consider projects based on a 'point system.' Proposals that have local municipal support receive more 'points' than those who don't. That why Council's decision was so important.

Stay tuned!!



Ward 14 (West Flamborough) Councillor Robert Pasuta (centre) with Council colleagues Terry Whitehead (left - West Mountain) and Jason Farr (Downtown Hamilton).

productive agricultural land. By regulation, solar farms are not permitted on Class 1, 2 or 3 agricultural lands.

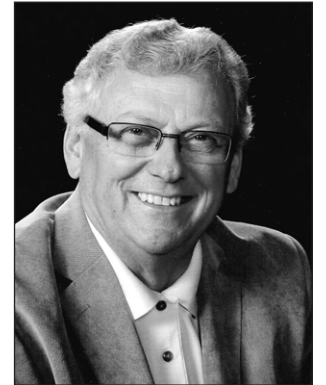
The proposed site in Mountsberg is not in any of the prohibited classes. But Kersten had visited the site and told the Planning and Development Committee that the farm was indeed in agricultural production. In fact, the elderly owner of the land confirmed to the committee that the farm had been in agricultural production for over a century.

In his presentation, Kersten acknowledged that Coun-

FCC to Council:

LEARN THE LESSONS FROM THE 'SPIDER'

Earlier this month - BEFORE a scheduled public meeting later the same day - Hamilton's Planning and Development Committee was asked to provide support for the huge Samsung 'solar farm' proposal for Mountsberg. In a presentation, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) Executive Director Arend Kersten urged the committee to postpone ('table') making a final decision until it had the benefit of public input. In making his arguments, Kersten invoked memories of the massive 'Spider' racetrack proposal. Then the editor of the *Flamborough Review*, Kersten 'broke' the story of the proposal to build an Indianapolis-type racetrack at Clappison's Corners that would host a variety of events including Formula 1 and NASCAR racing. After his presentation, Ward 15 Councillor (East Flamborough) Councillor Judi Partridge (who chairs the committee) agreed and was able to convince her colleagues to delay making a final decision. What follows are excerpts from Kersten's presentation:



Arend Kersten, FCC Executive Director

We are concerned about the process. We understand that the province - and not the proponent and/or the Planning Department - has set a deadline of September for submissions of application. As Hamilton's Planning Committee, you are being asked today - July 7, 2015 - for your endorsement. **BUT** the first public information session is not scheduled until tonight.

With the greatest of respect, we suggest to you that this process is backwards.

The FCC is a passionate champion of public process and engagement as well as political transparency and accountability. Some gray-haired Flamborough old-timers like me remember the Spider. And we remember the lessons from that fiasco. Let me quickly remind you of what happened.

A car racing enthusiast from Burlington had a dream. But his dream turned into a nightmare for many Flamborough residents. And especially the former Flamborough municipal Council.

The proponent had a dream to build to build an Indianapolis-type race track on the north-west quadrant of Highways #5 and # 6 at Clappison's Corners that would include hosting Formula 1 and NASCAR events. As is his right, the proponent personally met privately with every member of Flamborough Council seeking local political support for the project.

At a subsequent special meeting, Flamborough Council - in less than one hour - provided unanimous 'in principle' support for the race track project.

As the then-editor of the *Flamborough Review*, I attended almost every meeting of Flamborough Council

Continued on Page 8



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Canadian Chamber of Commerce

ECONOMIC STORMS THREATEN CANADA

BY HENDRIK BRAKEL

Chief Economist, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

Dark storms are gathering over the global economy. Greece is once again at the precipice, insolvent and in need of another \$85 billion to stave off collapse and recapitalize its shattered banks. At the same time, China's stock market is in a 1929-style meltdown. Either one of these events would be a big shock to the global economy, but to have both at the same time is an economic earthquake.

Poor Stephen Harper. He would dearly love to be talking about how Canada had the strongest growth in the G-7, which it did up until 2012, and to tout his government's sound management. But the economy isn't cooperating and, worse, it's being hammered by international forces that are beyond our control.

Let's start with Greece, a country that is insolvent with 26% unemployment, collapsing banks and a debt-to-GDP ratio of 180%. This is now its third bailout as it already received some \$240 billion in support. The problem is the bailouts came with tough conditions: brutal spending cuts and tax increases that pushed the Greek economy from a recession into a downward spiral. The country's GDP has contracted by 27% since the start of the crisis, more than the U.S. during the Great Depression.

That's why many believe Greece would be better off if it exited the euro. The government could print drachmas, the former Greek currency, to spend on public works. This currency would plummet in value making Greece competitive in exports and a dream for tourists. But the country would default on its debts and the financial system would collapse.

The point is either Europe spends limitless sums backing insolvent banks and a bankrupt government in exchange for half-hearted austerity that probably won't work. Or Greece exits the euro. Both scenarios are bad news for European growth prospects.

The other economic superpower is China, where shares have plummeted more than 30% since June. A staggering \$340 billion has been lent out by brokers for stock purchases, and the downturn is forcing shareholders to sell in order to cover losses. Share prices would be down even further except the government halted trading in 1,300 companies and directed state-owned financial institutions to buy shares. This is likely to have ripple effects, hurting confidence and further slowing China's economy.

What does it all mean for Canada? The outlook for commodities depends very much on global demand. Collectively, the European Union is the world's largest economy. The world's largest consumer of commodities is China. Both are showing signs of weakness, which is why commodities are in retreat and oil prices have dropped back to \$52 a barrel.

Canada's GDP has fallen four months in a row and its exports will decline again in the second quarter. On September 1, Statistics Canada will release the latest quarterly GDP number, which is likely to be negative, meaning Canada will officially be in a recession.

For the federal political parties, this is earth-shaking because it makes the status quo much less acceptable. More importantly, leaders will have to explain what they will do about Canada's weak economy. Stimulus spending is helpful but short-lived. A much better option would be to make the Canadian economy more competitive so that business can win more sales and create more jobs. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) has a plan to turn Canada into an export and innovation powerhouse. It's available on the CCC website.

GREENSVILLE GOURMET HONOURS MILITARY HEROES AT ANNUAL BBQ



With a little help from their friends and family, Donna and Allan Warring continued an annual tradition recently by hosting a charity BBQ at their Greenville Gourmet location. The proceeds went to the Canadian Heroes Foundation which is 'devoted to ensuring soldiers, sailors and aircrews, police officers, firefighters, paramedics and correctional officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice at home and abroad shall never be forgotten and to assist those who are still suffering.' The cause is particularly close to Donna as her dad - Major Don Caldwell - served in the Royal Canadian Air Force before retiring after 44 years of service. Major Caldwell was one of Canada's 'top guns' serving with the 104 Squadron. ABOVE: Donna presents a cheque to Brent Schriener (Sergeant - Medical Technician with the Royal Canadian Medical Services) of the Canadian Heroes Foundation. BELOW: Allan Warring (left) was joined by his mother Lucie and Donna (right) who was helped by her dad Don Caldwell (who is the grandfather of Chad Caldwell, who is married to former Flamborough Chamber of Commerce Office Administrator Courtenay Gardiner) at the annual barbecue.



DRUMMOND HOUSE CELEBRATES 10th BIRTHDAY

The brainchild of Debra Tigchelaar, Drummond House celebrated its 10th anniversary at a gala at the Warplane Heritage Museum on Hamilton Mountain last month. Located in Flamborough, Drummond House is 'a transitional home for women and children during times of crisis.' LEFT: Debra (left) is pictured at the gala with Pamela Shaw, Co-Chair of the Eagle's Nest Board of Directors.

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AND THE SURVEY SAYS:

IT'S GOOD FOR BUSINESS TO JOIN THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Advocates of chambers of commerce have long believed that when a company is active in its local chamber, it is doing the right thing not only for the community but for its own success as well. While there is plenty of evidence to show the impact of chambers of commerce on their communities, it is much harder to find data that quantify the impact of belonging to a chamber.

A recent study, commissioned by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, is designed to do just that: determine the real value to companies in terms of consumer outcomes of joining and being active in their local chamber of commerce. Do consumers really support businesses because they are chamber members?

Data for the study come from a scientific web-based survey of 2,000 adults nationwide. What makes the study unlike most, however, is that almost every question on it

is part of one of several imbedded experiments.

This means that respondents were randomly assigned to different groups at several points during the survey. Each group reads something slightly different – like a

When consumers know that a small business is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 44% more likely to think favorably of it and 63% more likely to purchase goods or services from the company in the future.

description of a company that changes only a little for each group – but then everyone is asked the same questions thereafter, regardless of which company description they just read. Therefore, when there are statistically significant differences in how different

groups answered the same questions, we know exactly why it happened.

This approach yields powerful results because it bypasses the subjectivity of most opinion polls. A sampling of some of these results proves this to be the case.

• Most consumers (59%) think that being active in the local chamber of commerce is an effective business strategy overall. It is 29% more effective, however, for communicating to consumers that a company uses good business practices and 26%

more effective for communicating that a business is reputable.

• If a company shows that it is highly involved in its local chamber (e.g., sits on the chamber board), consumers are 12% more likely to think that its products stack up better against its competition.

• When a consumer thinks that a company's products stack up better against the competition because the company is highly involved in its local chamber of commerce, it is because he or she infers that the company is trustworthy, involved in the community, and is an industry leader.

• When consumers know that a restaurant franchise is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 40% more likely to eat at the franchise in the next few months.

• When consumers know that an insurance company is a member of the chamber of commerce, they are 43% more likely to consider buying insurance from it.

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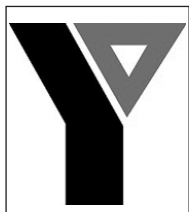
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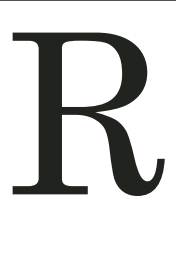


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2015 FLAMBOROUGH OPEN A HUGE SUCCESS

Co-hosted by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) and the Rotary Club of Waterdown (RCW), the *Flamborough Open* has evolved into the premier annual golf tournament in Flamborough. The 2015 tournament was held at the prestigious Carlisle Golf & Country Club, an member of Kaneff Golf. Proceeds are divided between the two organizations, with the FCC ('The Voice of Business in Flamborough') portion forming an essential part of its annual budget while the RCW ('Serve Above Self') portion is provided to a wide variety of worthy local, national and international causes. ABOVE: Participating again this year were (from left) Norm Read (Beckett Lowden Read), ??? ???, Frank Spiridoulis (formely of the Lord Byron Steak and Seafood House) and Flamborough Rotary AM President Greg Luxon (Kitching Steep Ludwig Funeral Home). BELOW: Rotarian Nick Brown (right) of Brown Financial Security was joined on the course by (from left) Jeff Goodbrand, Jeff Hillier and Paul Burns (Miska/JDJ Trailers).



Photos courtesy of Wilf Arndt

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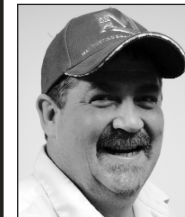
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- The Keg Restaurant - Waterdown
- Wilf Arndt - Photographer

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N

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Nuts-Edible	Picard Food Partnership, 447 Dundas St. E.905-690-1000

O

Optometrists	Dr. Janice Van Wyngaarden, 835 Hwy #97, Freulton905-659-3937 Family Eye Care, 66 Mall Rd., Hamilton905-385-3661 Waterdown Optometric Clinic, 301 Dundas St. E905-689-7234 Staples, 88 Dundas St. E.905-689-0271
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Pumps	

Q

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R

Race Track	Flamboro Downs, 967 Hwy. #5 W.905-627-3561
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S

Surveyors	A.T. McLaren Ltd., 69 John St. S., S. Hamilton905-527-8559
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T

Testing Equipment	M & L Testing Equipment, 31 Dundas St. E.905-689-7327
Toilets-Portable	Room To Go Inc., Box 76, Millgrove905-689-6389
Tools	Flamborough Technical Mgmt., Box 1282, Waterdown ..905-690-6094
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V

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W

Wealth Management	Paul Jokel, CIM PFP, RBC Dominion Securities Inc.905-546-5422
Weighing Systems	Trouble-Shooting Services, Box 185, Carlisle905-659-1323
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'REMEMBER 'THE SPIDER'

Continued from Page 1

and its committees for about a decade. I can tell you from personal observation and experience that Flamborough Council rarely agreed on any issue - let alone unanimously. One of the few exceptions was the Spider.

When news of the Spider 'hit the streets,' the community went absolutely apoplectic. Heaven and earth together couldn't contain the anger.

Eventually, the Spider spun its way out of Flamborough. But let's not forget the lessons from that sad episode.

We know that Hamilton Council and committees are now in their summer meeting schedule, meaning fewer regular meetings. We also know that any decision made today must be ratified by the entire Council, which is scheduled to meet next this coming Friday, July 10.

Perhaps there is some merit to 'tabling' the matter before you today until Friday, so that you will have the benefit of the public input when you consider making a final decision.

Finally, let me share for a moment the FCC's 3-point 'broken record refrain' regarding Hamilton.

(a) Like many, the FCC believes Hamilton is on the cusp of something very special. But we are concerned about Hamilton's fiscal challenges - especially its debt burden. While the municipal debt appears to be manageable, it will require careful oversight and prudent leadership from Council.

(b) It is our firmly-held belief that the residential taxpayer is 'maxed out.' Since the creation of the 'new' Hamilton 'supercity' many residential property owners - especially in the 'outlying areas' - have seen their taxes double and more. And many will argue that during the corresponding period, municipal services have been seriously eroded.

"It is our hope that the dozens and dozens of existing businesses in rural Flamborough and Ancaster whose futures are threatened by the Rural Zoning Bylaw will receive the same level of support and enthusiasm as that provided to Samsung."

(c) The FCC is convinced that a large part of ensuring Hamilton's long-term fiscal sustainability is more commercial and industrial development. We quote from a recent article in the *Hamilton Spectator* related to an interview with Jason Thorne, Hamilton's General Manager of Planning and Economic Development.

"(Jason Thorne's) department is also adding two new business facilitators, one each for rural and small business applicants. They are meant to shepherd applicants through city hall's systems.

"All of it matters to taxpayers because only about 13 per cent of Hamilton's tax base is in non-residential segments. Neighbouring municipalities come in between 15 to 18 per cent, said Thorne. The goal is to grow the commercial-industrial share by 1 per cent. To put that in perspective, *that's the equivalent of 28 Canada Bread plants*" (emphasis added).

RURAL ZONING BYLAW

Also on the agenda today is the proposed Rural Zoning Bylaw. The FCC is very concerned about some aspects of these new rules - especially as it relates to existing commercial and industrial enterprises in rural Flamborough and Ancaster. Dozens and dozens of small, family-owned enterprises face an uncertain future because of the new Rural Zoning Bylaw.

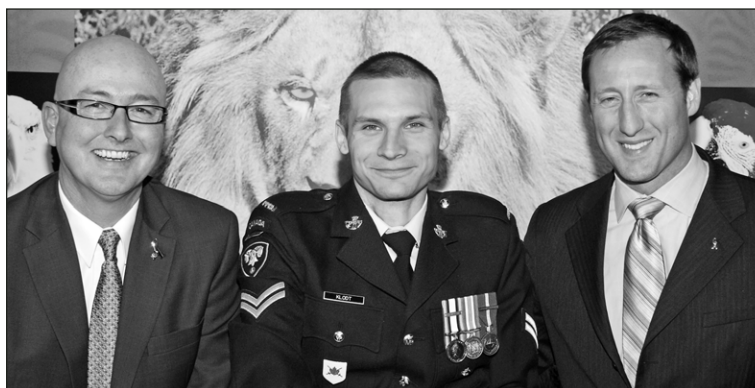
I don't want to believe for a second that any member of Council wants their political legacy to include a reference that they were instrumental in 'running businesses out of town' into the willing arms of more business-friendly neighbouring (and competing) jurisdictions.

The Samsung solar farm proposal may be part of the answer when it comes to '28 Canada Bread plants.' It is our hope that the dozens and dozens of existing businesses in rural Flamborough and Ancaster whose futures are threatened by the Rural Zoning Bylaw will receive the same level of support and enthusiasm as that provided to Samsung.



WATERDOWN WELCOMES 2015 PAN AM TORCH RUN

The Waterdown BIA hosted the 2015 Pan Am Torch Run through Waterdown last month, where hockey legend Harry Howell (seated) was the guest of honour. ABOVE: Joining Harry for a picture are (from left) Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet, Ward 15 (East Flamborough) Councillor Judi Partridge and Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) President Jason Small (Community Church) who was the master of ceremonies. BELOW, LEFT: FCC Past Presidents Jamie Kleven (Lafarge) and Margaret Robertson (Pause Awhile Tea House) with WBIA Executive Director Wilf Arndt. BELOW, RIGHT: FCC Torch Run representative Chris Klodt with his wife, sons and parents after the Torch Run.



ABOVE, LEFT: Corporal Chris Klodt (above, centre) was presented the *Town of Flamborough Award* by then Minister of Defence Peter MacKay (right) and Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP David Sweet at the *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* gala hosted annually by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC). ABOVE, RIGHT: Chris represented the FCC in the 2015 Pan Am Torch Run.

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