

# BOTTOM LINE

## DISASTER REGISTRY?

By Arend Kersten, Executive Director,  
Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

Does the creation of a “lobbyist registry” represent yet another – and perhaps final – nail in the coffin of economic development in Hamilton?

After an angry outburst from a volunteer member of the Accountability and Transparency Sub-Committee (who has been lobbying for the creation of registry for years), city council decided to take another look at the issue.

Earlier, Council had effectively killed the creation of a Hamilton registry by not including funding in its most recent municipal budget.

In simple terms, the creation of a lobbyist registry would require almost everyone who lobbies members of council and/or a member of the senior management team on an issue not directly related to their ward to register.

Every interaction would have to be listed on the registry (available to the public on the internet), including who they talked to and on what issues.

Only two Ontario municipalities – Toronto and Ottawa – have a lobbyist registry. At a special General Issues Committee meeting last month, the registrar of the Toronto lobbyist registry outlined the details of her department (eight full-time staff – and an annual budget of more than \$1 million).

Proponents of a Hamilton lobbyist registry argue its creation would be consistent with “transparent and accountable” government. They have skillfully framed the matter as a motherhood issue – and what politician wants to vote against motherhood, especially in an election year?

On the other side of the issue are those (mostly associated with the business community including the Hamilton and Flamborough Chambers of Commerce and the Hamilton-Halton Homebuilders Association) who are concerned about how the creation of a lobbyist registry may impact economic development in Hamilton.

Within the context of a global economy, municipalities face fierce competition in the race for new commercial and industrial economic development, complete with additional jobs and tax revenues.

One essential component of that competitive process is absolute confidentiality.

The draft bylaw for the lobbyist registry allows for exemptions (at the sole discretion of the registrar). But many in the “real world” fear those who desire to invest will simply bypass Hamilton for a more business-friendly jurisdiction where absolute confidentiality is a sacred trust.

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a division of the Hamilton Spectator*



Photos courtesy of Wilf Arndt

## 2014 FLAMBOROUGH OPEN IS A WINNER

The 2014 *Flamborough Open* – the prestigious annual golf tournament co-hosted by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) and the Rotary Club of Waterdown – was again an outstanding event. ABOVE: Joining FCC President Jason Small (second from right) of the Community Church at the Carlisle Golf and Country Club were (from left) Ward 1 (Westdale) Councillor Brian McHattie (a candidate for mayor in the October municipal election), Ward 15 (East Flamborough) Councillor Judi Partridge and Ward 8 (West Mountain) Councillor Terry Whitehead. BELOW: Rotarian Nick Brown (left) of Brown Financial Security and Elizabeth Ferraiuolo of Sherwood Engraving congratulate the winning team, comprised of (from left) Brian Faul, Dr. Richard Kitchen, Rod Anthony and Blake Anthony. The proceeds are shared by the two co-hosts, with the FCC portion forming an important component of the annual budget that allows it to be the credible and effective ‘Voice of Business’ in Flamborough. The entire Rotary portion is provided to a number of worthy local, national and international causes.



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Arend Kersten

Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

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# MIXED REVIEWS FOR RE-TABLED PROVINCIAL BUDGET

Earlier this month, the Liberal Government of Ontario headed by Premier Kathleen Wynne re-tabled its 2014 Budget. What follows is a summary of the key highlights from a business perspective as prepared by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC).

There are parts of this budget that are encouraging, such as investments in infrastructure. However, the OCC remains concerned about the cost of the proposed Ontario Retirement Pension Plan and the province's fiscal position. We have yet to see a comprehensive and feasible plan to balance the province's books by 2017-18.

### Spending, deficit, and debt are going up.

- This budget increases government spending by \$3 billion, from \$127 billion in 2013-14 to \$130 billion in 2014-15.
- The deficit will grow from \$11.3 billion to \$12.5 billion over the same period. Meanwhile, Ontario's overall debt will grow to \$289.3 billion by end of 2014-15 and \$317.2 billion by the end 2016-17. The province's debt-to-GDP ratio will grow to an alarming 40.3 percent in 2014-15.
- Servicing the debt will cost \$11 billion in 2014-15, approximately \$3 billion more than government spends on colleges and universities.
- The budget includes an annual program review savings target of \$250 million for 2014-15 and \$500 million for each of the subsequent two years.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- Ontario requires a robust plan to reduce spending and tackle the debt. Controlling spending in an effort to reduce the deficit and debt is a top priority for the OCC and the number one means by which Ontario can guarantee its long-term prosperity.
- This budget falls short on the pace of deficit and debt reduction. The annual program review targets are too modest. For the OCC's vision for a smarter, more efficient government, see *Unlocking the Public Service Economy in Ontario*.

### Ontario is introducing a new pension plan, but at what price?

- The government plans to establish the Ontario Retirement Pension Plan (ORPP) in 2017. The new pension plan will coincide with expected reductions in Employment Insurance premiums. Employers and employees will each contribute 1.9 percent of wages to a maximum of \$90,000. These premiums would be in addition to existing Canada Pension Plan (CPP) contributions.
- The government will also introduce legislation on Pooled Registered Pension Plans (PRPPs) in 2014. PRPPs are a new form of tax-assisted individual retirement savings plan for workers without employer-sponsored pension plans.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- According to an OCC survey, 72 percent of members feel that pension reform should be a provincial priority. Eighty-six percent of members support PRPPs.
- The OCC does not support a stand-alone Ontario pension plan, as the plan will create administrative duplication with the CPP, further fragment Canada's pension landscape, and potentially deter job creation.
- Only 23 percent of those surveyed said they could afford additional employer premiums. See *An Employer Perspective on Fixing Ontario's Pension Problem* for more details on the OCC's position.

### The budget includes no real plan to tackle energy prices.

- The budget includes a Five-Point Business Energy Savings Plan for small business owners, which focuses on conservation. This plan is in addition to the Northern Industrial Electricity Rate and the Industrial Electricity Incentive program.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- Ontario's energy prices are among the highest in North America and one of the biggest barriers to business expansion in the province. Reducing the costs of electricity must be a priority.

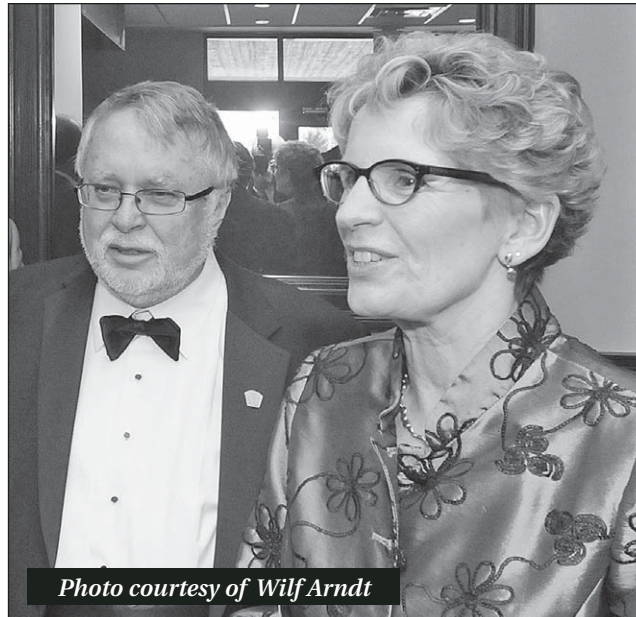


Photo courtesy of Wilf Arndt

The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) was honoured to welcome Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne (pictured with Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin) to the 2013 *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA) Awards Gala* at the Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club in Copetown.

### The government is committing significant funds to the development of the Ring of Fire.

- The government has announced that it is committing \$1 billion toward the development of Ring of Fire infrastructure.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- The OCC applauds this strategic investment. A recent OCC economic analysis projects that the Ring of Fire will contribute up to \$9.4 billion to Ontario's Gross Domestic Product and sustain over 5,000 jobs annually over the first 10 years of its development. In the analysis, it is estimated that government will receive between \$1.8 and \$1.95 billion in revenue in the first 10 years of Ring of Fire development, and up to \$6.7 billion over the first 32 years.
- The federal government has a history of investing in large transformational economic development projects (e.g. Alberta's oil sands and Churchill Falls in Newfoundland and Labrador). The federal government should match the province's commitment.

### The government is dedicating revenue for transit and transportation infrastructure.

- The Government of Ontario is dedicating \$29 billion in funding over the next 10 years to public transit and transportation infrastructure projects. The money will come from new sources (including a 148 percent increase in the

provincial aviation fuel tax over the next 4 years) and repurposed revenues from the HST on gasoline and road diesel. OCC Analysis

- Improving transit and transportation in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area is a priority for the OCC. The OCC is disappointed that the government has not looked to reducing costs to help fund any new government spending.

### Some taxes are going up.

- The government is raising some taxes, including tobacco taxes (up 1.5 cents per cigarette), personal income taxes (a 1-point increase for those who earn between \$150,000 and \$220,000 annually, and a 2-point increase on those who earn between \$220,000 and \$514,000 annually), and aviation fuel taxes (148 percent increase in the provincial aviation fuel tax over the next 4 years).
- Further, government will no longer allow larger businesses to use the Small Business Deduction (SBD). The SBD reduces the general corporate income tax rate from 11.5 percent to 4.5 percent on the first \$500,000 of income.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- Any measures that diminish the province's tax competitiveness will hurt job creation and detract from investment. For example, the government's plan to more than double the provincial aviation fuel tax will increase the cost of flying domestically and internationally. Fuel is already airlines' biggest cost, and Canada already loses nearly 5 million passengers to American airports every year.

### The government is creating a \$2.5 billion fund to attract investment to Ontario.

- The government is creating a 10-year, \$2.5 billion Jobs and Prosperity Fund aimed at attracting business investment to Ontario. The fund will be used to secure investments that will create jobs in Ontario and/or improve the province's productivity and export performance.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- Ontario must focus its efforts on the overall business climate, including lowering energy prices and holding the line on payroll taxes.

### The province will impose registration and licensing requirements on road-building machines that use public roads and highways.

- Road-building machines, including mobile cranes, hydrovacs, and concrete pumbers, are currently allowed to use tax-exempt diesel fuel in unlicensed commercial vehicles. The government will end this exemption and dedicate the revenues to public transit and transportation infrastructure.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- The OCC will consult with its members to further understand the impact of these changes.

### Ontario is moving forward with sector-based strategies in an effort to capitalize on the province's competitive advantages.

- The province is partnering with industry and, in some cases, providing new funding to boost growth in key industries, including Information and Communications Technology, Manufacturing, and Agri-Food.

### OCC ANALYSIS

- The OCC is pleased to see the government taking a sector-based approach to economic development. The OCC's economic agenda for Ontario, *Emerging Stronger*, calls on government to support the province's competitive advantages.

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*Hank Gelderman*  
Jan Gelderman Landscaping  
*Sandy Gray*  
Weeks Home Hardware  
*Bill Grisdale*  
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*Jay Hughes*  
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*Karen Hunt*  
Rockton Dinner Theatre  
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*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 - *Greensville 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



Photo courtesy of Wilf Arndt

## CELEBRATING AT THE OBA GALA

Glen Smith (seated) of Merit Insurance is surrounded by colleagues and friends after he was awarded the *Community Service by and Individual Award* at the *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* awards gala held earlier this year at the African Lion Safari. The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) organizes and hosts the annual gala (the 'social event of the year in Flamborough') which recognizes and honours the 'the very best in corporate excellence and community service.' The next OBA gala is scheduled for February 28, 2015. To nominate a company or person in any of the categories listed on this page, please contact the FCC office (905-689-7650).

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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# CCC HOPES TRANSPORTATION STUDY WILL PROMOTE TOURISM

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) applauds the recent announcement by federal Minister of Transport Lisa Raitt that a statutory review of the Canadian Transportation Act (CTA) will be conducted. The review will be led by the Honourable David Emerson with the support of five advisers. The recommendations from the study are expected to be submitted to the Minister by late 2015.

The review requires a comprehensive examination of the operation of the Act and certain other acts pertaining to the economic regulation of transportation. In addition to reassessing a host of public policy issues that impact the transportation sector, the examination will focus on specific issues that impact the Canadian aviation industry.

The CCC has been calling for policy responses to the weakening position of Canada's tourism sector and has identified several issues in which the federal government could act to reverse our decline. The CCC has watched with frustration as the aviation industry has become increasingly uncompetitive and considers the announcement to be a pivotal step for supporting tourism within Canada.

The CCC are pleased that the review will include a critical examination of cost-competitiveness factors that impact the sector. Armed with accurate information about all costs, the federal government will now be able to craft

informed policies that will help improve competitiveness within the aviation industry.

## TOURISM RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2013, the CCC released a policy paper on tourism, which included the following recommendations:

1. Canada's marketing efforts must be substantially increased. Our competitors (the U.S., Australia, Ireland, Mexico) are spending many times more and are winning the fight. Canada's marketing budget should be substantially increased to compete with rivals such as Australia, Ireland and Mexico. Even doubled or tripled, the Canadian marketing budget would represent only a small part of the revenues lost by the federal government as foreign visits declined throughout the last 13 years.

2. Canada has a serious cost competitiveness problem that must be better understood and addressed aggressively. The CCC calls on Ottawa to conduct a wide-ranging examination of the travel sector with special attention to the very high public costs borne by aviation customers. This examination should be established with the intention of reporting – within one year – on the key elements of Canada's cost structure and making recommendations for actions to attack the problem.

3. To ensure Canada capitalizes on the strong growth

from countries like Brazil, China, India and Mexico, the government must ease access headaches. Visitor visas and the complicated application process are big barriers to the tourism sector. The government should reinvest some of the \$400 million it collects annually from visa administration fees and reinvest a portion in Canada's visa processing capacity.

4. Although many attractions are privately owned and operated, it is clear many government agencies and departments influence their success. Canada needs to implement the strategies of the federal government's tourism strategy, *Welcoming the World*, and ensure the environment is positive for investment in these critical tourism attractions. In some cases, this may be financial or regulatory support; in others cases, federal agencies and departments may need to include tourism support in their existing mandates. On the other hand, governments must restrain their agencies and departments from competing with Canadian businesses, who otherwise find themselves paying taxes to finance their competitors. The CCC recommends that government departments and crown corporations should undergo a review of roles and responsibilities to ensure that there is no unnecessary competition between government and private sector enterprises.

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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: Auctioneer Jim McCartney again worked his magic at the post-tournament dinner. In the space of about 20 minutes and with just six auction items, he coaxed nearly \$10,000 out of the wallets of successful bidders. ABOVE, RIGHT: Elizabeth Ferraiuolo (right) of Sherwood Engraving congratulates Karen Grierson who won the ladies 'Closest to the Pin' contest. BELOW: Sponsor Joe Citrigno (left) of Skyway Life Insurance congratulated Terry Gangaram who won the 'Putting Contest.' Joining Joe in the presentation were Elizabeth Ferraiuolo and Zenon Furman of OLG.



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# SIDAF GALA HONOURS REMARKABLE WOMEN

BY BROOKE GORDON

*Soroptimists international  
Dundas Ancaster Flamborough*

On June 6th 2014, the Dundas Ancaster Flamborough chapter of Soroptimist International (SIDAF) celebrated its *27th Annual Soroptimist Awards*.

We gathered in the newly-renovated Dundas Valley Golf & Curling Club banquet hall to honour three remarkable women and the impact they have made on women and girls in our community. We were delighted to have in attendance Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet (who graciously sponsored the flowers for the evening), Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina and his wife Carol and past Soroptimist Regional Board member Janet Simms-Baldwin.

The *Ruby Award* honours the Ruby Lee Minar, the first Soroptimist Federation president.

and/or volunteer work.

This year we recognized three nominees: *Anne Marie Collingwood* from the YWCA Hamilton; Founder *Sharon Gallant* of FAB: Fit Active and Beautiful; and, *Natasha Dobler* from Interval House of Hamilton.

It was our great pleasure to recognize Sharon Gallant as this year's winner and to hear her share her wisdom: "The idea of Fit Active Beautiful was fueled by a strong desire to help young girls become strong women. From my own struggles as a teen, I understand the importance of supporting and empowering young girls. As a competitive runner and triathlete, and having built a successful career, I've experienced firsthand the growth of confidence – and success – that come with challenging yourself to set goals and pursue them. Looking for an innovative way to inspire youth girls to dream big and live big, we started



Members of the Dundas-Ancaster-Flamborough chapter of Soroptimists International (SIDAF) hosted its 27th annual gala to recognize and honour a number of community champions. Outgoing SIDAF President Brooke Gordon (above, left) and incoming President Pauline Hardcastle (right) are pictured with some of the award recipients and nominees at the gala held at the Dundas Valley Golf and Country Club. Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and professions working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. Soroptimist connects women to each other, to the local communities in Greater Hamilton and to the world. Together, we focus on issues such as domestic violence, poverty, lack of adequate child care, sexual harassment, inequities in the workplace, and other challenges unique to today's women

women who, as the head of their household, are seeking to improve their lives with the help of additional education and training.

Over the past five years, nearly \$15,000 has been disbursed through our award-winning Women's Opportunity program. This year's winner was *Agnes Lussoke*, mother of four who is currently enrolled in a General Arts and Science degree program. Agnes intends to pursue a graduate degree in Social Work.

We'd like to extend our thanks to the three external judges of this year's applicants: *Sandra Gora* from Dominion of Canada General Insurance Company, *Kate Rennick* from Hamilton Family Health Team, and *Sandie Bender*, a retired educator.

The *Violet Richardson Award* recognizes young women ages 14-17 engaged in volunteer action within their communities or schools. The award is given to young women whose activities are making our community a better place to live.

This year's winner, *Sylvia Umuton*, is the daughter of a past *Women's Opportunity Award* recipient. An immigrant from Rawanda, Sylvie Umuton has made volunteering a habit.

She volunteers with a range of organizations and activities but, as she said "the place that has touched my heart deeply, my favourite non-profit organization

is the Good Shepherd. Volunteering at the Good Shepherd has benefited me more than I have helped them. Working with the homeless citizens of Hamilton truly humbles the heart and shows you how real poverty is in Hamilton. Packing hygiene packets, toys and perishable food items in order to distribute them to the needy people warms the heart like no other. That is why I volunteer – when volunteering my time becomes a life-changing experience for all parties involved. It is the least I can do for my neighbours; it is a small price to pay."

It was an inspiration to have one of our future leaders being recognized for making a difference through her volunteer efforts.

At the gala, we also recognized three of our SIDAF members who are celebrating 25 years of volunteering in our communities: *Shirley McCoy*, *Hannelore Nyman* and *Nancy Davidson*.

The *Soroptimist of the Year Award* is given to a member who went "above and beyond" this past year in her contributions and efforts. We are proud of all our members but this year's recipient has demonstrated true leadership and expanded her comfort zone.

As a relatively new member of Soroptimist, she has worked to raise awareness in our community. Her insightful tips and tricks about the consumer's rights, orientation under the hood and com-

fort speaking to a mechanic, all within the comfort of her shop floor, has brought a new level of confidence to women in our community. She is passionate about women's issues - raising awareness for women in northern communities and new initiatives in Canada and throughout the world, and participating on panels with the YWCA.

SIDAF is extremely fortunate and proud to recognize *Christine Aarlaht* from CT&G Automotive Specialists in Flamborough Centre as the recipient of the *Soroptimist of the Year Award*.

## ABOUT SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

With almost 80,000 members in 120 countries and territories, Soroptimist International is a worldwide organization for women in management and professions working through service projects to advance human rights and the status of women. Soroptimist connects women to each other, to the local communities in Greater Hamilton and to the world. Together, we focus on issues such as domestic violence, poverty, lack of adequate child care, sexual harassment, inequities in the workplace, and other challenges unique to today's women. For more information, please contact SIDAF President Pauline Hardcastle at soroptimistdaf@gmail.com.



The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) was well represented at the annual awards gala hosted by the Dundas-Ancaster-Flamborough chapter of Soroptimists International (SIDAF). Among FCC members at the gala were (from left) FCC bookkeeper and former treasurer of the FCC Board of Directors Janet Barnard; *Soroptimist of the Year* Christine Aarlaht of CT&G Automotive Specialists in Flamborough Centre; Maria Demkowich, formerly of JDJ Trailers; and, Executive Director Clare Freeman of Interval House.

A ruby is also a deep red gemstone associated with wisdom, importance, vitality, strength, vivacity, power and love – all words embodying the strong and compassionate women who are our award recipients.

Recipients of the Soroptimist Ruby Award are women who have worked to improve the lives of women and girls in our community through their professional

on a journey to combine the power of sport with goal-setting skills, and developed what is now known as the 'FAB Girls 5K Challenge'."

The Soroptimist *Women's Opportunity Award*, our cornerstone program, has been providing funds for education and training grants in Dundas, Ancaster and Flamborough since 1987. This award provides cash grants for

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