

# BOTTOM LINE

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

OCTOBER, 2012

## CCC AGM CONVENES IN 'THE HAMMER'

*Canadian Chamber of Commerce holds 2012 Annual General Meeting in Hamilton*



Hamilton welcomed the Canadian business community in September when the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). LEFT: CCC President and CEO Perrin Beatty with MP Diane Findley, the Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development who was the featured speaker at the closing gala. ABOVE, LEFT: MP Jason Kenney, the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, addressed the CCC at the opening breakfast of the 3-day AGM. ABOVE, RIGHT: Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) Executive Director Arend Kersten participated at the two 3-hour policy sessions that set CCC priorities for the next year. BELOW, LEFT: FCC Executive Director Arend Kersten (left) and his wife Dianne with Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce (SCCC) Executive Director Dave Cage at the pre-gala reception. BELOW, RIGHT: CCC CEO Perrin Beatty (third from right) and Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (HCC) President and CEO David Adames (right) with (from left) SCCC delegation - Executive Director Dave Cage, President Audie McCarthy and Vice President Lori Raudnask. For more, see pages 3 and 4.



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Continued on Page 7

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Arend Kersten

Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce

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# AGM THEME: 'A CANADA THAT WORKS'

BY AUDIE McCARTHY

President, Stoney Creek Chamber of Commerce

The theme for this year's Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) Annual General Meeting (AGM) was "A Canada that Works." The theme carried through the entire conference as speakers and panelists all grappled with the challenges facing us today and in the near future.

The Honourable Jason Kenney, Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism reminded us that Canada has been recognized as the best place to start a business. He advised that we have the highest per capita level of immigration but acknowledged that it doesn't always work. The government and businesses alike have to demonstrate to Canadians that immigration can work and it is in fact a key strategy for solving our labour shortage.

Minister Kenney did not rule out domestic solutions to this labour shortage and spoke of reducing the dis-incentives around Employment Insurance (EI). For example, he addressed recent changes to EI where individuals must be willing to accept a job at their skill level in their local community or risk being denied EI benefits.

Let me share a couple of interesting facts:

- Canada has a 14% youth unemployment rate in an economy with a labour shortage.

- The unemployment rate for immigrants is twice as high as that for domestic Canadians.

We bring immigrants here with the promise of a job equivalent to their skill level yet they end up working in "survival" jobs. We need to be able to connect immigrants to jobs *BEFORE* they arrive. We need to get businesses involved in the recruitment of immigrants.

Colleges and universities are inviting students to Canada to study at an increasing rate year over year. We allow them to stay and work for a year ... and then they either have to return home or are placed at the end of the 7-year immigration line. Yet we need their skills. Changes will be made in January 2013 to fast track these students when employers guarantee them jobs.

CCC President and CEO Perrin Beatty agreed there is no one solution to the labour shortage and challenged each community to look for tailored solutions. Resources must be mobilized from public, private, provincial, federal and local agencies. He strongly emphasized the role education must play. Essential skills are an issue in Canada – employees are not job ready. Educational institutions need to step up. But so do employers. Canadian businesses under invest in the education of their employees, lagging behind every other major country in the world.



Hamilton welcomed the Canadian business community last month when the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM). ABOVE: At a 'Welcome to Hamilton' reception at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum, local musician John Ellison (of *Some Kind of Wonderful* fame) was joined by Ken Kobby, President of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. LEFT: IN his welcoming comments at the opening breakfast, Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina joked he would have to apologize to guests at the Sheraton Hotel after the head table was marched in with a prolonged and very LOUD drumline. BELOW: John Sawyer, President and CEO of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce, enjoyed the thrill of sitting in the cockpit of the famed Lancaster bomber at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum.



Photos courtesy of Roy Timm Photography

## Flamborough Chamber of Commerce ANNUAL EVENT CALENDAR

The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) organizes, hosts and promotes a variety of activities for its members, offering a wide variety of networking, educational and celebratory opportunities. Details of the events are shared in the *Members Only* newsletter which is distributed to all FCC members on a regular (usually weekly) basis.

### The Flamborough Breakfast Club

Offering the best in delicious food, great fellowship and outstanding networking opportunities, the *Flamborough Breakfast Club* – co-hosted by the FCC and the Rotary Club of Flamborough A.M. – usually meets the third Wednesday of each month (except during the summer months) at the Dutch Mill Country Market on Millgrove Side Road.

### Business After Five (BA5)

Typically held once a month (except during the summer months), the FCC hosts a *Business After Five (BA5)* networking event. This casual come-and-go event runs from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and offers a complimentary beverage, delicious munchies and door prizes (draw at 6 p.m.). Pre-registration is not required and there is no cost.

### Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA) Awards Gala

Honouring the 'very best of the best' in corporate excellence and community service, the FCC hosts the annual *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* awards gala – at what has evolved into *the* social event of the year in Flamborough. Nominations are encouraged throughout the entire year.

### The Flamborough Open

Representing an extraordinary community partnership, the Rotary Club of Waterdown and the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) co-hosts the annual *Flamborough Open*, the premier local golf tournament. To register for what has become the must-attend local golf tournament, please contact the FCC office.

### Great Mini Putt Challenge

Try your skills at the *Great Flamborough Mini Putt Challenge* which is hosted every summer by the FCC. Winners are recognized in both the individual as well as the corporate team categories. Another FCC event offering fun and fellowship.

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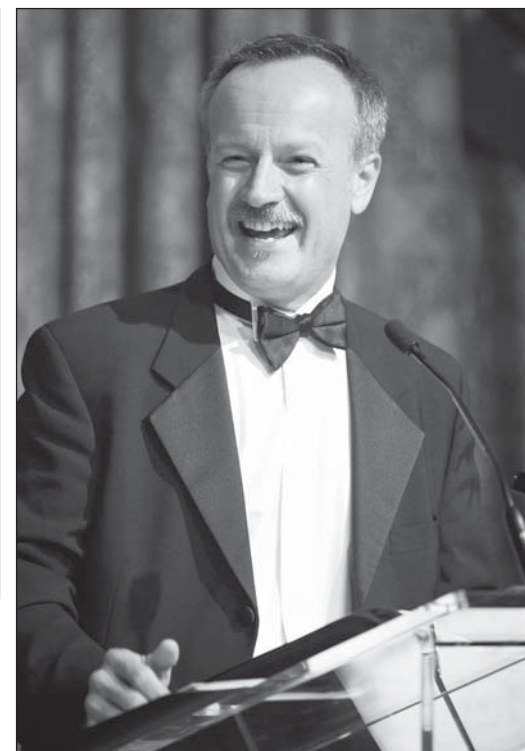
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Photos courtesy of Roy Timm Photography



## 'RAGS TO RICHES' SAGA MESMERIZES CCC AGM DELEGATES

For many delegates to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce (CCC) Annual General Meeting (AGM), the unquestioned highlight was an inspirational luncheon speech by Frank O'Dea (above, right and centre) one of the founders of the Second Cup coffee chain. Former Liberal MPP Judy Marsales (above) – a Past President of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce – thanked O'Dea for his comments after the luncheon. RIGHT: Publisher Dana Robbins of the *Hamilton Spectator* was the master of ceremonies at the wrap-up gala held at LIUNA Station.

## OUTSTANDING BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS CELEBRATE THE VERY BEST IN CORPORATE EXCELLENCE

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Col. Gordon Dailley*
- African Lion Safari
- Mike Demkowich*
- J.D.J. Trailers
- 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
- Archie McCoy*
- McCoy Foundry
- Jim and Margaret Robertson*
- Pause Awhile Tea Room
- 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*

### 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

### 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
- 2009 - *Peter Barnes*
- Waterdown Youth Centre
- 2010 - *Marti Van Hoeve*
- Van Hoeve Homes
- 2011 - *Dante DiFelice*
- Waterdown Collision
- 2011 - *Norm Read*
- Beckett Lowden Read

### YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

- 2009 - *Haley Luckanuck*
- Spoiled Rotten Pet Services
- 2011 - *Nicole Martin*
- Talent Search Summer Camp

### COMMUNITY SERVICE BY A COMPANY AWARD

- 2006 - *Flamboro Speedway*
- 2007 - *Jay's Auto*

- 2008 - *Terra Greenhouses*
- 2010 - *Waterdown Dairy Queen*
- 2011 - *Lafarge Canada*

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GREEN AWARD

- 2008 - *Waterdown Collision*
- 2009 - *Nathan Helder*
- Gelderman Landscaping
- 2010 - *Sensible Life Products*

### FCC 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*

### CIVIC RECOGNITION AWARD

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

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Ontario Chamber of Commerce

# ADDRESSING RISING PUBLIC SECTOR LABOUR COSTS

On Thursday September 20, 2012, Ontario Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan announced a cap on compensation for managers in the Ontario Public Service (OPS) and the Broader Public Service (BPS).

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is supportive of the newly announced cap on compensation and is on record in calling for a long-term public sector compensation restraint strategy.

Any serious plan to return to fiscal balance in the medium-term must address Ontario's labour costs.

## Ontario government spends roughly 50 cents of every taxpayer dollar on salaries and benefits for workers in the broader public sector

As it stands, the Ontario government spends roughly 50 cents of every taxpayer dollar on salaries and benefits for workers in the broader public sector. That represents roughly \$55 billion annually.

The government also needs to look at other ways to reduce costs including allowing businesses more opportunities to deliver services. The OCC is currently studying this issue and will be releasing recommendations in early 2013 on how the government can do just that.

### PROVINCIAL ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

On Monday, October 15, Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan presented his latest 'economic outlook.' What follows are some of the highlights:

- The projected deficit for 2012-13 is \$14.4 billion, down \$400 million from the 2012 Budget forecast.
- The deficit is set to be eliminated by 2017-18, as previously forecast.
- Ontario's debt is now \$272 billion, up from \$257.5 billion last spring.
- Ontario's economy will continue to grow at a moderate pace. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 2.0 percent in 2012; 1.9 percent in 2013; 2.3 percent in 2014; and, 2.4 percent in 2015.

What follows are some 'key messages' from the OCC:

- Ontario's large debt (\$272 billion) and deficit (\$14.4 billion) threaten Ontario's economic recovery.

- The OCC urges the government to return to fiscal balance.

- In spite of the challenges posed by its minority status in the legislature, the government must pursue aggressive cost-cutting measures. This includes a much-needed broader public sector wage freeze.

- Returning to fiscal health is only half the battle. The government must also find creative ways to grow the economy.

- The OCC network – which includes the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) – has produced *Emerging Stronger*, an economic vision that identifies a new economic path for the 21st century, by focusing on five key priorities:

1. Fostering a culture of innovation and smart risk-taking in order to become a productivity leader.

2. Building a 21st century workforce through workplace training, utilizing newcomers' skills and apprenticeship reform.

3. Restoring fiscal balance by improving the way government works.

4. Taking advantage of new opportunities in the global economy.

5. Identifying, championing and investing in our competitive advantages.

### OCC TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) made a submission to the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) Proposed Multimodal Goods Movement Strategy for Ontario.

In it, the OCC recommends the following items and infrastructure investment priorities be included in the final strategy and action plans:

- Ensuring that the strategy is integrated within broader economic development and transportation planning (e.g. The Big Move).

- Expanding the timeline of the strategy to 50 years.

- Integrating innovative technologies.

- Taking advantage of the economic advantages of multimodal hubs.

- Building the Niagara to GTA corridor.

## Ontario Chamber of Commerce urges Queen's Park to include building the Niagara to GTA transportation corridor as part of 'Multimodal Goods Movement Strategy'

- Extending eastward Highway 407.
- Moving forward with the GTA West

corridor study.

- Twinning Trans-Canada Highway 11-17.

- Creating a multimodal Northern terminus.

- Using Alternative Service Delivery (ASD) to fund transportation infrastructure.

- Streamlining transportation infrastructure processes.

- Enhancing partnerships with key ministries, the federal government and industry.

The OCC commends MTO on the work being done to develop the multimodal goods movement strategy and looks forward to working with the Ministry and other partners to ensure the success of the strategy.

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Photos courtesy of Wilf Arndt

ABOVE: Again this past May, COGECO entered a team in the annual *Flamborough Open*. Members of the team included (from left) Brent Rickard (Cable 14), Maureen Tilson-Dyment (COGECO - Burlington) and Mark Cripps, the former managing editor of Hamilton Community News who is now press secretary to Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough- Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin (Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs). BELOW: Former multiple winners in the team competition at the 2012 *Flamborough Open* included (from left) Blake Anthony, Brian Faul, Rod Anthony and Dr. Richard Kitchen. The 2013 *Flamborough Open* is scheduled for May 29.



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