

*The President Reports:*

## INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

I believe that when one part of the community is healthy, the entire community benefits.

I also believe the opposite to be true: when one part of the community is hurting, the whole community is affected too. Flamborough is a very healthy community. It is growing, vibrant and meeting the needs of the people.

There are numerous indicators of health and many reasons I believe Flamborough to be healthy. One of these reasons is because of our volunteer leadership. We have some great leaders who stick their necks out to lead – not for personal gain – but simply because they care. Weekly I witness some of these leaders who serve in areas such as athletics, the arts, community events and initiatives, kids and youth, and seniors just to name a few.



**JASON SMALL**  
President, FCC

One area that may get missed when we think of volunteer leaders who add to the life and health of Flamborough is leaders in our business community.

Last week we had our Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) Annual General Meeting. It was exciting to share about the health of the organization and some of the good news stories of business life in Flamborough.

We also took time to recognize two great volunteer leaders in our community: Graham Flint and Penny Gardiner.

Penny and Graham have been great leaders with the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce for a long time. They have served diligently behind the scenes for a number of years. I have witnessed their heart for the community when in early morning meetings they have wrestled with issues to help businesses in Flamborough. They have made a difference quietly and consistently.

As their terms as members of the FCC Board of Directors come to an end, I want to say a big thank you. I truly believe Flamborough is a healthier place because of their willingness to serve.



Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) President Jason Small (right) of the Community Church and outgoing Treasurer Graham Flint (left) of FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) are pictured with new members of the FCC Board of Directors – Shawn Brenn of Brenn-B farms (second from left) and Craig Sampson of Weeks Home Hardware of Waterdown. Missing is outgoing Past President Penny Gardiner who – as President and CEO of the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) – was in Newfoundland hosting its annual meeting.

## TWO NEW FACES ON FCC BOD

The 'agricultural' and 'retail' sectors – two cornerstones of the Flamborough economy – will now be more formally represented on the Board of Directors (BOD) of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC).

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM) held last week at the Dutch Mill Country Market, Shawn Brenn, President of Brenn-B Farms and Manager Craig Sampson of Weeks Home Hardware of Waterdown were named to the FCC BOD. They replace Graham Flint (FORCE – Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment) and Penny Gardiner (EDAC/HTC – Economic Developers Association of Canada/Hamilton Technology Centre) who have both completed their terms of office.

In addition to Craig and Shawn, the other members of the nine-member FCC BOD are Ron Graham (Lafarge Canada), lawyer Kyle Hampson (Miller Thomson), Teresa Luckanuck (Spoiled Rotten Pet Services), Wendy Martin (Sutton About Town Real Estate), Jason Small (Community Church), Greg Tremble (OLG Slots @ Flamboro Downs) and Wendy

Wasylowich (Flamboro Downs/Great Canadian Gaming Company).

Earlier this year, the FCC undertook a comprehensive review of the composition of the BOD to determine how representative it was of the membership. It concluded that the BOD was 'top heavy' with representatives from the not-for-profit sector. It also determined that the agricultural and retail sectors were not officially represented. The new composition of the FCC BOD now includes only one representative (down from four) from the not-for-profit sector.

BOD President Jason Small praised and thanked Graham and Penny for their services and many contributions. Graham brought his many skills to the table, especially as Treasurer while Penny is a two-term Past President.

Committed to the highest levels of accountability and transparency, the BOD normally meets 10 times annually (every month except August and July) to review financial and membership reports, set official FCC policy and provide direction to staff.



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# MEMBERS • FLAMBOROUGH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## A

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<b>Auto-Tires</b>	

## B

<b>Bakery</b>	Cupcakes of Westdale Village, 1050 King St. W. ....905-308-8484
<b>Banks</b>	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

## C

<b>Cable/Internet/Telephone</b>	Cogeco Cable, 950 Syscon Rd., Burlington .....905-333-5522
<b>Casinos</b>	OLG Slots at Flamboro Downs, 967 Hwy. #5 W.....905-628-4275
<b>Caulking</b>	Beverly Caulking, 971 Conc. 5 W. ....905-659-3367
<b>Charities</b>	United Way, 177 Rebecca St. Hamilton .....905-527-4543
<b>Chiropractors</b>	Parkside Chiropractic, 115 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-2777
<b>Churches</b>	Community Church, 271 Con. 6 E. P.O. Box 290 .....905-689-3979
<b>Commercial Leasing</b>	Flamborough Power Centre, 2500 Appleby Line, BU ....905-335-5204
<b>Community</b>	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
<b>Concrete-Precast</b>	Coreslab Structure, 205 Coreslab Dr. ....905-689-3993 Wilkinson Heavy Precast Ltd., 588 Hwy. #5 W. ....905-628-5611
<b>Construction</b>	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
<b>Consultants-Business</b>	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, 286 Nisbet Blvd>..... 905-515-8778
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<b>Consultant-Pharmaceutical</b>	Lukang American Pharm., 4-1442 Osprey Dr., Ancaster 905-690-8881

## S

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

## E

<b>Economic Development</b>	Economic Developers Ass. of Canada, 7 Innovation Dr. 905-689-8771
<b>Electrical</b>	Enek Electrical, Box 132, Millgrove.....905-971-6267
<b>Employment Services</b>	YMCA Employment Services, 1-427 Dundas St. E. ....905-690-9927

## E

<b>Engravers</b>	Sherwood Badges, 32 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-4973
<b>Equestrian</b>	Vector Equestrian, 995 Concession 8 W.....905-699-0420

## F

<b>Fairs &amp; Exhibitions</b>	Rockton Agricultural Society, Box 38, Rockton .....519-647-2502
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<b>Financial Services</b>	Brown Financial Security, 50 Coreslab Dr.....905-690-5035 JSB Wealth Management, 5-20 Main Street N. ....905-689-2425 Gary Titley & Associates, 80 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-2800 Investors Group, 600-390 Brant St., Burlington .....905-333-3335 Monteith Financial Grp, 678 Spring Gardens Rd., BUR. 905-572-7526 TEN STAR Financial Services, 95 Hamilton. St. N. ....905-689-7911 Dynamic Body Health and Fitness, 5 Mill St. S. ....289-895-8504 Dundas Flying School, 106 Willits Cr. St. George.. ..... 519-448-1004 Al-Care Restoration Services, Box 1260 .....905-689-5298 Ridgeway Florist, 291 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-8288 Bridges International Friehgt, Box 1394.....905-331-3774 Kitching Steepe Ludwig, 146 Mill St. N. ....905-689-4852
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<b>Garden Centre</b>	Terra, 8 Conc. 5 E. ....905-689-1999
<b>Gifts</b>	Dutch Mill Country Market, 533 Millgrove Side Rd. ....905-689-7253
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<b>Gourmet Shops</b>	
<b>Greenhouses</b>	

## H

<b>Hardware-Retail</b>	Canadian Tire Associate, 11 Clappison Ave. ....905-690-3961 Weeks Home Hardware, 71 Hamilton St. N. ....905-689-6618
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<b>Industrial Millwright</b>	Flamboro Main. & Mechanical, 730 Middletown Rd. ....905-628-6243
<b>Industrial Minerals</b>	Opta Minerals, 407 Parkside Dr. ....905-689-6661
<b>Industrial Printers</b>	Coding Products of Canada, 7 Innovation Dr. ....905-690-1471
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Arend Kersten

Executive Director, Flamborough Chamber of Commerce



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# CLEMENT: DETERMINED TO CUT COSTS AT FEDERAL LEVEL

As President of the Treasury Board, Tony Clement considers himself Canada's COO (Chief Operating Officer).

Using the business analogy, Clement said that while he is the COO, Prime Minister Harper is Canada's CEO and Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is the CFO. Clement – who spent time in Hamilton as a youngster – made the remarks recently at a meeting hosted by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce at the Hamilton Club afternoon. Also in attendance were Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet and Senator David Braley.

Clement told attendees that the Harper government is trying to 'change the culture' in Ottawa. In the past, Clement said, if an issue arose, the usual way for the government to address it was to adopt new regulations. The Harper government has created a 'one for one' rule which dictates that for every new regulation, an existing one must be eliminated.

On the 'broader fiscal mandate' front, Clement said that the government is on track to eliminate the annual deficit by 2015. He also claimed that some \$5.8 billion in annual savings has been realized by conducting a 'department by department' review. His goal, Clement said, is 'to reign in government spending and improve employee morale.' He noted the government spends some \$43 billion annually on salaries, benefits and severances.

Specifically, Clement said the government has changed the rules on sev-

erances. It used to be that civil servants who quit, retired or were terminated all received severance payments. Now that applies only to those who are terminated 'without cause.' That saves Canadian taxpayers \$500 million annually, Clement said.

Another change for Canada's civil servants (as well as MPs and senators) is that the pension plan has been restructured so that employees and the government now both pay 50 percent of the premiums. It used to be that the government paid 70 percent of the premiums with employees chipping in only 30 percent. There were some 280,000 federal employees in 2011 – which was reduced to some 263,000 in 2012.

The next item on Clement's 'to do' list is to examine the government's sick leave policies. Clement argued that federal employees each take – on average – almost three times as many sick days annually when compared to the private sector (18.2 days in the public sector versus 6.7 days in the private sector). However, the federal government does not have a short term disability plan. Clement said the solution may lie in replacing the number of sick days with a short term disability plan.

During the question and answer session that followed Minister Clement's more formal remarks, Henry Wegiel of ArcelorMittal Dofasco said that there are four components to a successful manufacturing sector in any economy: (1) market size; (2) cost-

effectiveness; (3) infrastructure; and, (4) investment environment. Wegiel said that on the infrastructure and investment climate fronts, Canada scores very high. However, when it comes to market size and cost-effectiveness, Canada is 'not even on the radar.' Wegiel noted that a great deal of manufacturing – especially on the auto side – now takes place in the southern US and Mexico. Wegiel called for a 'better partnership' between government, manufacturers and academia to address the challenges facing Canadian manufacturers.

Flamborough Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arend Kersten asked Clement whether he placed 'any credence' in reports that indicate that the salaries and benefits for feder-

al employees are higher than those in the private sector. Clement said he agreed with the findings of the reports, noting that on average federal salaries and benefits are some 14 percent higher than those in the private sector. Clement also said that economic realities have resulted in private sector salaries 'stagnating' or even being reduced.

Clement said that leveling the playing field when it comes to comparing private and public sector salaries and benefits remains one of his priorities.

There was agreement that discussions between senior levels of government and representatives from the business community such as the one at the Hamilton Club represents a 'win-win' scenario for all concerned.



MP Tony Clement (second from right) - President of the Treasury Board in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Stephen Harper - was the guest of honour at a recent Business Roundtable hosted by the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce (HCC) at the Hamilton Club. Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) Executive Director Arend Kersten was among the invited guests. Pictured with Minister Clement are (from left) Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet, HCC Board Chair Louise Dompierre of the Art Gallery of Hamilton and Senator David Braley.



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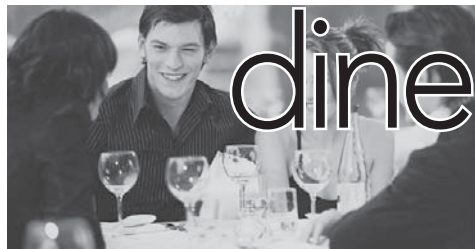


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## WELCOME

Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP Ted McMeekin (right) introduces Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne to his federal counterpart, MP David Sweet (left) at the *Outstanding Business Achievement* (OBA) awards gala hosted by the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) at the Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club in Copetown earlier this year. Waiting to be introduced are Hamilton Mayor Bob Bratina (centre), his wife Carol and FCC President Jason Small. The FCC was honoured to have Premier Wynne at the annual gala which celebrates and honours the very best in Flamborough.

Photos courtesy of  
Wilf Arndt



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*Hank Gelderman*  
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*Sandy Gray*  
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Jay's Auto Service  
*Karen Hunt*  
Rockton Dinner Theatre  
*Charles & Margaret Juravinski*  
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*Wilf, Tom & Tim Langford*  
Langford Pharmacy  
*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*  
2012 - *Opta Minerals*

### 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

### 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  
2012- *Roger Wilson*

### 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

### 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*

### CHAMBER OF COMMERCE GREEN AWARD

2008 - *Waterdown Collision*  
2009 - *Nathan Helder*  
Gelderman Landscaping  
2010- *Sensible Life Products*  
2012 - *Rothsay*

### 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

### CIVIC RECOGNITION AWARD

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

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# WILF ARNDT AWARDED 'TOWN OF FLAMBOROUGH' AWARD

At this year's Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA) awards gala at the Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club, the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce presented the prestigious Town of Flamborough Award to Wilf Arndt, the Executive Director of the Waterdown Business Improvement Arera (WBIA). Wilf was honoured for his leadership in Waterdown's beautification project. The award was presented after the following citation was shared at the sold-out gala.

Wilf Arndt came to us in Waterdown after many years living 'down the hill' in Burlington. He was an active resident and was part of Burlington's inaugural committee for the now famous 'Sound of Music Festival.'

Wilf was a member of the City's first committee to rejuvenate the Burlington waterfront. He likes to say that had the politicians of the day followed the advice of that committee, they would have prevented the present "Brant Street Pier Million Dollar Boondoggle."

Wilf and Doris built their home in Waterdown in 1995 and he quickly became involved in his newly adopted community. Prior to calling Waterdown home, he managed the Farm Supply Co-ops at Ancaster and Lynden so he knew the Flamborough community very well.

Once here, he was soon appointed to Flamborough's Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee, became involved in town planning issues and a keen observer of the town's politics.

After amalgamation, Wilf was appointed to the new city's "Heritage Permit Review Subcommittee" and the "Agricultural & Rural Affairs Advisory Committee." He continues to sit on both committees. After the last municipal election he was also appointed to the "Hamilton Municipal Heritage Committee."

In 2009, after finally retiring, Wilf volunteered to work with the



Executive Director Wilf Arndt (centre) of the Waterdown BIA (and the official volunteer photographer of the FCC) was honoured for his beautification efforts in the former Village of Waterdown with the *Town of Flamborough Award* at the *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* awards gala held earlier this year at the Flamborough Hills Golf & Country Club in Copetown. Joining in the presentation were Flamborough Councillors Judi Partridge (second from left) and Robert Pasuta (right) along with FCC Past President Hal Bushey (representing last year's recipient - the *O Canada Rotary Ribfest*) and FCC Vice President Penny Gardiner (Economic Developers Association of Canada).

Waterdown BIA to look after the streetscape portfolio. He established the hanging basket program and the replanting of the floral containers along Dundas. Next came the placing of nine new road median "Floral Planters" at Dundas St. and Hamilton as well as by the Esso station.

Last year, Wilf unveiled the first phase of the new Parkette at Hamilton and John Streets and the new Black Metal Floral Containers placed by the old high school.

By the end of his volunteer year, the BIA asked Wilf to become a full member of the Board. Then in 2010 he became Chair. In the fall of 2011 he relinquished the chair to take on the mantle of Executive Director for the BIA.

Since then, Wilf has initiated the already popular movies in Memorial Park Program. He has reinvigorated the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Festival and has introduced the Village to the first annual, and

already successful, "Choral & Candle Walk".

For this year's Santa Clause Parade, Wilf designed and built a new BIA float that can be used repeatedly for a number of years.

You may have noticed what Wilf likes to call his 'White Lights Initiative'. He hopes to have all the commercial buildings, in the village decorated in white lights and have all trees dressed in coloured lights.

As part of the lighting program, Wilf designed and had a welder in Ancaster build the new mechanical tree topper for the black floral containers by the old high school, as well as the 10' tree that we enjoyed at the main post office. Two additional mechanical trees will be in place this year.

Wilf says that he is working on a 'Waterdown Blooms' program, a Farm Market to be held at the Waterdown Legion as well as several other initiatives for the BIA.

Because he had time on his

hands, Ward 15 councillor Judi Partridge appointed Wilf to her 'Flamborough Community Council Advisory Committee'.

He was also part of the Flamborough Heritage Society's - "Coat of Arms & Flag Design Committee" and works with the newly minted 'Mill Street Heritage Group'.

Last year Wilf was a member of the City's 'Arts for Waterdown Committee'. The city had commissioned the art competition for the Mural at the new Wentworth Arena. As part of that project, Wilf was also one of the judges on the final selection committee.

And - of course - in his spare times Wilf volunteers as the official photographer for the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce at all its events - including tonight's.

The Flamborough Chamber of Commerce is delighted to award this year's *Town of Flamborough Award* to Executive Director Wilf Arndt of the Waterdown BIA.



Joyce Aitkin (above, left) accepted the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce's (FCC) *Lifetime Achievement Award* on behalf of her late husband Jim at this year's *Outstanding Business Achievement (OBA)* awards gala at the Flamborough Hills Golf Club in Copetown. Supporting her were (from left) her sons Chris and Paul, FCC Board Chair Jason Small and Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MP David Sweet. After the presentation of the *Town of Flamborough Award* to Wilf Arndt, FCC Executive Director Arend Kersten (above, right) shares with the sold-out crowd that Wilf's wife Doris was not present because she has been in a particularly nasty battle with cancer. But Arend reports Doris is doing much better and extends best wishes for the future.





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**FUN AT THE GOLF COURSE**

Flamborough Chamber of Commerce Past President Sandy Gray – a recipient of the Flamborough Chamber of Commerce (FCC) *Lifetime Achievement Award* – once again participated in this year's Flamborough Open at the Carlisle Golf & Country Club. The annual tournament is co-hosted by the FCC and the Rotary Club of Waterdown. Joining Sandy on the golf course were (from left) her brother Dave Smith, Ward 14 (West Flamborough) Councillor Robert Pasuta and Roy Sweetman.

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<b>Jewellery</b>	Vicky Harrison Designs, 10 Culotta .....289-431-6026
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<b>Nuts-Edible</b>	Picard Food Partnership, 447 Dundas St. E. ....905-690-1000

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# RACETRACK CHANGES KILLS 2013 CONFEDERATION CUP

*Because of the elimination of the Slots at Racetracks Program (SARP) by the provincial government, there will not be a Confederation Cup this year at Flamboro Downs. Held annually, the Confederation Cup is one of the largest events of the year in Flamborough. What follows is an article by [www.yourhamiltonbiz.com](http://www.yourhamiltonbiz.com) on this year's cancellation.*

By Joseph Engelhardt  
[www.YourHamiltonBiz.com](http://www.YourHamiltonBiz.com)

Changes in the racing calendar at Flamboro Downs have marked the end of tradition at the track – at least for this year.

The Confederation Cup – an annual harness race held at Flamboro Downs each August – has been put “on hold” for 2013, said Bruce Barbour, the executive director of racing at the track.

“We’re looking to see what happens going forward with racing in general and where it will fit,” he said. “For this summer, we just won’t be having it.”

Earlier this year, the number of race dates at the track was reduced to 100 days spread over six months, with the track closing from May to October.

The Confederation Cup is traditionally a summer event, so it didn’t fit into the track’s new schedule, said Barbour.

As YourHamiltonBiz reported earlier this year, the reduced number of races at the track also meant job losses.

Barbour said that 25 employees received pink slips, while an additional 31 employees were laid off.

As many as 25 of the laid off staff could be recalled in November when racing resumes, he said.

The track currently has 109 active employees, he said.

Changes to the horse racing industry began last year when the provincial government ended the slots at racetracks program (SARP).

Under the program revenue raised by slot machines operated at racetracks went to support the tracks and horse racing industry.

In the wake of the decision, a transition panel was formed to help the racing industry adjust to the new challenges that followed the loss of SAR funding.

Among the recommendations made by the panel was a reduction in race dates.

While the goal is a better racing industry in Ontario, parts of the industry are currently feeling the effects of the reduction, said John Snobelen, a member of the panel.

“I think there’s real pain involved on the breeding side,” he said.

“The industry’s getting its head around having to do some things differently to have a better future.”

That future couldn’t be further from the reality, said Brian Tropea, the general manager of the Ontario Harness Horse Association (OHHA).

“The situation’s desperate right now,” he said. “We’ve essentially got half as much racing as we had in the past, and when we do have an opportunity to race, we’re racing for half as much money.”

A number of breeders and training centres in the province – including many in Flamborough – have started to close and move to more lucrative markets, including the U.S., he said.

Those who have stayed are being forced to cut back operations, he said.

“Most everybody, I would say, have already divested themselves of some of their holdings,” he said.

Despite the struggles faced by breeders, Snobelen said he’s optimistic about the future of the industry.

“This will be one of the most robust programs in North America, but it will still be about half of what it was,” he said. “That means there’s an immediate shock to the market place.”

There’s also hope for the future, he said.

“The good news, I guess, is that we think there’s going to be a horse supply problem in a couple of years, in that they’ll be an under-supply of horses,” he said.

“There’s good news in the pipeline for breeders as this program emerges.”



Flamborough Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arend Kersten was among those invited to a barbeque in Hamilton where Premier Kathleen Wynne - who is also the Minister of Agriculture and Food - was the guest of honour. Among those welcoming the premier (third from left) were (from left) Mayor Bob Bratina and his wife Carol, Ancaster-Dundas-Flamborough-Westdale MPP (and Minister of Community and Social Services in the Wynne Cabinet) Ted McMeekin, Ward 15 (East Flamborough) Councillor Judi Partridge and Donna Tiqui-Shebib, the Liberal candidate for Hamilton-Centre in the next provincial election.

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