

Estate Planning For Business Owners



Chamber networking events got underway with a very professional but practical presentation given by Stephanie Collins from CIBC Trust Corporation.

Business Owners had a chance to discuss the pragmatic implications of estate planning and succession planning.

Welcome New Members

- Boston Pizza
- Affinity Coach Consulting
- Custom Gem Cutting Ltd.
- Ringwood Heating & Air Conditioning
- Far Sight Homes
- Bouwmeister Inc.
- Pretty in Pictures
- Moonflower's Magical Touch
Metaphysical Store & Healing Center

Annual General Meeting / Mayor's Dinner - April 5th (5:00 p.m.)



The Annual General Meeting will be held at Spring Lakes Golf Club. The AGM will be followed by the Annual Mayor's Dinner. A new venue is being used this year to accommodate the growing demand we expect for tickets to the dinner. Mayor Altman will present an update on municipal issues and plans. Online registration will be open soon! Or call our office at 905 642 4227 to register today!

Networking Breakfast / York Region Budget 2017 February 10th (7:30 a.m.)

Join us for at Meadowbrook Golf Club, 11939 Warden Avenue, Stouffville for a Networking Breakfast and learn first hand how your York Region tax dollars are being managed.

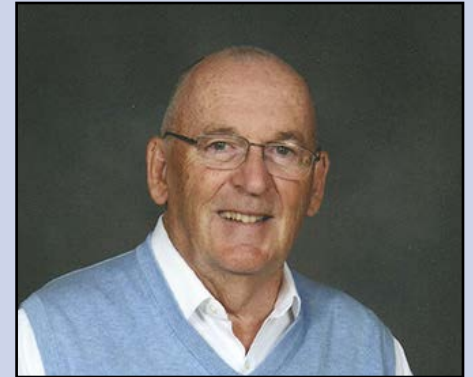


The Chairman and CEO of the Regional Municipality of York, Wayne Emmerson, will be joined by senior staff to make a presentation highlighting the Region's achievements in 2016, details of the

2017 Regional Budget, initiatives to support and attract business to York Region and Regional Council's priorities going forward.

Registration in advance is required. Cost: \$30 Members, (plus HST) Buffet breakfast is included. Register online [click here](#) or call: (905) 642-4227

"Networking Events Provide A Unique Opportunity To Meet Other Members In A Fun And Interactive Manner"



Business News

The Chamber has completed the Member Survey and we will be publishing a detailed report on the results of the Survey. I thank all those who responded to our request.

The Board of Directors reviewed the proposed 2017 Operating Budget for the Town and made recommendations for more financial commitment for marketing and promoting Whitchurch-Stouffville as a prime location to establish new businesses as per the approved Strategic Plan. Council approved the recommendation and established funding of \$35k for the year.

The Chamber participated recently in an all day seminar about Intelligent Community Development for York Region. The purpose of the workshop was to give the champions of change a better understanding for near term action to prepare our community for a more prosperous, inclusive and dynamic future. This deals with Broadband infrastructure, knowledge powered workforce, innovation, advocacy, digital equality and sustainability. All of this is so relevant for Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Harry Renaud- Executive Director
harry@stouffvillechamber.ca

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:





Call for Directors

The Chamber's Annual General Meeting will be held on April 5, 2017. There are two Board positions to be filled due to the completion of full terms by two current Directors. If you are interested to stand for election to serve as a volunteer Director, for a term of 3 years, it is required that you complete a Nomination Form. You can acquire the Form by contacting the Executive Director, harry@stouffvillechamber.ca and submit the completed form no later than February 28th.



Members' Survey

We have completed a Survey of the membership and the results will serve as a useful guide for continuing with our best practices. Many thanks to those who completed the survey. The responses are a strong representation of the membership which is impressive. A more detailed Report will be distributed to the membership in February.

April Luncheon with Minister Jane Philpott

On April 26, Minister of Health, Dr. Jane Philpott will be the Guest Speaker at a luncheon to be held at Sleepy Hollow Golf Club. This luncheon will feature a collaboration with Women's Business Groups in the York Region to enlarge the networking opportunities. This will be an event not to be missed.



M2M Promotions & Discounts

Make sure you have reviewed the very popular M2M Promotions and Discounts to take advantage of some special deals from other Members.

The Member to Member promotions and discounts program is an excellent opportunity for you to reach out to other Members with a coupon offer. This is an electronic (pdf) listing which is distributed to all Members quarterly showing coupon offers to Members from fellow Members. The next listing will be published early March 2017. The deadline to join is February 15th. Give the Chamber a call and arrange to be included in the next issue.



Advocacy

Town Council will approve a Code of Conduct for Council which the Chamber has supported strongly. The Code is overdue and will ensure that Council will be devoted always towards the good of the Town of Whitchurch Stouffville and its stakeholders.

The Board of Directors of the Chamber reviewed the proposed 2017 Operating Budget for the Town and presented a recommendation for more financial commitment for marketing and promoting Whitchurch Stouffville as a prime location to establish new businesses as per the approved Strategic Plan of the Town. The recommendation was accepted by council and \$35k funding was approved.

The Chamber recently participated in an all day Workshop about Intelligent Community Development for York Region. The purpose of the workshop was to give the champions of change a better understanding for near term action to prepare our community for a more prosperous, inclusive and dynamic future.

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For more information visit: <https://www.firstdata.com/ca/chamber-merchant-services/index.html>

Membership In The Chamber

The Chamber is the voice of Business in the Whitchurch Stouffville community, including Gormley. Membership is growing but should be larger considering the industry growth in our domain.

Our campaign to attract new Members uses a recently produced video to promote and support membership in the Chamber. The link to the video is <https://vimeopro.com/user10144522/stouffville-chamber-of-commerce-membership-invitation> Feel free to distribute to anyone you think may benefit from joining the Chamber.



The York Small Business Enterprise Centre is offering a **FREE** Webinar Series again this winter so that you can still learn and get new ideas for your businesses, without leaving the comfort of your home or office!

A variety of topics and speakers have been hand-picked to ensure you're getting relevant and useful information to grow your businesses in 2017!

Here is a list of Webinars:

Become an Expert at Importing from China	Thurs, Feb 2	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Cost and Price Your Products and Services	Wed, Feb 8	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Financials for the Non-Financial Owner	Wed, Feb 22	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Generate \$\$\$\$ Passively By Selling on Amazon	Thurs, Mar 2	7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
7 Secrets to Building a Successful Business	Wed, Mar 15	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Networking to Grow your Business	Wed, Mar 29	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Space is limited, registration in advance is required visit our website for links to each webinar <http://stouffvillechamber.ca/winter-webinar-series/>

Member Only Benefits

Part of the Chamber's value proposition is the Benefits that are offered to Members. Too often these are overlooked and should be reviewed to see if they afford you some advantage. Each benefit is outlined on the Website and provides a summary of the offering and benefits to you, and your employees. [Click Here](#)



Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan®

Group Dental & Health Insurance Enjoyed by 25,000 Canadian Businesses

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting Canadian firms for over 40 years. From Victoria to St. John's, over 25,000 small to medium-sized businesses use the Chambers Plan to protect their employees with comprehensive group benefits including dental and health insurance – making it **Canada's #1 employee benefits plan for small business.**

Thousands of small business owners join the Chambers Plan each year because it's the

simple, stable, smart choice for their business: combining accessibility, flexible options and pooled benefits that **add stability** to their employee benefits.

Firms stay with the Chambers Plan year after year because the Plan combines unsurpassed value with excellent customer service at the national and local levels.

Made For Small Business: Accessibility & Flexibility

Over 25,000 businesses purchase group benefits from the Chambers Plan. Comprehensive benefit packages apply to home-based businesses and small business firms – with no industry restrictions. For-profit businesses as small as one life are eligible for guaranteed coverage.

For more information visit their website at: <https://www.chamberplan.ca/>

Events Calendar 2017

I am very excited to announce that the Events Committee has recommended an exciting calendar of events for 2017. We will host a significant event every month (excluding July and August) for Members to network and enjoy.

Annual York Region Budget Presentation – Breakfast

February 10th Starting at 7:30 a.m.
Meadowbrook Golf Club,
11939 Warden Avenue, Stouffville

- Register online [Click Here](#)

Annual General Meeting/ Mayor's Dinner

April 5th Starting at 5:00 p.m.
Spring Lakes Golf Club,
4962 Stouffville Road, Stouffville,

- Online registration will be open soon!

April Luncheon with Minister Jane Philpott

April 26th

- More details and Online registration will be available soon!



Advertising Space Is Available On Our Website

With Close to 3,000 Page Views Per Month... Our Website Is A Great Place To See And Be Seen!

There are 2 key advertising spaces that we have opened up on the website:

- Home page banner ad space
- Event page square ad space

Multiple advertising will be placed in each of these two spaces and will randomly rotate, each ad will contain a single link to one page of your website.

For details on how you can take advantage of this great advertising opportunity contact our office.