

Businesses quiz politicians at Chamber Power Hour

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

The framework within which business operates is changing rapidly at multiple levels of government.

The bright spot in it all is that in Peterborough we have a wonderful and engaged business community willing to take risks so that their businesses can grow, willing to make it work so they have jobs and products to offer the community and willing to give back in taxes, fundraising initiatives and many local sports, arts and cultural events. We should celebrate their success at being profitable. We cannot forget that a thriving business community is a significant contributor and a constituent to a healthy community.

What's on the minds of business these days?

Provincially, businesses of all sizes are in the process of adjusting to a significant number of legislated changes around employment and labour laws. How businesses adapt and if the legislated desired outcome will be achieved remains to be seen, but it's safe to say that we're in a period of disruption.

Electricity prices continue to put strain on businesses, as do planning and growth legislation, as well as finding the talent they need, when they need it.

Federally, changes to the rules around how private corporations are taxed raised concern amongst businesses. The response to those



proposed changes was very loud from the business community. Clarification to rules around passive income for small business could be revealed in the 2018 federal budget.

If there ever was a moving target its NAFTA negotiations. There's also the implementation of CETA continues; the ink is just drying on new version of the Trans Pacific Partnership, there is a renewed focus on reconciliation and gender parity; the announcement of Superclusters; the continued debate about pipelines; living in a global economy; and a rail project that the Peterborough business community would like to see given the green light.

Business is part of the conversation as the County and the City update their official plans and work is being done at both council tables around development charges. There are infrastructure needs and a new agriculture map that will guide growth in the County.

The City will be the site of a new provincially-owned marijuana store; the airport continues to grow, as will Peterborough's place in the clean tech sector with the new Cleantech Commons at Trent University.

Our members, Peterborough's

businesses simply want the tools and framework to be competitive, creative, and confident in their home community, province, and around the world.

Together, with our Chamber member businesses that is what we advocate for and in doing so we are strengthening the business community.

We also strengthen the business community by asking questions. At the Power Hour 16 questions were directed to our MP Minister Maryam Monsef, MPP Minister Jeff Leal, Warden Joe Taylor, and Mayor Daryl Bennett.

When asked about debt all mentioned that infrastructure is one of the main reasons they were experiencing high debt levels, but that in some cases debt is necessary to get the work done, as long as there is a plan to move forward and pay down that investment. Broadband was identified as a critical piece of infrastructure and it was acknowledged by all four politicians that improving access is key to our economic success.

Minister Leal told the crowd that the government is looking into transition programs for business and that more could be present in the upcoming provincial budget.

Minister Monsef spoke about her trip to Davos and meetings with the heads of Pepsi Co. and Coca-Cola.

Warden Joe Taylor talked about the County of Peterborough through the lens of the 407, saying that through their official plan process they are ready for any influx of people.

Mayor Bennett addressed new city rules around secondary units.

To wrap up this article we go back to the first question of the night on talent. All agreed that there are more programs around integrated learning, that Peterborough area sectors such as agriculture and public administration will have openings for younger workers as older workers transition out of the workforce, and that there is increasing value in the brain trust of younger generations. All of this to say that attracting and retaining talent is one of the most critical to the success of our communities.

peterboroughchamber.ca/blog

*Power Hour Sponsor YourTV & Cogeco recorded the Q&A Session

Watch it on Channel 700 or 10:
Fri, Mar 2, 2018 7:00pm

Sun, Mar 4, 2018 12:00pm

Mon, Mar 12, 2018 7:00pm

Tue, Mar 13, 2018 2:00pm

Former Board Chair Tony Smith passes away

Peterborough has lost a tremendous community leader. Tony Smith passed away on February 15. Tony had only been in Peterborough for about 20 years, but he has left an indelible mark.

As a "retired" businessman Tony ran a number of successful ventures, from Tristone Media Group to a mobile dental service. As a volunteer and cancer graduate Tony was deeply involved in the Relay for Life. He served on virtually every committee that our Chamber of Commerce has, including serving on the Board of Directors as Chair.

When the Shining Waters Rail (SWR) initiative was in danger of going off the rails, Tony stepped up, helped to create an independent Not for Profit corporation, and slowly but surely established the credibility of SWR. The studies and planning done by SWR attracted the attention of VIA Rail who realized there is potential for a High Frequency Rail service linking Quebec City, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, through Peterborough.

Tony was relentlessly positive, loved to laugh, and had a tremendous compassion for anyone who needed a kind word, or a pat on the back.

At this writing funeral arrangements have not been announced.



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peterboroughchamber.ca



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Expanded showroom space
Lester Awnings & Tent Rentals Corp. has new showroom space at their location at 1582 Chemong Road.

Lester Awnings is a family-owned business who has been "providing shade solutions" since 1960.

More: lesterawnings.com



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Studio-N @studioncreative · Feb 5
So excited to be working with @ptbomusicfest again, this year with a 'slight' logo refresh! Bring on #season32 #freconcerts #music #livegreen #design #branding #studio #graphicdesign #lovelocalptbo #lovelocal #canada #ontario #peterborough#lakefield #kawartha

Peterborough Musicfest Season 32

Event Calendar



TUESDAY, March 6th, 2018

360 Wellness Clinic

157 Charlotte Street
Peterborough

4:00pm – 6:00pm

Details: PBX is a great opportunity for the business community, employers, consumers, and community agencies to make valuable connections.

Bring your business cards and get ready to get connected to the Peterborough business community.

Cost: Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs



TUESDAY, March 13th, 2018

Taking the Mystery out of Medical Marijuana

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East
Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Cost: Pay for your breakfast

Speaker: Erika Calhoun, Bodystream Medical Marijuana Services

Be ready with your 30-second elevator pitch to tell others what's going on in your business.



WEDNESDAY, March 21st, 2018
(Chamber & WBN Members only)

5 Secrets to Social Media Success

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North
12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Sofie Andreou, Sofie Andreou & Associates

What you'll learn:

Come let Sofie share with you how she and her clients are increasing their day over day revenues using these five social media steps.

It's all about being in the now, yet planning!

We'll be talking about how to keep it personal, video apps, calendaring, social customer support, and engaging your Tribe for growth.

Cost: Free (Bring your lunch)

Note: Pre-registration required

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan

FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400



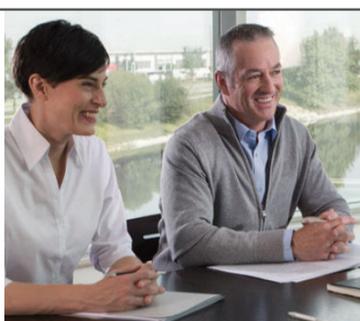
Opportunity for services

New Canadians Centre (NCC) is accepting proposals to provide consulting services for a Multicultural Child Care Centre Feasibility Study.

One sealed and one electronic copy of the proposal are due to Yvonne Lai at the NCC by 4:30pm on March 12, 2018.

More: nccpeterborough.ca

www.peterboroughchamber.ca



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