

Championing #TeamPtbo with our new councils...

By: **Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Peterborough Chamber of Commerce**

Congratulations to all... All who put their names on a ballot for office. All who volunteered on the campaigns. All who voted. All who participated in the most fundamentally important process there is, a democratic election.

This was a remarkable election on many levels. We have a remarkably more diverse Council in the City of Peterborough. We have a remarkably more efficient voting system, though not without a few hiccups. And I believe we have witnessed a remarkable shift in thinking. I've seen the word "progressive" tossed around during the campaign. I'm not sure that captures what was obviously an unsettled mood among municipal voters. But one thing is clear, Diane Therrien understood the mood, and was able to tap into it with her "Expect More" message, resulting in a remarkable landslide victory.

Diane Therrien also campaigned on three fundamentals – Jobs, Taxes and Infrastructure, which nicely sets the table for the next four years, because when it comes down to it, this fresh new Council still has a City to run, and a balancing act to perform.

Daryl Bennett and the two Councils that he led over the last 8 years also had to strike a balance, and both



Daryl and the returning and retiring Councillors need to be commended for their work. It's been said that every decision you make as a municipal councillor makes someone angry. Much has been made of the multiple 6-5 votes that occurred in the last four years, and perhaps therein lies some of the explanation for the unrest. Indeed, Council has been criticized on many occasions for "not listening to the people". This sentiment was particularly ugly during the divisive debate on the sale of PDI. But I will never forget Councillor Henry Clark's eloquent response to being accused of not listening to the people. To loosely quote Henry – "on the contrary I am listening to the people... the people who want us to sell PDI, and the people who don't want us to sell it. I'm listening to the arguments of my fellow Counsellors. I'm listening to the reports of the consultants and staff, and I'm listening to my own heart as I weigh all of this input and make my decision. This is what I was elected to do."

This will not change in the next four years. There will be many divisive issues. Council will not always agree. But one thing is clear, each and every elected official, City and County will listen to their constituents, read the reports, weigh the options and decide on the future of Peterborough City and County.

And toward the future is where we must turn our focus. Let's work on tomorrow, not yesterday.

For the Chamber, nothing changes. We try to cultivate a high level of mutual respect between the business community we represent and our elected leaders. Our positions on various issues are based on the positions of our members. We focus on policies that encourage a strong business community, and we communicate these policies to both City and County Councils. Our election platform, called "Building a Community Outside the Ordinary" had three foundational pillars:

Strengthening Peterborough's Competitiveness, Economic Growth and Job Creation

- Developing Official Plans that reflect the most flexible zoning possible
- Seeing the Tax Ratio Reduction Program through to completion
- Investing in areas of economic growth
- Planning measures that are future focused and proactive and bridge city & county geographical lines

Building Whole Communities

- Building resilient infrastructure
- Building a transportation network that works for all
- Increasing housing stock by supporting the building of a variety of types
- Working with stakeholder groups to develop long-term strategies for addressing mental illness, addiction, and crime in the same way the 10-year Homelessness Strategy was developed

Improving Government Accountability

- Building the business community into the community engagement process
- Creating advisory or sub-committees when bylaws impact the business community

Our new leaders will have to deal with many issues, many pressures, and will face many big decisions, but opportunity abounds. The completion of the 407, the potential for VIA Rail service, Cleantech Commons at Trent, the Airport, and many more, will all create an opportunity for Councils to create the conditions for sustainable growth. We wish them well.

BUSINESS SUMMIT
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Platinum Sponsor
bdc

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018
7:00am - 11:30am
Ashburnham Reception Centre | 840 Armour Road

Workshop Session 1:
A. Workforce 4.0
B. Creating a Cyber Resilient Business

Workshop Session 2:
A. Digitize Now, Transform Your Business
B. Building a Marketing Plan

Get your tickets: peterboroughchamber.ca/business-summit-2018

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Rowan Fleming
McLeod's ECOWATER
Chamber Member Since 1986

Your Business + The Chamber
#StrengtheningBusiness

Learn how: peterboroughchamber.ca

Event Calendar

PBX
PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS EXCHANGE

TUESDAY, November 6th, 2018

Peterborough Distribution Inc

The Student Centre
@Trent University
1680 West Bank Dr

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 Casino Peterborough

CHAMBER AM

TUESDAY November 13th, 2018

The Reality of a Virtual Reality Business

The Carousel
116 Lansdowne Street East

Coffee's on at 7:00am
Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

Cost: Pay for your breakfast

Speaker: Sanu Somaweera, Kavtech

Details: The Chamber Breakfast meetings are a great way to fuel up for your busy workday. Network with fellow Chamber members, have a delicious fresh breakfast and enjoy a short presentation from our guest speaker.

Note: Pre-registration encouraged

LUNCHBOX LEARNING

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

E-Commerce 101

Chamber Boardroom
175 George Street North

12:00pm - 1:00pm

Speaker: Brendan Quigley, Acorn30

Details: This free, noon hour series is open to Chamber members and WBN members interested in professional development and connecting with fellow members. Located in the Chamber boardroom, you are invited to bring your lunch along with you, and have the opportunity to listen to a short presentation, followed by Q&A.

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

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER

Member Milestones

- LLF LAWYERS LLP is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.
- Nominations are now open for the Business Hall of Fame hosted by **Junior Achievement Peterborough, Muskoka, Lakeland**. Nominate someone for the next class by November 30th. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTG3Q92>

- The annual TD Economic Outlook Luncheon, presented by Peterborough and the Kawartha Economic Development, Collins Barrow Kawartha LLP, and TD is next Tuesday, October 30. Register at peterboroughed.ca
- My Left Breast celebrated their 10th Anniversary on October 19th. Congratulations to Bridget Leslie and her team!
- The ribbon was officially cut to celebrate the completion of the mural entitled 'Rebirth and Resilience' at the Y.E.S Shelter. The mural is 768 square feet and resides on the east side of the building on Brock Street.

Featured Member Discount Program: Home Insurance and more!

Allstate Good Hands Group Insurance® Program

Save on your home, auto, boat, and motorcycle insurance just for being a Chamber member.

Allstate
You're in good hands.

Call 705-749-1818
1-866-221-5130
peterboroughagency@allstate.ca

Chamber members, send your Member Milestones to reception@peterboroughchamber.ca or call 705-748-9771 x 0.

Sysco

Follow me to your next great meal!

I'M HERE because you are a Chamber member. THANK YOU

www.peterboroughchamber.ca

A phone company that I've never had to call!

When I first asked Nexicom to provide phone and Internet systems for my home and business, I knew that I would get great, friendly service. After all, they've been a part of our community for more than 100 years and they're always trying to expand their services and find ways to help their customers.

But in the more than 16 years that Nexicom has been my Internet and phone provider I've never had to make one call about a service problem. Not one.

And I didn't expect that. Thank you, Nexicom.

Janet McLeod
Owner, East City Flower Shop

Internet | Telephone | Security *More than you expect*

nexicom