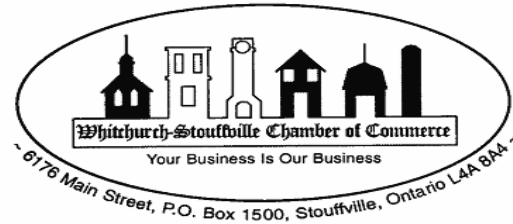


NEWS & VIEWS

April 2008



Highlights of the Ontario 2008 Budget

Delivered March 28, 2008 by Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, this budget puts in place several key initiatives to assist the manufacturing and resource sector:

- eliminates the capital tax for manufacturing and resource sectors, retroactive to January 1, 2007;
- provides a 3 year extension (from 2009 to 2012) of the accelerated Capital Cost Allowance (CCA) rate for manufacturing and processing machinery and equipment investments made before 2012;
- through the OCC, establishes a new Global Expansion Program to assist Ontario's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to diversify their export markets.

In addition, roughly 30,000 businesses in 85 municipalities in Northern Ontario are expected to share in savings of more than \$70 million as the Business Education Tax (BET) rate is reduced more rapidly. The reduction in the BET was announced in the 2007 Provincial Budget after the OCC provided a detailed analysis of the benefits of a lower BET rate.

"The budget recognizes the importance of diversifying our global investment and trade, no longer a luxury but now a necessity. And of course we're pleased to accept responsibility for the new Global Expansion Program which will allow us to directly assist hundreds of Ontario companies access or expand into new markets," says Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "This, coupled with new investments in skills development, will help Ontario's

economy increase its competitiveness on a global scale." The OCC is also pleased to see that the provincial government has recently acknowledged the importance of provincial content levels for publicly funded mass transit projects, as a further way to support Ontario's manufacturing sector. The OCC looks forward to more details on this announcement. The full OCC pre-budget submission to the Provincial Finance Minister can be found on the OCC'S website at www.occ.on.ca.

Annual Business Awards Postponed

Since we have not been able to procure sponsors for the Annual Business Awards, we have cancelled the April 24th date. We are now working with several sponsors for this event and will hold it later in the year. To those businesses nominated we will hold on to your applications as you are still in the running. We would welcome any additional nominations in the meantime.

New Member Policy

The Board of Directors has added an Administration Fee to our fee structure. This is for NEW MEMBERS ONLY. The new rates will be posted on our website April 1, 2008 and will be applicable to all new members as of that date.

Display for Members at Bruce's Mill

Bruce's Mill has offered to display MEMBERS' brochures in the racks at Bruce's Mill. We will take care of stocking them from our supply at the Station. I thank you David Boccia, on behalf of our Members.

Executive Officers 2008

Chair of the Board
Karen Cashin
YMCA Employment Centre

Past Chair
Janet Davies
Cedar Beach

Secretary
Vicki Wilhelm
Visual Perspective

Treasurer
Dave Bolan
Southwire Canada

Directors
Garth Bell
Dynamic Building Services

Peter Taws
Keystone Benefits Inc.

Office Administration
President & CEO
Helene Johnson

Leigh Castle
Angela Tsapoitis

W/S Chamber of Commerce
6176 Main Street, PO Box 1500
Stouffville, ON L4A 8A4
Tel: 905-642-4227
Fax: 905-642-8966
chamber@whitchurchstouffville.ca
www.whitchurchstouffville.ca

**GO Sales and
Tourist Information**
Mon - Fri 7:30am-5:00pm
Saturday 7:30am-4:00pm

Welcome New Members

Judy Black
Valerie Neill
6 Woodlot Court RR#3
Newmarket, ON, L3Y 4W1
Tel: 416-435-0556
Fax: 905-895-0040
Clothing & Accessory Design

**True North Gourmet
Coffee Inc.**
Kevin & Gaby Ramer
668 Millard St.
Stouffville, ON, L4A 0B2
Tel: 905-642-6505
Gourmet Coffee Suppliers

**Maple Key Computer
Training Centres**
37 Sandiford Dr. 2nd Floor
Stouffville, ON
Tel: 905-852-6881
Fax: 905-852-9628
Computer Training

Willowgrove
Ron de Roo
11737 McCowan Rd.
Stouffville, ON, L4A 7X5
Tel: 905-640-2127
Fax: 905-640-5263
Primary School / Day Camp /
Outdoor Education Centre

Coming Events Mark Your Calendar

April 15, 2008
Networking Breakfast, 8:00am - 9:00am
Hosted by **Independent Planning Group**, 6165 Main St.
Free to Members, Non-Members \$15

May 15, 2008
Networking Breakfast, 8:00am - 9:00am
Hosted by the **Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville**
37 Sandiford Dr., 4th Floor
Free to Members, Non-Members \$15

June 19, 2008
Networking Breakfast, 8:00-9:00am
Hosted by the **Stouffville YMCA Employment Resource
Centre**, 28 Sandiford Dr., Unit 7
Free to Members, Non-Members \$15

Advanced Registration and Payment is Required for all Events