

NEWS & VIEWS

March 2008



International Women's Day Luncheon Thank-You to our Sponsors

We would like to send out a very big thank you to the Whitchurch-Stouffville *Women of Distinction* who made the International Women's Day Luncheon possible. To celebrate International Women's Day are hosting a Luncheon at **Sleepy Hollow Golf & Country Club** March 6th at 11:30am. Guest speaker will be the Honourable Jean Augustine. She was the first black woman elected into the Parliament of Canada. Recently, she was appointed by the McGuinty Government as the first ever fairness commissioner.

Whitchurch-Stouffville Women of Distinction...

Art Effects ~ Janet Lowe Beauchamp

Boston Pizza ~ Susan Acton

Candlelight and Memories

~ Pat Montgomery

Cedar Beach Park ~ Janet Davies

Centerpiece Flowers ~ Soo Choi

Charlinda Belgian Chocolates

~ Linda Pullen

Chic Thrills ~ Charlotte Cave

Crossroads Restaurant & Bar

~ Melissa Fitzpatrick

Mysthaven Country Retreat & Spa

~ Mariel Camilleri Saringer

Octagon Medical Services ~ Tina Vitale

Phoenix Fitness ~ Caroline Frenchman

Snap Fitness ~ Tricia Sears

Stonehouse Travel ~ Sally Thomas

Stouffville Family Footcare

~ Donna Shewfelt

Stouffville Florist ~ Kim Everson

Stouffville Therapeutic Centre

~ Marita Conci

The UPS Store ~ Carol Pacter

Town & Country Home Inspections ~ Maureen

Wood

Visual Perspective ~ Vicki Wilhelm

Willow Springs Winery ~ Julie Testa

Words Plus Administrative Services

~ Barb Gilbert

Your Printing Matters ~ Gina Emery

Office Overhead Relief For Disabled Business Owners

Most business owners buy insurance that provides them with a personal income if they can't work because of an illness or accident. But if you can't work, how do you pay expenses that will keep your company intact until you can get back to it? With the Chambers Plan, you choose Business Overhead Benefits, along with your disability coverage.

Business Overhead coverage is designed to pay the actual expenses you normally incur running your business. The benefit takes effect 30 days after you become disabled, and continues for up to 18 months. If you're a partner, rather than a sole owner, the coverage pays your assumed portion of eligible expenses.

What bills can the benefit pay? The broad range includes office rent, power, and phone expenses. For salaries, the benefit pays the people who do not generate income for your company but are essential to its operations while you're disabled.

Business and property taxes are eligible, as are license fees, leasing and amortization (including your company vehicle), and the professional services of an outside accountant.

Even regular office supplies and postage are included, as is interest on mortgage payments, lines of credit and unpaid bills. Your Chambers Plan agent can walk you through a complete list of the coverage's many included items.

Choose Business Overhead and you'll tailor your plan to the level that suits your expenses. You can apply for benefits in increments of \$100, from \$500 to \$2,000 per month. So don't let an accident that happens to you disable your business, too. Plan to cover key

expenses through your Chambers Plan group benefits.

Benefit Facts presents information to help you manage your employee benefits.

Brought to you by your Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan® agent, representing Canada's premier group plan for small and medium sized business.

Peter Taws 905-898-6709.

At work for small business since 1970

2008 Federal Budget Overview

"The government's commitment to a balanced budget that encourages business investment in productivity enhancing technologies, is certainly welcome," states Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "However, looking at it through an Ontario lens, we're disappointed that the government hasn't addressed the lack of sustainability and fairness in our federal fiscal transfer system. We were hoping the government would finish the job it began in the 2007 Federal Budget to address the inequities in Canada's equalization formula and outside transfers in areas such as healthcare, employment insurance benefits and training, infrastructure and education."

Key Messages:

- No substantive initiatives to address the unfairness and unsustainability of the Federal fiscal transfer system.
- We were hoping the government would finish the job it began in the 2007 Federal Budget.
- Outside of equalization - it is only fair that transfers be made on a per capita basis - that is not the case today.

- Employed workers in Ontario continue to receive less than their counterparts in other provinces - and infrastructure, environment and health transfers (Patient Wait Times Guarantee Trust) fail to be made on a per capita basis.
- While the government announced in 2007 that The Canada Health Transfer (CHT) would be provided on an equal per person cash basis - Ontario must wait until 2014-15 for this to take effect.

Border Issues

- Government has made new investments in border efficiency and security.
- Including additional resources for Canada Border Services Agency to manage borders - as well as significant announcements regarding passports and enhanced driver's licenses.
- A passport valid for 10 years is directly in line with our recommendations.

Immigration

- Pleased to see investment in immigration process to increase efficiency and reduce wait times - since immigration will supply 100% of the growth in our labour force - by 2011.

Productivity Enhancing Measures

- While short-term injections do not address the fundamental challenges in our economy - sectors such as the auto sector will benefit in some way from a modest investment in research and development projects.
- An extension of the capital cost allowance is positive allowing our manufacturers to invest in new equipment and machinery.

Workforce

- Investment in mental health initiatives in Canada welcome.

Provided by the OCC.

Annual Business Award Sponsorship

A great sponsorship opportunity awaits! The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce Annual Business Awards are being held April 24, 2008 at **Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club.**

Sponsorship includes:

- Presentation of your Sponsored Award
- Table of 8 for Dinner and Presentations
- Logo on Video as Award Sponsor
- Display Table at the Event
- Logo / Company name included in event e-mail broadcasts, newspaper advertising and monthly newsletter
- Listed on our website as Award Sponsor

This is a great way to promote your business. Call the Chamber office to secure your company as a Sponsor for this years Annual Business Awards. 905-642-4227.

2008 Information & Guide Maps

The 2008 Information Guide maps have arrived! You may arrange to pick up your orders by calling the Chamber office at 905-642-4227. The maps will be distributed to every household in Whitchurch-Stouffville in the March 1st delivery of the Stouffville Sun-Tribune. We would like to extend our appreciation to all of the businesses who supported us in the production of the Map.

**Executive Officers
2008**

Chair of the Board
Karen Cashin
YMCA Employment Centre

Past Chair
Janet Davies
Cedar Beach Park

Secretary
Vicki Wilhelm
Visual Perspective

Treasurer
Dave Bolan
Southwire Canada

Directors
Garth Bell
Dynamic Building Operators

Christopher Davidson
O'Neil Funeral Home

Peter Taws
Keystone Benefits

Office Administration
President & CEO
Helene Johnson

Leigh Castle
Angela Tsapoitis

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



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Fax: 905-642-8966
chamber@whitchurchstouffville.ca
www.whitchurchstouffville.ca

Welcome New Members

Clearview Partitions
Khadija Sunderji
10 Gormley Industrial Ave., Unit 7
Gormley, ON L0H 1G0
Tel: 905-888-5260
Custom Van Products

Jennifer Fair
7 Lobraico Lane RR4
Stouffville, ON, L4A 7X5
Tel: 416-886-7155
Mortgage Consultant

Coming Events Mark Your Calendar

March 27, 2008
Annual Pancake Breakfast
8:00am-9:00am
Hosted by **Bruce's Mill**
3291 Stouffville Rd.
Free to Members, \$15 Non-Members

April 15, 2008
Networking Breakfast
Hosted by **Independent Planning Group**
6165 Main St.
Free to Members, \$15.00 Non-Members

April 24, 2008
Annual Business Awards
Meadowbrook Golf & Country Club
11939 Warden Ave.
\$80 Members, \$90 Non-Members

****Advanced registration and payment required for all events.****