

The Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce serves as an advocate for member businesses, working to promote and enhance our community.

# Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce

## April 2010 Newsletter

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

#### Habitat for Humanity Muskoka

Ellen Flood  
1964 Muskoka Beach Road  
Gravenhurst  
(705) 646-0106  
ellen@habitatmuskoka.com  
www.habitatmuskoka.com  
Habitat is an independent, inter-faith non-profit housing organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing around the world. Habitat is a hand up, not a hand out! Construction on Habitat for Humanity Muskoka's ninth and tenth homes to be located in Bala will take place in 2010.

#### Literacy Society of South Muskoka

Linda Boon  
600-2 Muskoka Road South  
Gravenhurst  
(705) 687-9323  
lssm@bellnet.ca  
www.literacysocietysouthmuskoka.org  
The Literacy Society of South Muskoka (LSSM) have as its mission, the effective provision of literacy and numeracy programs to adults of South Muskoka so that they can learn the skills necessary for participation in society. Reading is everyone's right.

#### Muskoka Autumn Studio Tour

Penny Varney  
Muskoka  
(705) 635-2093  
varney@muskoka.com  
www.muskokaautmstudiotour.com  
Enjoy a tour across Muskoka during the height of autumn colour seeking out the studios of 26 professional artists and craftsmen: Sept. 25 & 26 and Oct. 2 & 3, 2010.

#### Water's Edge Landscaping

Heather Chavuson  
3343-3 Hwy 169  
Bala  
(705) 762-1110  
info@watersedgelandscaping.com  
www.watersedgelandscaping.com  
Your 'Peace of Mind' professionals in Muskoka-especially when you're not! Specializing Landscape Design and installation, grounds

maintenance and Property Management.

#### YMCA Camp Pine Crest

Andrea Balmer  
1090 Gullwing Lake Road  
Torrance  
(705) 762-3377  
camp.pinecrest@ymcagta.org  
www.camppinecrest.ca  
YMCA Camp Pine Crest has 100 years of camping excellence in offering traditional overnight camp. The YMCA focuses on small groups, canoe tripping and leadership development. Leadership programs are available both in camp and on trips for youth ages 13 to 16. Financial assistance is available. A one-week family camp is available for all ages to enjoy.

#### Zensations

Sarah Gossen  
165 Steamship Bay Road Gravenhurst  
(705) 687-1088  
sarah@zensationsmuskoka.com  
www.zensationsmuskoka.com  
Zensations is a specialty gifts & art boutique and gourmet food market that concentrates in 'cottage lifestyle', 'urban ways' and 'one of a kind' merchandise not commonly found in larger retail stores. The business will cater to middle and upper class consumers who seek a shopping experience that's relaxing and engaging in a store that provides exceptional customer service. We believe that consumer will also prefer our convenient and uncongested location.

#### Dates to Remember:

May 4 – Council Meeting at MBHC

May 4 – Business Women Awards

May 5 – McHappy Day

May 6—BIA Fashion Show

May 8—World's Largest Muskoka Chair unveiled!

May 12—After Hours at Muskoka Bay Club

May 27—Leisureworld After Hours

May 29—Op 'Star Quest' auditions

June 12—Antique & Classic Car Show

June 23—BNI After Hours

Watch our online event calendar for details of upcoming events and activities:

[www.GravenhurstChamber.com](http://www.GravenhurstChamber.com)



**MUSKOKA BAY CLUB**

After Hours Event ~  
May 12

5:00 pm ~Arrival and registration in Clubhouse  
Complimentary hors d'oeuvres & beverage

5:45 pm ~ Welcome and comments from  
Chuck MacDougall/Dawn Pentesco  
Tours of Clubhouse and Model Villa

7:00 pm ~ Draw for prizes  
(including golf for two)

RSVP to [events@gravenhurstchamber.com](mailto:events@gravenhurstchamber.com)

**Message from the Manager** - by Jodi Holder

I would like to begin by thanking the Town of Gravenhurst for hosting the After Hours event on April 13. With over 90 people in the Trillium Court, this event was very well attended. Consultants from Triton Engineering and the District were on hand to answer questions about the Streetscape Plan. There will be a public consultation held before final plans are established but in the meantime any comments or queries should be directed to Bruce at Triton Engineering (triton@bellnet.ca).

We also hosted two HST Transition Seminars on April 26 at the Gravenhurst Public Library and over 65 people attend between the two time slots. For those of you who could not attend, frequently asked questions can be accessed on the federal site at

[www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization](http://www.cra.gc.ca/harmonization) or by calling 1-800-959-5525 or sent by email to [psstar\\_barrie@cra-arc.gc](mailto:psstar_barrie@cra-arc.gc). Visit the Ontario Ministry of Revenue's tax site at [www.ontario.ca/taxchange](http://www.ontario.ca/taxchange) and sign up for email alerts or call their hotline toll free at 1-800-337-7222.

For some time I have been investigating a new location for the Chamber operations most recently I toured a location in the Industrial Park. However, I believe that a more central location is preferable. A location that would benefit from the foot traffic that our operation generates - namely, the central business area. (A conservative estimate is that our office has over 20,000 people through our doors annually and that will only increase with the addition of Health Card Services). To that end, I made a deputation to council on April 20 requesting consideration that the Chamber be allowed to lease a portion of the soon to be vacated municipal building at 190 Harvie Street. Subsequent to my deputation a staff report has been submitted presenting Council with the following 2 options:

1. The Fire Department to utilize all of the existing Municipal Office space
2. The Fire Department to utilize a portion of the existing Municipal Office space and the other portion to be leased to another tenant.

We will be supporting option 2. While few would argue that the Fire Department needs additional space and should be supported, it would also be of great benefit

to the community if the space at 190 Harvie Street could generate a little revenue, a little foot traffic and a lot of good will (whether it is the Chamber as a tenant or another suitable business). I will be making another deputation to Council at the next meeting on May 4 at 3pm held at the Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre. Your support by attendance would be appreciated – please keep any placards to a reasonable size. ☺

Lots of events in May if you take a peek at the 'Dates to Remember' on page 1. Hope to see you at the BIA Fashion Show. This is the first of the 3 signature events that the Chamber will organize on behalf of the BIA. Hopefully you will have found something to wear to our next After Hours event hosted by Muskoka Bay Club on May 12 – details on page 1 and on our website. RSVP to [events@gravenhurstchamber.com](mailto:events@gravenhurstchamber.com). Any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jodi Holder, Manager



**Join Rob Clark at Home Hardware as he unveils the World's Largest Muskoka Chair on Saturday, May 8!**

Photo courtesy of Gravenhurst Banner



Congratulations to Gord & Kathleen Emmans for the Opening of Wild Wing!

**THANK YOU TO RENEWING MEMBERS** (Renewed between March 15— April 26, 2010)

Artisan's Gallery, The  
BDO Canada LLP  
Casino Rama  
Cogeco Cable Inc  
Cupid's Central  
Foley Apartments  
Giant Tiger  
Gravenhurst Farmers' Market Co-Op  
Hammond Transportation  
Home Depot Canada

Howard Johnson  
Inn on Bay, The  
Irene McHarg-Coey - Certified Management Accountant  
Kierstead Place Bed & Breakfast  
Lynch's Bed & Breakfast  
Marindah Enterprises  
McLaren Press Graphics Ltd.  
Muskoka Boat & Heritage Centre-The Real Muskoka Experience

Muskoka Gateway Gallery  
Muskoka Magazine  
Muskoka Springs  
North Restaurant & Lounge  
On The Water Designs  
Pioneer Handcraft  
Snowcrest Riders Snowmobile Club  
Sunset Grill - Muskoka Wharf