

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

Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce

February/March 2011 Newsletter

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

AMJ Campbell, Professional Movers, Frank Micallef

Frank Micallef
1209 Muskoka Beach Road Unit 82
Gravenhurst
(705) 801-5960
frankmicallef65@yahoo.ca
www.amjcampbell.com

needs, including; mutual funds, stocks, bonds, GICs, guaranteed investment funds, life, disability and critical illness insurance. We specialize in retirement and estate planning and helping clients to structure their portfolio to produce income that they can count on in retirement.

Moving? Relocating? Local, Provincial & International Professional Movers. Consult with Frank and receive a free estimate today.

Raymond James

Dawna Whipp
640 Muskoka Road North
Gravenhurst
(705) 687-7822
dawna.whipp@raymondjames.ca
www.raymondjames.ca

For over 20 years we have been helping individuals and families in Muskoka achieve their financial and lifestyle goals. As a lifelong resident of Gravenhurst I am especially pleased to bring a new office to Gravenhurst and have the opportunity to work in the community that I love. Raymond James is a full service brokerage firm with a powerful North American platform giving us access to research and support that is second to none. Chris and I offer a full range of investments and insurance products to suit each client's

Individual Membership

Janice King
16 Westwind Court
Gravenhurst
(705) 687-4844
jtking@sympatico.ca
Board Member (see page 4)

Nevis Electrical Systems Inc

Joshua Gliddon
355 Bethune Drive North Unit 'C'
Gravenhurst
(705) 687-6180
nevisystems@bellnet.ca
www.nevisseletrical.com

Nevis Electrical Systems is a dynamic, independent and expanding contractor. Our success is based on customer service, reliability, the expertise of our staff, and competitiveness. Offering services in residential, industrial & commercial installations, maintenance, also fire alarm & emergency lighting systems. Check out our website at nevisseletrical.com.

Dates to Remember:

Feb. 18 & 19 Chainsaw Carving Festival

Feb. 19 & 20 Pond Hockey

Feb 23—Donald Cooper Workshop

Feb. 25, 26 & 27 Winter Carnival

Feb. 28—Boston Pizza After Hours

March 14- 31—Spring Cleaning at the Chamber Office!

March 24—Pro Law and Raymond James After Hours Event catered by North Restaurant.

May 5—BIA Fashion Show

June 11—Car Show

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

www.GravenhurstChamber.com

AFTER HOURS

Hosted by :

RAYMOND JAMES® &

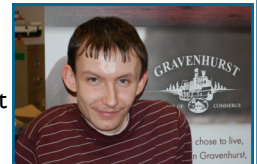


Thursday, March 24 at 5:30 pm

At North Restaurant: RVSP to Brea

My name is **Travis Cooney**. I

recently started a placement here at the chamber of commerce through the Employment North Floating Dock project. My duties at the Chamber include: working reception, creating flyers for chamber events, organizing and filing data, as well as updating the events on the Chamber website. I will be working at the Chamber from February to May and look forward to it being a fun and rewarding experience!



Message from the Manager - by Jodi Holder

This news cycle began with our Annual General Meeting at the end of January at Regatta with over 60 members in attendance. We welcomed two new Board members, Donna Whip from Raymond James (see p.4) and Janice King (retired, see p. 4.). The Chamber Board then met to elect its officers. I am pleased to announce the following executive positions: Dap Thach, President; Marv McCabe, Vice-President; Robbie Irvine, Treasurer; Judy Ring, Secretary. Please go to: <http://www.gravenhurstchamber.com/board-staff/> for our complete Board listing.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank retiring Board members Patricia Murray and Rosemary King for their years of dedicated service.

The Chamber is currently participating in Employment North's *Floating Dock* program. It is a mentorship program designed to help 10 individuals under the age of 30 participate in the local job market. This program consists of 5 weeks of pre-employment preparation and then 16 weeks of work experience in supported employment based on the participants' goals. If you have called the Chamber office recently you may have already spoken to Travis Cooney. If you haven't do take a moment to welcome him. Learn more about Travis on p. 1.

There have been several meetings and announcement regarding RTO 12 (Regional Tourism Organization). This is a relatively new initiative from the Ontario Ministry of Tourism. Learn more about their various activities and how your business can get involved. Their transitional website can be accessed at www.rto12.ca.

On February 9, it was fabulous to see over 200 people gathered at the Opera House at the invitation of Mayor Donaldson with a common goal: to brainstorm about the revitalization of downtown Gravenhurst. The issues facing our downtown core are not

unique to Gravenhurst. Most communities in rural Ontario have struggled at some point in time to maintain the vitality of their historic shopping districts. Challenges such as larger retailers, fluctuating populations, consumer trends, internet commerce and uncertain economics can create barriers to success in a fickle retail environment. What was unique was the fact that a wide range of individuals including retailers (large and small), property owners, municipal representatives and concerned citizens came together and shared their ideas and concerns. Comments and suggestions were universally positive and thoughtful. Some offered a historical perspective and others shared unique examples from across North America and even further afield. One of the most interesting was from a small town in Norway that pumps sea water through tubing underneath all of their downtown sidewalks keeping them clear of snow and ice with no use of salt or sand! Take a look at or add to the blog at: <http://www.futureforgravenhurst.blogspot.com/>.

The Gravenhurst Curling Club welcomed the Tim Hortons Masters Provincial Championship on February 16. The Chamber, BIA and Town of Gravenhurst partnered to provide all participants with re-useable welcome bags filled with visitor information and some coupons from Chamber members. Similarly, welcome bags were also created for the visiting participants involved in the radar runs at last month's very successful Gravenhurst Winter Carnival. It was great to see so many new faces around Town!

The Ministry of Transportation along with their consultants at URS ran PIC#3 (Public Information Centre) on February 22 at the Legion. At this meeting they unveiled their preferred alternative for the re-alignment of highway 11. Information is available online at www.highway11study.ca. What is most concerning is that this realignment would potentially displace

approximately 30 businesses and 50 residences and also the unknowns in terms of timelines. Most recently, the Mayor, Councillor Bratty, Cindy Maher (Town's CAO), Norm Miller and business owner Patrick Bongers met with Transportation Minister Wynne. By all accounts the meeting went well. We will continue to meet as a Highway 11 Response committee and I will continue to update the membership as information becomes available.

The Chamber partnered with the Muskoka Builders Association to offer a seminar presented by Donald Cooper. Over 100 people attended and all were delighted by Donald's enthusiasm and passion. Everyone was able to take something away from the workshop. I know there were many who were unable to attend so we may look toward planning a similar event sometime in the future.

Once again I am very pleased to announce the continuation of the Chamber's partnership with the Gravenhurst BIA. Chamber membership will be paid on behalf of all their members by the BIA. The Chamber will also administer the BIA Spring Fashion Show and the Steamship Festival on a fee for service basis. I attended their AGM in mid-February and made a brief presentation about some of the Chamber's activities.

There is a brief sense of relief around the Chamber office as we signed off on the final proof for the 2011 Visitor Guide. This is a huge project led by Brea and we are looking forward to seeing the fruits of our labours. If you would like any guides to have on hand, please let us know and we will make sure you receive a supply.

As always please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jodi Holder, Manager
jodi@gravenhurstchamber.com

THANK YOU TO RENEWING MEMBERS

(January 1 - March 10, 2011)

4 Pillars Consulting Group	Gateway Worship Centre	Papa Larry's Pizza & Subs
6KG	Gem & Dia Jewellers Inc	Penny Varney Jewellery Gallery & Gifts
Aiken, Christensen & Heath	Giant Tiger	Photographic Imagery
AJL Janssen Landscaping Ltd.	Gidley & Assoc. Insurance Brokers Ltd.	Pine Gardens Bed & Breakfast
Albion Tavern	Grand & Toy	Pine Lake Cottages
AMJ Campbell, Professional Movers, - Frank Micallef	Gravenhurst Banner -Metroland North Media	Pinedale Inn Motel
Anne's Variety	Gravenhurst Book Store, The	Pioneer Handcraft
Annylynders Hairstyling	Gravenhurst Furniture (Knapps)	Pizza Pizza
Artisan's Gallery, The	Gravenhurst Home Hardware	PLANSCAPE
Artstract Company, The	Gravenhurst IDA Pharmacy	Prospects Antiques & Sports Cards
Auburn Gallery of Fine Art	Gravenhurst KOA Campground	Ratcliff Auto Body
Bakery, The	Gravenhurst Naturopathic Healing Centre	Raymond James
BDO Canada LLP	Gravenhurst Paint & Paper	RBC Financial Group
Beacon Bible Camp	Gravenhurst Plumbing, Heating & Elec- trical	Rejuvenation Massage
Benefits Coach, The	Gravenhurst Tapes	Rice, George & Elizabeth
Bethune Memorial House N.H.S.C.	H&R Block	Rickshaw Restaurant
Big 3 Tours & Charters Inc.	Hart & Co Accounting Services	Robertsons Apparel
Bike Shop in Gravenhurst, The	Home Building Centre-Gravenhurst	Rombo's Restaurant
Blooming Muskoka The Flower Shoppe	Homer A. Frank-Barrister & Solicitor	Royal Lepage - Lakes Of Muskoka
Blue Ocean Lighthouse	Howard Johnson	Royal LePage Lakes of Muskoka Realty- Catharine Inniss
BNI-South Muskoka Chapter	Irene McHarg-Coey - CMA	Salvation Army Thrift Store
Body Mind Wholeness	JACE	Sander Motor Sales Ltd.
Brunton Farm/Alternator Starter Shop	Johnston & Assoc. Insurance Brokers Ltd	Saunders & Associates Inc.
Budget Propane & Oil	Just 4 Kicks Academy of Dance	Schulz, Fred J.
Busy Lizzie Cleaning Services	Kahshe Boat Works	Scotiabank
Camp Hillbilly Estates	King, Janice – Individual Membership	Scuba Shack
Camp Winston	Mac's Convenience Store	Sears Gravenhurst
Campbell's Landing	Marmalade of Muskoka	Shawn Pudsey, LLB.
Canada Post	Master Movers & Storage	Snowcrest Riders Snowmobile Club
Canadian Tire Associate Store	McCabe, Marv – Individual Membership	South Muskoka Dental Care
Cash 4 Cheques - Payday Advance Centre	McDonalds Restaurant	Spa at Sagamo, The
Catering Cottage Country	Mike's Place	Stedmans V&S
Chamberlain Tim-Br Mart	Moments & Memories Cafe	Stuart & Cruickshank Barristers & Solicitors
Chimney Facings Inc. Sontag's Pagoda	Muskoka Bay Clothing Factory	Studio Bound Graphic Design
Bird Feeders	Muskoka Carpet & Drapery Centre	Sunset Grill - Muskoka Wharf
Chris Cristobal Designs	Muskoka Family Medical	Taboo Resort Golf And Spa
Cliff Klinck & Associates Ltd.	Muskoka Fireside Shop	Taylor Chiropractic
Cogeco Cable Inc	Muskoka Foot Clinic	TD Canada Trust
Community Policing	Muskoka Futures	Telizon Inc
Coon Bros Sand And Gravel	Muskoka Insurance Brokers Ltd	Terry's Independent Grocer
Copland International	Muskoka Signs & Graphics Inc.	Tim Hortons Donuts
Cottage Cravings	Muskoka Springs	Top Dog Pet Store
Cottage Rose	Nail & Spa	Town of Gravenhurst
Cripps Contracting	National Bank	Triple Sick Skin
Currie's Music	Nevis Electrical Systems Inc	Triton Engineering Services Ltd.
Dowdell Fire Safety Consulting Services	Noggin's	Twisted Sixes
Dr. Brandon Dyer	O.K.W. Limited	Uniglobe The Travel Agency
Durnan, Gord – Individual Membership	Oakwood Motel/Muskoka Adventure	Vacation Time Real Estate Inc.
Elephant's Trunk, The		Wayne N Long
Gadsby's of Gravenhurst		YWCA of Muskoka

ACCESSIBLY

In less than a year, Ontario's private businesses and non-profit organizations will have to implement the Customer Service Standard - the first of five standards to be enacted under the province's Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The legislation, which comes into effect January 1, 2012, demands that all businesses with more than one employee - everything from hair salons and theatres to churches and restaurants - train staff members in providing accessible customer service and establish formal policies for serving patrons with a disability.

Businesses with 20 or more employees are also required to complete an online report and document the steps they've taken to make their services more accessible.

According to the Ministry of Community and Social Services, any business that doesn't comply could face a hefty penalty

Click here for a full article regarding Businesses Confused By Customer Service Legislation from the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) website.

For more information and answers to any questions visit the Ontario Government's website at www.accesson.ca

The Chamber also has a limited number of CD's that offer a 50 minute course called 'Serve-Ability: Transforming Ontario's Customer Service'. Completing this course will satisfy the training component. CD can be signed out at the Chamber office.

RESOLVE TO SAVE ENERGY IN 2011!

Register now to receive information on upcoming 2011 Business Programs from Veridian Connections. Upon registering your interest, you will receive information about new and exciting conservation programs for business as they become available. These new Programs will apply to the following businesses: commercial, institutional, industrial, government, apartments and condominiums, and agricultural facilities.

Visit <http://www.veridian.on.ca/conservation.php> to register.



Congratulations to the Winter Carnival Committee for a very successful event!



Chamber Bed Race Team—4th Place

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



After some 40 years in the workforce, most recently as senior partner, D.W. King & Company, providing independent fundraising counsel, **Janice King** is now a happily retired person.

Since moving to Gravenhurst from Toronto with her husband Dan and miniature Schnauzer, Toby 5 years ago, Janice now enjoys gardening, golfing, travelling, and most recently, learning to paint.

She strongly believes in "giving something back" to the community – she is the current President of the Probus Club of Gravenhurst, and a volunteer with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and the Muskoka Arts and Crafts Association. Janice is happy and excited to be joining the Board of the Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce and looks forward to contributing to the Chamber's work with and for the Gravenhurst community.



Dawna Whipp is a Financial Advisor who has been working in the financial services industry for the last 20 years. She owns a practice with Raymond James Ltd. and is excited about the launch of her new Gravenhurst office. She and her husband, Tyler, have two children, Jennifer and Justin, who attend Gravenhurst High School and Muskoka Beechgrove Pubic School. Dawna is a past Director for the Huntsville Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce and enjoyed being actively involved in several committees that were dedicated to profiling local businesses and fund raising. Dawna looks forward to her duties as a board member for the Gravenhurst Chamber and to the opportunity to work with local businesses to promote our community.

Thanks Boston Pizza for hosting our Feb. After Hours

