

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

# Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce

## January 2010 Newsletter

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

#### Blue Ocean Lighthouse

Pascal Garrido  
1127 Sparrow Lake, Route D,  
Kilworthy  
(705) 689-0572  
pascal@blueoceanlighthouse.com  
[www.blueoceanlighthouse.com](http://www.blueoceanlighthouse.com)

#### Handyman (Contracting) Services of Muskoka

David Totten  
148 Crescent Drive  
Gravenhurst  
(705) 644-4597  
handymanservices@sympatico.ca

Custom wood craving, CNC routing, Manufacturer of residential and commercial carved signs, furniture, mantels, doors and much more....  
Manufacture of topographic scale modes from 3-D computer data.

Over 20 years of experience as a construction/renovation company in addition to the design and implementation of maintenance programs for large tourist resorts.

#### Dates to Remember:

**Jan 28—Bridges to Better Business ; 8:45 am to 4 pm see p1.**

**Jan 28—Chamber AGM 6pm**

**Feb 13—Heritage Day, MBHC**

**Feb 17—Tax Seminar**

**Feb 23—Counterfeit Seminar**

**Feb 26 & 27—Chain Saw Festival**

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

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

### THANK YOU TO RENEWING MEMBERS

Renewed between December 15, 2009—January 15, 2010  
Muskoka Bay Development Corporation  
A-Bay Storage  
Chimney Facings Inc. Sontag's Pagoda Bird Feeders



#### Marketing and Selling Your Way Through 2010

Discover steps to move your business forward!

Thurs. Jan. 28 8:45 am to 4 pm  
at Regatta, \$35 includes lunch

Bridges to a better business is a unique learning and networking seminar and workshop of entrepreneurs. Participants will have the opportunity to gain valuable insight and tips on common business topics and will be able to share relevant best and worst practices and trends with other business owners.

[www.muskokasmallbusiness.ca](http://www.muskokasmallbusiness.ca)

To Register:

[contact@muskokasmallbusiness.ca](mailto:contact@muskokasmallbusiness.ca)



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please Join us on:

Thursday, January 28 at 6pm  
Gravenhurst Opera House  
After Hours to follow in the  
Trillium Court

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

**H**appy New Year to everyone!

**G**ravenhurst ended the New Year by welcoming the Ontario Torch Relay on December 30th. We were lucky enough at the Chamber Office to have the torch pass right past our office. I was told that crowds around the Opera House rivaled those that we saw for the Santa Claus Parade. (Better not let Santa know!). For those of you who were able to join in the festivities you know that spectators were just honoured with a quick glimpse of the torch as it zoomed by. Very exciting nonetheless and a wonderful memory to be cherished.



**P**lans are really beginning to come together as we look forward to the Ontario Winter Games that is being co-hosted by all Muskoka communities March 4 – 7. Gravenhurst is fortunate to be hosting the Opening Ceremonies and 4 sports: curling, men's hockey, air rifle and weightlifting. For more details and complete schedule of events visit [www.2010OntarioWinterGames.ca](http://www.2010OntarioWinterGames.ca).

**T**hanks to all that attended the seminar "Doing Business with the Federal Government" which we co-hosted with our neighbouring Chambers and the Town of Gravenhurst. I have received an electronic version of the powerpoint presentation from that evening so if anyone is interested in re-

ceiving it please let me know. We also have informative brochures at the Chamber office.

**W**e have a quick house-keeping issue about the website. Our new website has Business Search (top right hand corner) and we want to ensure that your business is being found. Please take a moment to check that your business is coming up under the appropriate keyword search categories. If you would like us to add a search category, please let us know. As well, there is space for a 175 character business description under each listing, please take a moment to craft a listing that we can post to your business.

**I** am very pleased to announce a new agreement that has been reached between the Chamber of Commerce and the Gravenhurst BIA. The partnership includes two main thrusts: universal Chamber membership and administration of the BIA's 3 signature events. In practice, membership in the BIA would automatically mean Chamber membership. An annually set fee will be paid by the BIA on behalf of its membership. Chamber Membership would no longer be paid by individual BIA members but instead would be a benefit of BIA membership. The same benefits of membership would extend to all our members. From the Chamber perspective we are very pleased to be able to grow our membership to include 100% of BIA businesses. Secondly, the Chamber would take over the administration and

implementation of the BIA's 3 signature events: The Spring Fashion Show, the Muskoka Chair Festival and the Steamship Festival. The BIA will pay a fee for service to the Chamber for the administration of these events. Both organizations are very pleased with agreement and are looking forward to benefits to be realized in the coming months.

**L**astly, I would like to invite all members to our Annual General Meeting this Thursday, January 28 at 6 pm at the Opera House. A social after-hours event hosted by the Chamber will follow in the Trillium Court, RSVP to [events@gravenhurstchamber.com](mailto:events@gravenhurstchamber.com).

Jodi Holder

Manager

**Special Note: Congratulations to the Marriott Residence Inn for organizing the Haitian Relief Breakfast Fundraiser and to all those who attended. A total of \$1040 was raised for the Red Cross Relief Effort.**



Marriott Staff at Haitian Relief Fundraiser

## COUNTERFEIT DETECTION TRAINING—JOIN US!

The Bank of Canada works with its partners – private sector firms, consumer and volunteer groups, government agencies and law enforcement organizations - to raise awareness among consumers and businesses about the dangers of counterfeiting and other frauds by educating them on how to *recognize it, report it and stop it*.

Unfortunately, many Canadians continue to fall victim to the tricks used by fraudsters. Education is the key to avoiding the fraud trap. The Bank and its partners provide a broad range of educational resources that cover everything from identity theft to counterfeiting, vacation scams to debit card fraud.

On February 23rd, join the Gravenhurst Chamber of Commerce and a representative from the Bank of Canada for hands-on *Counterfeit Detection* training – counterfeit notes will be provided for individuals to examine and compare against genuine Canadian currency.

**Tuesday, February 23, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

**Terry's Independent Grocer—Community Room**

**No Charge for this event—pick up your own lunch at YIG's Lunch Counter!**

**Space is limited RSVP to [events@gravenhurstchamber.com](mailto:events@gravenhurstchamber.com)**



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BANQUE DU CANADA**

**Back by popular  
demand!!!**