

# Introducing Your New President, Jamie Schumacker

By Marnie Hughes,  
Communication Artistry

Following the Chamber's Annual General Meeting on September 26th, Jamie Schumacker was elected as the new President of the Chamber of Commerce. Helen McCormack remains with the Chamber as Past President so that they may continue to benefit from her insight and contribution.

Jamie has worked for RBC for the last 17 years, most recently as head of strategy and performance management for RBC's Global Technology and Operations (GTO) group. Jamie's work took him into the back office, call centers and technology side of the bank. Although he enjoyed this work, he is presently seeking new opportunities.

Jamie believes that customer service is key to the growth and prosperity of all businesses, big or small. As the Chamber President, Jamie is excited about celebrating and recognizing those businesses who consistently demonstrate what it means to provide exemplary service to their customers.

While the Chamber is positively looked upon for creating networking

opportunities, our members are suggesting that we can do more in the area of policy and advocacy. This is where Jamie feels he can contribute as the new President of the Chamber. The Chamber plays an important role as an advocate and as the 'voice of local business' which can weigh in on important issues affecting our community. The Chamber is moving toward accreditation from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, which must include proactive engagement in advocacy and policy.

One of Jamie's many passions is the Junior Achievement (JA) organization. He has been involved with JA for 27 years dating back to his high school days. Junior Achievement is an organization that is developing the next generation of leaders. The link to the Chamber is a logical fit as they impart their business knowledge to youth with the right mix of governance and advocacy. The tie between JA and the Chamber has been so successful here that they plan on bringing this relationship structure as a model or template to other communities. The Chamber of Commerce has partnered with JA

London and JA Canada to form a tri-party agreement to allow the Chamber to administer and deliver JA programs in the Halton Hills community.

Jamie feels that youth today have an enthusiastic approach to life, which needs to be embraced and directed into something constructive. Their energy inspires creative, unique and refreshing ideas. This is something any business community will benefit from. Through the Chamber, these young people are receiving guidance and mentorship which is an important part in their leadership development. JA programs are delivered by volunteers from the local business community through local schools and present wonderful opportunities to practice public speaking and facilitation skills in a safe environment. These skills are transferrable and valuable in any business or group.

In addition to his role as Chamber President, Jamie can be seen around town with his family. He is currently developing a business venture with his wife Cydney called "I'm Inspired" which provides an opportunity for people to try



**Jamie Schumacker**

new things by being matched with skilled individuals who can facilitate small group workshops and personalized one-on-one consultations. The topics are as varied as your wish list and currently include things such as scrapbooking and health, fitness & nutrition. Their website www.iminspired.ca is under construction and is expected to be up and running soon.

**BusinessLink Profile**

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**BusinessLink on Holiday**

Marnie Hughes of Communication Artistry & Camping Goddesses enjoy BusinessLink at Earl Rowe Prov. Park.

Alan Williams of AGSI on Lake of Bays, Muskoka.

Send in your pic reading BusinessLink on holidays, and you'll be on the front page, too!

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SHOP HALTON HILLS  
This message brought to you by your local newspaper

## A GOOD REASON TO SHOP LOCAL

#2. Shopping local saves you money. Out of town shops have done a good job of convincing us all that sole traders = expensive, but the evidence just isn't there to back this up. If you add in travel, parking costs, fees to transport larger items home and your time, the overall cost is often much higher.

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