

# A new generation of achievers

*'We want to attract sharp, innovative young people,' writes Reardon*



**KEITH REARDON**  
Column

Partnerships can make for some great initiatives.

The partnership between the Milton Chamber of Commerce, Wilfrid Laurier University and CN has certainly created something special - an annual industry-academia event that has provided an important platform to a new generation of supply chain achievers.

The third World Class Supply Chain Summit, with the theme Innovation in a Complex, Uncertain World, took place May 9 at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

It attracted 115 attendees, featured leading established speakers from industry and academia, and gave a high-profile forum to five outstanding student presenters, who discussed their research, insights, and ideas in supply chain and logistics. More than a dozen other students attended.

I serve as a co-chair of the summit, along with my colleague, Dr. Michael Haughton, professor of operations and decision sciences and CN research fellow in supply chain management (SCM) at Laurier's Lazaridis School of Business and Economics.

As CN's vice-president of intermodal and automotive, I let the students attending the Summit know that CN - with 24,000 proud railroaders in Canada and

the United States - is hiring aggressively.

We want to attract sharp, innovative young people to help us meet and overcome the transportation challenges of today and tomorrow.

As the population of the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA) closes in on seven million, the need for additional transportation infrastructure and a more efficient supply chain has increased dramatically.

Milton, with its ideal location, is well positioned to provide solutions on both fronts. Already an established logistics hub with distribution centres operated by leading companies such as Amazon, Lowe's Canada and Whirlpool Canada, Milton will soon become an educational centre as well.

At CN, we're excited that Wilfrid Laurier, in partnership with Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning, will be establishing an innovative academic centre of excellence in Milton. It's the perfect match of expertise and location.

Laurier's Milton site will introduce complementary engineering undergraduate programs linking students to highly-skilled STEAM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) opportunities.

So much of success in business and academia today depends on the ability to attract and collaborate with strong, trusted partners.

It was three years ago when CN established a partnership with Laurier's Centre for Supply Chain Management.

Through the agreement, which includes the annual summit, CN supports internships and a co-operative education program that's providing experience and summer employment to students studying supply management.

Together, CN and Laurier are preparing a new generation of leaders to maintain and enhance a safe, smart, value-added supply chain.

Our supply chain conference has turned into exactly the type of forum that we had envisioned. In early 2017, the Milton chamber joined the Summit partnership, making it even more dynamic and relevant.

Our conference is all about learning from each other, including learning from the next generation of supply chain leaders.

CN will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year, and we're going to do something special to mark the occasion at World Class Supply Chain 2019.

We'll certainly be inviting more students. I'm looking forward to learning from them.

*- Keith Reardon is CN's vice-president of intermodal and automotive.*

## SNAPSHOT



Martha Hardacre photo

Champion reader Martha Hardacre snapped this photo of a fox going for a stroll on Charles Street downtown Milton: Do you have a cute, fun, unique or interesting photo taken in Milton? Send your Champion Tracks submission for consideration to [cohara@metroland.com](mailto:cohara@metroland.com). Please include a brief description and the name of the photographer for publication.

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