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MILTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE



President's Message Bill Mercer, Mercer, Hildebrand & Zehr

Happy New Year!

Have you ever pondered whether the New Year would be more appropriately started on or about September 1st? Or at the very least, following Labour Day weekend? Just think about it....the kids have gone back to school – a brand new year, not the second half of the "last year". Most family holidays have occurred during the summer months, so businesses settle back to full staffing for the new year. All of the clubs and organizations that did not meet for the summer months are gearing up for the start of a new year of activities. I know here at the Chamber of Commerce, we are about to resume our meetings.

We received at our door, the new guide from the Recreation Department about all the new craft classes, exercise classes, skating lessons, hockey and music lesson sign-ups that are being offered for "the year". We have our pick of festivals and fall fairs to celebrate the beginning of the new season. Here in Milton, the Steam Era roars through Town once more and in all the surrounding areas there are fall fairs, apple fests, corn husking, wine

tasting... Yes! This is the beginning of a wonderful new season. Nature gives us an amazing show of colour as the trees prepare for the winter months. The signs of harvest bring also signs of hibernation as the birds head south and the squirrels store their nuts. People shed the sandals for boots and the shorts and halter-tops for jeans and jackets. The days get shorter and the temperatures cooler. And, oh how quickly we forget that we were ever uncomfortable during that short spell of heat and humidity!

If I put on my accountant hat, I should tell you that now is a really good time to think about tax planning for the year. Do not wait until the beginning of the traditional new year when it might be too late to take steps that may be beneficial to you.

I don't know about you, but I think it is appropriate to wish you "happy new year" at this time of year. Let's not wait for December 31st. From your Chamber of Commerce, have a happy "new year"!

Upcoming Chamber Events

Business After Hours
 Co-hosted by Elayne M. Tanner & Associates Inc. and Padgett Business Services
 Location: Elayne Tanner's residence, 11084 Fifth Line, Nassagaweya
 Date: **September 25 (5pm-7pm)**
 Elayne Tanner and Gloria & Doug Francis are sure to host a wild and wacky event in great country surroundings.
 (Directions: Highway 25 North of 401 to Regional Road 15 – turn left and follow to 5th Line – turn right – 6th driveway on left.)
 A reminder to bring your business cards to network with business associates and to enter a draw for an awesome prize! See you there.
 Registration forms will be sent out via email and fan fax to our members in early September.

October 23
 OPEN HOUSE at Chamber Headquarters to celebrate our 113th Anniversary! (details to follow)


Special Thanks to.....
July 24th BUSINESS AFTER HOURS' co-hosts, Deborah and Don Simmonds, owners/operators of the White Rock Ostrich Farm; and to Christine Pohlkamp, owner of Nova Training and Consulting. Guests enjoyed wagon rides, delicious foods featuring ostrich meat, and socializing with fellow area businesses who are Chamber members. A great time and venue!

Business Before Hours
 (7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.)
 Location: Chamber Boardroom, Suite 101, 251 Main St.
 These sessions provide our members and guests an opportunity to network with business associates and to learn about the community. Please bring your business cards!

September 13
 Guest Speaker: Paul Foley of Ross Dixon Financial Services featuring Mark Purai. Topic: Comprehensive Financial Planning

October 11
 Guest Speaker: Superintendent Mike Kingston, Halton Regional Police Services. Topic: 'Future Community Policing and Crime Prevention in Milton'

November 8
 Guest Speaker: Fire Chief, Harold Penson, Milton Fire Department. Topic: 'How Growth Will Impact Our Fire Department'



Special Thanks to Bert and Laurie Andrews for hosting the August 28th Business After Hours event at their farm 'Andrew's Scenic Acres/Scotch Block Winery' located at 9365 - 10th Sideroad in MILTON. Guests enjoyed the picturesque 'pick your own' farm and it's decadent fresh produce, in addition to sampling an array of extraordinary wines from the Andrews' Scotch Block Winery.