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**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

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**MILTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

**President's Message**  
**Melissa De Brouwer**

**Happy New Year.** 2003 promises to be an interesting year for the Milton Chamber. To all of our new members and the new businesses that have located in Milton in the last year: Welcome. As always, your Board of Directors has a full plate this year. Milton's growth means not only more residents, but also more local businesses and Chamber Memberships, and more issues for us to become involved in, particularly at the Municipal and Regional levels, but also at the Provincial and Federal levels. We also need to expand the Chamber office space and staff to meet our growing needs. There are the ongoing issues of the Hydro deposit policy and development charges. We're tentatively planning the first Fall version of Showcase Milton, assuming all of the stars align for us, and we're looking into launching a Group RRSP program for employees of member businesses. Add these new initiatives to our existing programs and whatever advocacy issues pop up on our radar this year, and we're in for an exciting year acting as "The Voice of Business."

This year's Board of Directors consists of Jamie Burton, The Osborne Group, Doug Francis, Padgett Business Services, Joyce Hagevik, Royal LePage Real Estate Services Ltd., Ron Hudson, Willowbrook Bed & Breakfast, Rick Malboeuf, Town Council Representative, Blake Mercer, Mercer Hildebrand & Zehr, Lesley-Anne Mongovius, Mohawk Racetrack Slots, Derek Wilson, Dufferin Aggregates, Angelo deMedicis, Milton Home Hardware and of course, our Executive Director, Sandy Martin. I'd like to welcome our new Directors, and welcome back our returning Directors. I'm excited to be working with each of you.

Many thanks our 2002 President, Dawn Case, for an excellent year of leadership and I look forward to working with her in her capacity as Past President this year. I'd also like to thank Bill Mercer (2002 Past President) Hazel Carlin, Paul Attack, and Christos Babalis for their years of service on the Board. We'll miss you and your senses of humour at those Board Meetings!

To the rest of you, we're always looking for more help in whatever capacity you're able to give. Active involvement in the Chamber is very rewarding for too many reasons to go into here. If you would like to become more involved, please contact Sandy Martin or Andrea Boyle at the Chamber.

**NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

**WELCOME to the following Milton and area-based businesses as new Chamber members. We invite you to participate in our monthly event and encourage you to take part on one or more of the Chamber's committees.**

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**Happy New Year!**

As Milton grows and we welcome newcomers to our community I ask that you take a few moments to recognize the people who make this town truly special. The Milton Chamber of Commerce has been hosting the Annual Community Awards since 1973 recognizing both citizens and businesses for their contributions to making Milton a better place to live and work.

**This is your opportunity to nominate a citizen, business owner or business for a community award. Please take a moment to put pen to paper and write about a worthy individual or business that deserves, in your opinion, to be recognized.**

**CITIZEN of the YEAR**  
**BUSINESSWOMAN of the YEAR**  
**BUSINESSMAN of the YEAR**  
**BUSINESS of the YEAR (25 employees or less)**  
**BUSINESS of the YEAR (26 employees or more)**  
**LIFE-TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Nominations must include the name, address and phone number of the nominee and most importantly the reasons why you feel they are deserving of the nomination. Please include their volunteer history, any previous recognition's, and any other relevant information that will allow the selection committee to make a knowledgeable decision.

**The Chamber of Commerce does not do additional research on the nominee nor does it verify the information provided. We rely on the information given to us by the nominator to be accurate and truthful. The selection committee is made up of community leaders who are also Chamber members. The exception to the general selection process is for the Citizen of the Year who is selected by the community.**

Mail to: Milton Chamber of Commerce  
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