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MILTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE

President's Message
 Melissa De Brouwer

Well..... the process works. Last year you, the members, brought the Hydro Security Deposit issue to our attention. The Milton Chamber immediately agreed that demanding a permanent security deposit of Milton's large hydro consumers (>50 kW), was poor business practice and harmful to our productiveness and competitiveness. We also believed that Milton's large consumers were just the starting point. This policy would eventually be expanded to include businesses throughout the province, as well as smaller business and residential consumers. On your behalf, we tried to negotiate better terms through Milton Hydro, the Town of Milton, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, the provincial government, and finally the Ontario Energy Board. Upon hearing the issue, the OEB set up a working group, and invited the Milton Chamber to participate. Dawn Case and Rob Clarke attended numerous meetings on behalf of our members, sitting on both the working group and sub-committee. I'd like to thank them both for their participation. Without their strong vocal opposition to the LDC position, I doubt there would be any recognition of good payment history. Today, I'm proud to report to you that it looks like all of our efforts are going to pay off. The Ontario Energy Board has put forward a proposed security policy that covers all users, as we expected. Thanks to Dawn and Rob, it reflects our position, i.e. those businesses with good payment history (GPH) will be recognized as such, and will not be subjected to a security deposit to be held indefinitely. There are still some details to be worked out, and the policy still has to be passed, but we're very happy with it. The full details on the

OEB's proposed policy can be found at:
http://www.oeb.gov.on.ca/html/en/industryrelations/ongoingprojects_securitydeposits.htm

The OEB is inviting public comment on their proposed policy until July 10th. I urge you to participate in the process, and make your position known to the OEB. As you can see, it does work. One of the areas still up in the air involves the method for calculating the security deposit for non-residential <50 kW consumers – using customer specific average consumption or using a class or sub-class average consumption. The Chamber will be responding in favour of the customer specific average consumption method.

What does this mean? Those businesses that paid the security deposit last year, and who have 7 years of GPH, will be able to request a full refund of their deposits once the new policy goes into effect.

The Milton Chamber has provided very real, tangible value to those businesses, as well as all of Milton's businesses, and that is the Chamber's job. It wouldn't be possible to do that job though, without some very strong employees and volunteers, and I'm proud and grateful to be associated with all of you. Thank you to Sandy Martin for guiding us through the various channels, and keeping the Board informed. Thank you to Dawn Case and Rob Clarke for attending the working group and sub-committee meetings and giving the Milton Chamber a strong voice on behalf of business. Thank you to our members for bringing the issue to our attention in the first place.

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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 Email: revinou@cogeco.ca
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 Fax: 905-847-9592
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