

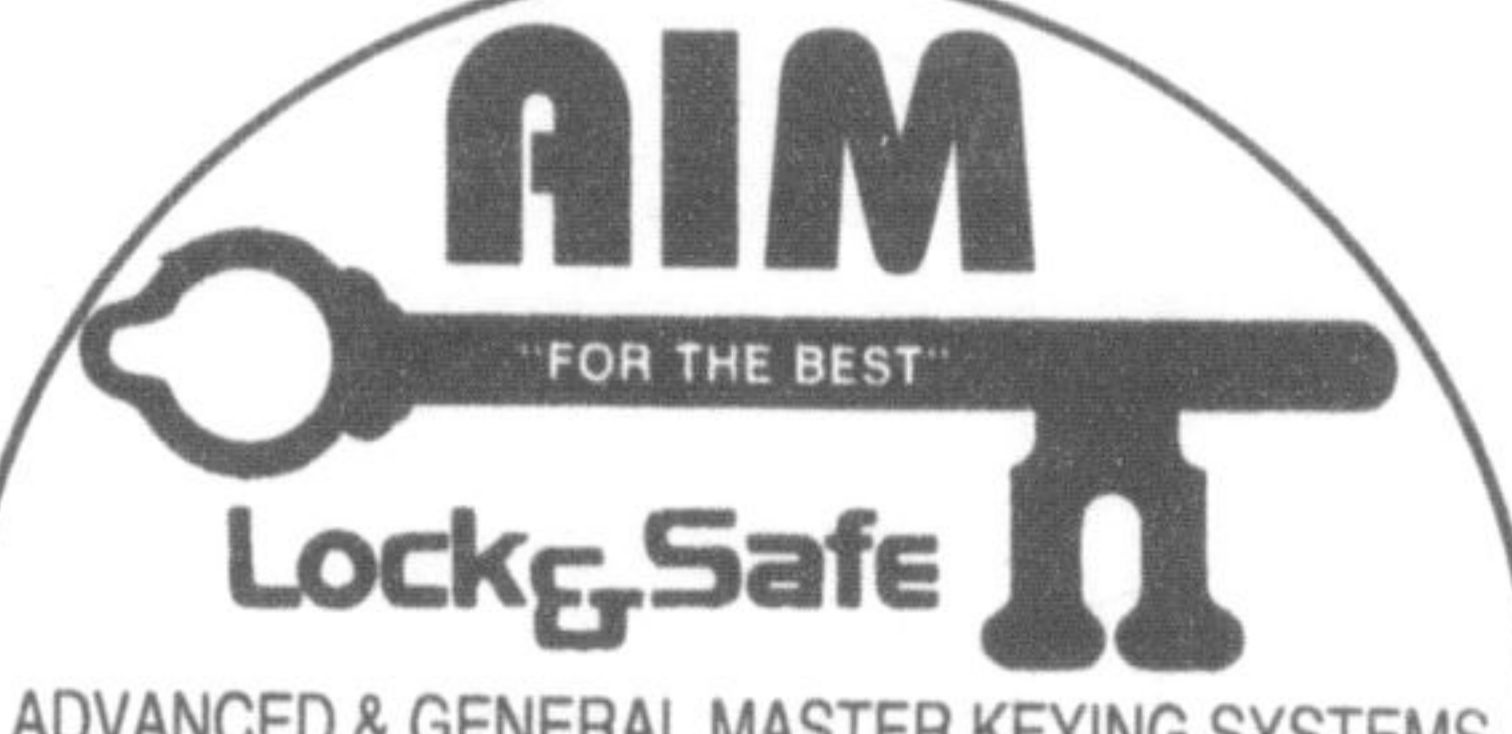




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MILTON CHAMBER of COMMERCE

President's Message

Melissa De Brouwer

July and August usually mean a slower pace and more time to enjoy our all too short summer, our families, and leisure pursuits. While we've been doing all of that at the Chamber, we've also been busy. For us, it's budget time again. The Chamber's fiscal year end is September 30th, so Jamie Burton has given us all the homework of developing our budgets for 2003/04. With a Chamber that is growing as quickly as ours, and all of the new initiatives we've undertaken and plan to undertake over the next few years, our budget is our bible. While I've been on the Board, I've heard repeatedly about the "old days" when the Chamber wasn't fortunate enough to be operating in the black. We've come a long way since then, and we're very careful to try to maintain, if not improve upon our current position.

Last year, for the first time in many years, we approved a deficit budget on the assumption that we would have to invest significant dollars in new staff and space improvements. Our plan was to recoup the deficit in the 2003/04 year. There was some serious debate, and I also received a lot of ribbing about being the president that was going to bring us back to the dark days of debt. I'm happy to report that due to our expenses being lower than budgeted, so far we've been operating at a surplus, and (fingers crossed) it looks like we'll finish with a surplus. It's a good thing budgets are flexible! Perhaps at the August board meeting we can all vote ourselves a pay raise..... 😊

Have a wonderful summer everyone. See you at Business After Hours.

JULY BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Gourmet cuisine and classic cars made for an exceptional Business After Hours Event on July 22nd held at Memory Lane Limousine. Co-hosted by Infusion Catering and Event Design, the event was attended by over 50 Chamber members who enjoyed being chauffeured by limo to the event and then greeted with fruitful cocktails, luscious appetizers and scrumptious desserts and entertained by authentic Mariachi musicians. Door prizes were awarded to lucky attendees and included tickets to the Rolling Stones; dinner and limousine to and from the winner's home; and a local limousine ride accompanied with catered hors d'oeuvres, all courtesy of Memory Lane Limousine and Infusion Catering and Event Design.

The August Business After Hours will be held at Bravo Software Group on Tuesday, August 26th from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Bravo Software Group is located at 6508 McNiven Road in Kilbride, Ontario. Please R.S.V.P. to the Chamber at 905 878 0581.



Hosts Shabbir Karmali, Kelly Sinyi-Miller (Infusion Catering and Event Design) and Brian Jones (Memory Lane Limousine) toast to a successful Business After Hours.

RENEWAL MEMBERSHIPS * Denotes Escarpment Country Tourism Partner

Thank you to the following members for renewing their Chamber membership.

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| Dr. A. Koeth | Milton Community Resource Centre * | YOUNG DRIVERS/Collisionfree |
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UPCOMING EVENTS

The Milton Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce that the Honourable Janet Ecker, Minister of Finance for the Government of Ontario will be the Guest Speaker at an upcoming Chamber Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, August 26th at the Granite Ridge Golf Club, R.R. #3, 9503 Dublin Line. Registration will commence at 11:45am. Fee is \$25 for members and \$30 for non-members. Please contact the Chamber to register at 905-878-0581.




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