

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL

Chamber of Commerce



The voice of business in Windsor-Essex County

ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009

**WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009**

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**WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
LEADERS' MESSAGE**

Thank you for being a member of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce. Your ongoing support is something we never take for granted.

Your membership contribution is the working capital that keeps us going. It also expresses your confidence in the value we provide to all of our members, large and small.

We are working hard and are committed to continually improving the quality of our products and services to exceed your expectations. As well, we continue to make unique and significant contributions in shaping our regional economy and improving the quality of life in Windsor and Essex County.

The 2008-2009 year was one of significant accomplishments for our Chamber. We focused on programs that you told us mattered most. Our affinity rewards programs offered you a compelling value proposition whereby the benefits of your Chamber membership often exceed fees.

We are also particularly proud of the attention that our policy positions received from governments this past year, and the positive impact we have made in influencing decisions to help our economy.

You have our commitment that we will not rest on our laurels. As we look forward, we will continue to find ways to ensure Windsor and Essex County will continue to be all it can be. Our members are strong. Our volunteers are strong. Our Chamber is strong. Thank you for your support.

Linda Smith
President

Peter Hrastovec
Past Chair

Lindsay Boyd
Chair 2008-2009

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009



Lindsay Boyd
Chair
*District Manager
Union Gas Limited*



Peter Hrastovec
Past Chair
*Barrister & Solicitor,
Peter Hrastovec*



Linda E. Smith
President
*Windsor -Essex
Regional Chamber
of Commerce*



Carolyn Brown
Director-at-Large
*VP Administration
Detroit-Windsor Tunnel LLP*



Dean Clevett
Director-at-Large
*TES Manager
BASF Canada*



Adam Davis
Chair, BEA
Committee
*President
Next Dimension Inc.*



Leo Deluca
Director-at-Large
*Owner
Koolini Italian Eatery*



James Drummond
Chair Elect
*Sr. Environmental
Specialist
Golder Associates Ltd.*



Janice Forsyth
Director-at-Large
*Sr. Director of Fund
Development
United Way Windsor/Essex*



Tim Fuerth
Treasurer
*CFO
PBL Insurance
Limited*



Gary Hillier
Vice Chair
*Director
Cole International/
Ambassador
Brokerage*



Jennifer Jones
Director-at-Large
*Partner
Media Street
Productions Inc.*



Paul LeFave
Chair, Transportation
Policy Committee
*President
Border Freight Resources*



Stephen Mattis
Director-at-Large
*Vice Pres. Royal Bank of
Canada, Windsor Commercial
Banking Centre*



Dave McGregor
Chair, Environment &
Energy Committee
*Facility Manager
Brighton Beach Power LP*



Gordon Moore
Director-at-Large
*President
Moore Consulting
Group*



Jeffrey Musson
Director-at-Large
*President
Dynamite Network
Solutions Inc.*



Dan Orman
Director-at-Large
*Owner
Frees of Windsor*



Robert Rea
Chair, Finance &
Taxation Committee
*President
Canadian Joist & Deck Corp.*



Terence Toohey
Chair, Membership
Services Committee
*Sales Manager
Aramark Canada*



Mary Ann Wenzler-Wiebe
Chair, Government
Relations Committee
*Branch Manager
Business Development
Bank*



Sue Zanin
Chair, ATHENA
Committee
*Retired Superintendent of
Education - Greater Essex
County District School Board*

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLICY COMMITTEE YEARLY REPORTS 2008-2009

Environment and Energy Committee

- Provided leadership on environmental and energy issues by writing articles and informing the members about the latest environment and energy trends.
- Informed the membership about the alternative energy needs of the Province and the need for a balanced approach to the energy supply in Ontario
- Hosted an atomic energy breakfast and seminar featuring Glenna Carr, CEO of Atomic Energy Canada. The meeting served as procurement opportunity for local businesses

Government Relations Committee

- Implemented the Chamber's Provincial Election Strategy, identifying the federal business issues.
- Hosted a federal election debate among candidates representing all three Windsor-Essex ridings.
- Participated in the overall Chamber issue identification process regarding economic development, business climate and municipal planning

Finance and Taxation Committee

- Provided Chamber positions and comments regarding 2008-2009 government budgets.
- Participated in the Ontario 2008-2009 Pre-Budget Consultations with Ontario Minister of Finance Dwight Duncan.
- Presented the Chamber's comments and recommendations at the City of Windsor budget deliberations in May 2009.
- Informed members on issues related to the Ontario-Federal fiscal imbalance, the new Ontario Harmonized Sales Tax announcement, and economic diversification.
- Provided the 2009 Economic Outlook with participation of key sector businesses, associations and representatives from other Chambers of Commerce and Public Officials.
- Led the Chamber advocacy efforts on resolving the federal political and budgetary crisis in January 2009.
- Hosted a federal and provincial budget breakfast sponsored by Deloitte. The program informed members of tax implications resulting from both budgets and the state of the national and local economy.
- The Chamber provided its own estimate for size of the Ontario Budget Deficit for 2008-2009

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POLICY COMMITTEE YEARLY REPORTS 2008-2009

Membership Services & Development Committee

- **New Member Welcome.** The New Member Welcome event was revamped in 2008 and received Board approval.

The new program launched in April 2009 with a second held in June.

Modeled after programs at other Chambers, it is a more frequent, intimate welcome held at the Chamber office, featuring interaction with Chamber staff and introduction to affinity and service providers in attendance.

The April welcome was attended by 13 new members from 96 invited. There were 9 attendees from 115 invited to the June event.

Going forward new members will be invited personally but there will be an open invitation to all members through the E-Update or Business Briefs.

- **Network Navigators.** This program continues to provide a personal touch to new members by providing an ongoing relationship benefit. Network Navigators seek out new members at After Business events to provide membership and networking insight from a member perspective.
- **Committee Volunteers.** The Membership Committee was reduced to 5 members with 2 members taking leave for personal reasons. A campaign to recruit new volunteers was begun in the Business Briefs and E-Update

Transportation Committee

- Provided information and media articles regarding High Speed Rail for Windsor-Essex region
- The Canadian Chamber of Commerce adopted a High Speed Rail policy resolution developed by the Windsor-Essex Chamber's Transportation Committee.
- Provided opinion and feedback to the Detroit River International Crossing planning group regarding the construction of a new Provincial access road and a new border access plaza..
- The Chamber provided its support for the Hub 09' conference in May 2009..

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS SUMMARY 2008-2009

AFTER BUSINESS TRADESHOW – August 14, 2008

Hosted and sponsored by Bob-Lo Island



AFTER BUSINESS TRADESHOW – September 11, 2008

Hosted and sponsored by Viewpoint Estate Winery, Harrow



AFTER BUSINESS EVENT – October 23, 2008

Hosted and Sponsored by Art Gallery of Windsor and TD Canada Trust Small Business Banking.

Two seminars were held by TD Canada Trust. Business Succession Planning presented by Charley Tsai, Senoir Manager – Wealth Planning Strategies. Debit Fraud presented by Len McGowan, Senoir Investigator of Security Group, TD Visa.



9th ANNUAL ATHENA LUNCHEON – November 13, 2008

Featuring guest speaker Carole MacNeil at St. Clair Centre for the Arts



132nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & LUNCHEON – November 21, 2008

Held at Ambassador Golf Club with distinguished speaker the Hon. Sandra Pupatello. Sponsored by The Coco Group. The AGM discussed the Chamber’s identity change and the launch of its new website. Also included was a recap of the financial results of the Chamber by Treasurer Tim Fuerth.



BAGELS ‘N BANTER Special Luncheon – December 5, 2008

The Honourable Sandra Pupatello, MPP Windsor West and Minister of Economic Development and Trade hosted this special luncheon with keynote speaker Premier Dalton McGuinty. Sponsored by PCR Contractors at the Caboto Club. Over 400 people were in attendance to hear the Premier speak about his five point plan for the Province and the effect of the global economic crisis.



MULTIPLE BUSINESS HOLIDAY PARTY – December 5, 2008

Held at the beautiful Beach Grove Golf Club and sponsored by Johnson Insurance, Hiram Walker & Sons Ltd., Detroit Windsor Tunnel LLC, The Bloomin’ Gardener and Valerie’s Original Flavours. 200 guests from 20 different companies had the chance to network with each other and enjoy a delicious meal as well as dancing.



WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS SUMMARY 2008-2009

BEA NEWS CONFERENCE – January 5, 2009

Hiram Walker & Sons was the location for the announcement of the 2009 Business Excellence Awards Finalists.



STATS CANADA BREAKFAST – January 14, 2009

Tracking Trends in Windsor Essex presented by Douglas Newson, Director, Central Region, Statistics Canada provided information from the 2006 Census.



2ND ANNUAL WARDEN'S LUNCHEON – January 23, 2009

Hosted at the Ciociaro and sponsored by United Communities Credit Union. Warden Nelson Santos gave his second annual state of the County address.



AFTER BUSINESS & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION – February 5, 2009

Presented at Chatham Street Grill, sponsored by Johnson Inc. and CIBC Small Business. 40 volunteers the event which acknowledge the work of over 100 members who volunteer on nine policy committees. Volunteers were then guests of the After Business event held in the same location.



PERRIN BEATTY BREAKFAST – April 1, 2009

Held at the Caboto Club. Perrin Beatty, president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce gave a speech concerning aspects of Canadian business in the current economic environment.



HON. DWIGHT DUNCAN LUNCHEON – April 3, 2009

This event was sponsored by The Collavino Group and held at the Caboto Club of Windsor. A successful event with great turnout for the Minister of Finance.



19th ANNUAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS – April 8, 2009

Sponsored by The Windsor Star, RBC Financial Group and TV Cogeco and many more. This signature annual event was held at the Caboto Club, the theme for this year was 'Destination Windsor-Essex'. The evening's emcee was John Morris Russell from Windsor Symphony Orchestra. The Windsor Spitfires were presented with the first ever Believe Windsor Essex Award. Award winners were announced in nine categories.



AUTOMOTIVE LUNCHEON – April 29, 2009

Alex Catellan, Assistant Chief Design Engineer on the Chevy Volt of GM was the guest speaker of this luncheon that was held at the Caboto Club. There was much enthusiasm and it proved to be a great event overall.



WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EVENTS SUMMARY 2008-2009

AFTER BUSINESS TRADESHOW – May 7, 2009

Hosted and sponsored by Your Quick Gateway (Windsor Airport). Many guests turned out to enjoy an After Business event at the new and improved Windsor Airport.



ATOMIC ENERGY BREAKFAST – May 12, 2009

Featuring speaker Glenna Carr, Chair of the Board, Atomic Energy Canada. This event was a great success with approximately 250 people in attendance. AECL supply chain experts explained how Windsor-Essex manufacturers and service providers can become part of the CANDU project. Thanks to Windsor Essex Development Commission and Valiant Corp. for sponsoring the event.



AFTER BUSINESS TRADESHOW – June 4, 2009

Hosted and sponsored by WFCU Centre home of the champion Windsor Spitfires.



14th ANNUAL MAYOR'S LUNCHEON – June 9, 2009

Sponsored by Bell and Media Street Productions at Caboto Club featuring Mayor Eddie Francis and his state of the City address



73rd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT – June 11, 2009

Pointe West Golf Club was the location for the 73rd Annual Golf Tournament sponsored by RBC Royal Bank, Johnson Inc. Insurance and more. This annual golf classic is the oldest business tournament in the area.



CHAIRMAN'S BALL & LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD – June 19, 2009

St. Angela Centre ... honoring outgoing Chair, Lindsay Boyd and Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Loretta Stoyka

