



chamber INSIDER



PAGE 8
**PETER PERRY &
BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS**

MEET THE TEAM

Chief Executive Officer
Office Manager
Engagement & Outreach Manager
Marketing & Communications Manager
Event Management Coordinator

Natalie Prychitko
Brenda Bemis
Lorna McGhee
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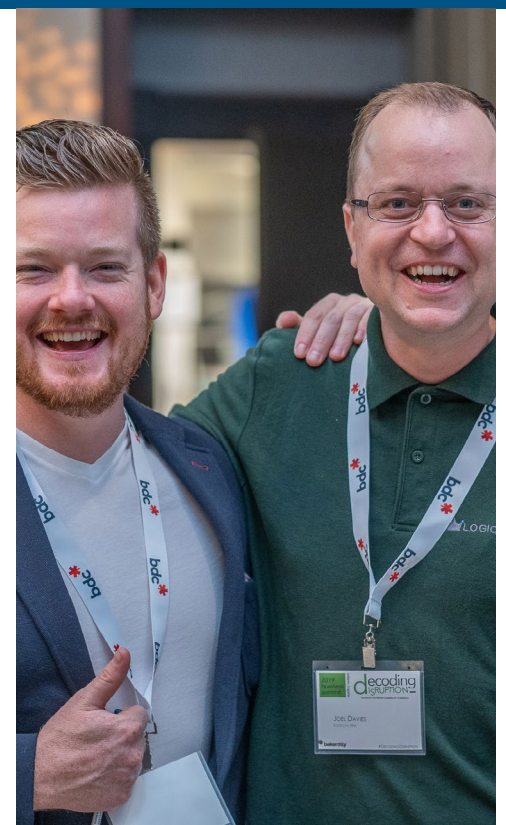
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OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



MEMBER MOMENTS



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

With the last of our signature events behind us, it's time to reflect on the past 12 months while ramping up for 2020. And wow – what a year it's been!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards gala last week. With more than 375 people in the room it was our largest crowd yet, which speaks to the commitment of this community to supporting each other's successes. An event of that magnitude would not have been possible without the many volunteers, sponsors and nominators. Thank you all.

We were joined at the gala by

Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Vice President of Public Affairs, Michelle Eaton, who brought with her an amazing announcement: we've been reaccredited by the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada – a formal acknowledgment of Chambers and Boards of Trade who have successfully been evaluated against rigorous national standards of policy, service and performance.

I invite you to wrap up this extraordinary year with us at the [Crazy, Cozy, Castle Casio Night](#) organized by our Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals Committee. This event will give participants the opportunity to try their hand at a variety of casino games at our last event of 2019. With 700

members and counting, we're looking forward to another great year of putting you and your business first.

May your season be merry and bright,



Natalie Prychitko,
Chief Executive Officer,
Whitby Chamber of Commerce

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19
6 TO 9 P.M.

CRAZY, COZY, CASTLE CASINO NIGHT
TRAFALGAR CASTLE SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
5 TO 7 P.M.

CHAMBER ON TAP
BATON ROUGE RESTAURANT & BAR

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6
8:30 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

INCLUSION COLLISION: ACCESSIBILITY IN ACTION
ABILITIES CENTRE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
8 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

YEP CURLING TOURNAMENT: SUGAR RUSH!
WHITBY CURLING CLUB | [SAVE THE DATE!](#)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

REGIONAL CHAIR LUNCHEON
AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE

TUESDAY, MARCH 3
9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.

CONNECT WOMEN: HINDSIGHT IS 2020
AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE



crazy, cozy, castle
CASINO
night

- All are welcome to wrap up the year with the Chamber's holiday social organized by the Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals Committee.
- Feeling lucky? Try your hand at a sample of casino games hosted by your very own Chamber Champions and Ambassadors!

TRAFALGAR CASTLE | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 | 6 TO 9 P.M.

YOUNG
ENTREPRENEURS
PROFESSIONALS

whitbychamber.org/events

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PSST... DON'T FORGET

Always check whitbychamber.org/events to see what **FREE** events are happening each month.

PETER PERRY & BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

DEPUTY PREMIER CHRISTINE ELLIOTT ACCEPTS PETER PERRY AWARD ON BEHALF OF JIM FLAHERTY



Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband alongside two of their sons, John and Quinn. *Photo credit: Blue Phoenix Productions.*

Peter Perry was a founder of the Town of Whitby, an astute businessman and truly dedicated to his community. He served as an elected representative to the Parliament of Upper Canada and was instrumental in the formation of Ontario County with Whitby as the County Town. It is this spirit, enthusiasm and dedication to the community that the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) is proud to recognize each year at the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards. The 64th Peter Perry Award recipient, Jim Flaherty, gave not only to the Town of Whitby, but to the entire Country. On November 21, Whitby

Mayor Don Mitchell added Flaherty to the long list of Peter Perry winners who have made significant contributions to the community.

In 1994, Flaherty and his wife founded a law practice in Whitby. After a 20-year career in law, the

hockey-player-turned-lawyer-turned-entrepreneur turned his attention to politics, joining the Provincial legislature in 1995. By 1997 he had joined Mike Harris' Cabinet as Minister of Labour and subsequently served as Attorney General. In 2006, he was sworn in as the Minister of Finance in Stephen

I KNOW THAT THE ONE THAT WOULD HAVE MEANT THE MOST TO HIM WAS THE PETER PERRY AWARD BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO HIM BY THE PEOPLE OF HIS OWN COMMUNITY.

Harper's Cabinet and to date is the fifth longest serving Finance Minister in Canadian History. During this time, he made significant impacts to Canada and the Town of Whitby, including the introduction of tax-free savings accounts; serving as the Governor of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund; championing disability issues by introducing the new Registered Disability Savings Plan and building Whitby's Abilities Centre; and was instrumental in obtaining funding for the first university to be built in Ontario since the 1960s, now known as Ontario Tech University.

At the pinnacle of the night's celebrations, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, accepted the award on behalf of her late husband alongside two of their sons, John and Quinn.

"We are so honoured as a family, but I have to tell you how much this would have meant to Jim," said Elliott. "He has won awards both nationally and internationally, but I know that the one that would have meant the most to him was the Peter Perry Award because it would have been given to him by the people of his own community. Thank you for remembering him."

In addition to recognizing a lifetime of commitment to community, the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards also highlights business excellence in the Region of Durham.

"When I was told that there were a lot of nominations this year, I didn't think I'd be standing up here," explained Owner of Ki Health & Wellness, Kaz Merfield. "I think that goes to show how amazing Durham is. There are so many incredible



Peter Perry
& BUSINESS
ACHIEVEMENT
AWARDS

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

**BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
1-15 EMPLOYEES
KI HEALTH & WELLNESS**

**BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
16-49 EMPLOYEES
QJS SPECIALTY CLEANING INC.**

**NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR
DURHAM RECRUITING**

**NOT FOR PROFIT OF THE YEAR
GIRLS INC. OF DURHAM**

**TODD SKINNER YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
JOEL DAVIS, LOGICAL MIX**

**BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR
ROLAND GORESKE, CAMPKIN'S
RV CENTRE**



Winners of the 2019 Business Achievement Awards show off their hardware at the Peter Perry & Business Achievement Awards. Photo credit: Blue Phoenix Productions.

and deserving businesses and we're all building something amazing."

After celebrating its 90-year anniversary at the 2018 awards gala, the WCC was proud to share some of its own successes as it forges ahead into the future with 700 members and counting. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Vice President of Public Affairs, Michelle Eaton, was on hand to kick off the evening with some good news.

"It is my pleasure to share that the Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada met last week and had approved the re-accreditation of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce," announced Eaton. "Chamber accreditation is a formal acknowledgment that a Chamber or Board of Trade has been successfully evaluated against rigorous criteria for policy, service and performance."



Athletes from Whitby Gymnastics & Circus School dazzled guests during the gala's reception and dinner. Photo credit: Blue Phoenix Productions.



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DISABILITY MANAGEMENT VS. CARE MANAGEMENT

GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO PROTECT YOUR WORKFORCE

BY WENDY MATTON, HMA THE BENEFITS PEOPLE



You're a great employer offering a full spectrum of protection through your benefits program

including an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) aimed at providing additional support for your employees dealing with stress and personal challenges. Yet, you still have frequent disability claims. And when they happen, they extend beyond the short term payments of EI disability benefits which leaves you wondering if there is anything additional that you can do to support your employees. The short answer is yes. Contracting a disability management company may have many benefits for your workforce.

What Does A Disability Management Company Do?

Recognizing the need to take a more preventative approach, many employers are engaging the services of third-party disability management companies.



The benefit of this is twofold. The first is protecting employee privacy. This works by removing yourself from the regular engagement that could make the employee feel overly monitored and replacing yourself with a network of resources including healthcare professionals and specialists to provide the right care at the right time. In addition to removing your company from the day-to-day follow-ups, a disability management company's mandate

is to expediently and properly diagnose an employee and assist them in navigating the road to recovery. Before it reaches the point of a long-term disability claim when possible.

To summarize, the disability management company takes more of a holistic approach in getting to the root of the illness working with health care professionals. Specialists to confirm the diagnosis, provide extra tools in early stages of recovery, and mitigate the long term effects.

What Are The Benefits of Using A Disability Management Company?

By offering the types of services to your employees, you may see a reduction in the time off work for employees facing injury and illness. It will also help them return to work safely and

with confidence. Additionally, employees who return to work before they are ready might experience alienation and frustration, and these services mitigate this concern and help them cope with their reintegration into the workplace. By offering that extra assistance you are ensuring your employees have an adequate support system in place and are not left to their own devices while trying to recover.

In addition to supporting your employees, a disability management company usually specializes in disability analytics and engages with entities such as WSIB on your behalf.

For more information contact:

Wendy Matton,
Group Benefits Consultant
905-668-3518

wmatton@hmabenefits.ca

CHAMBER BLOG

WHY DURHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE SHOULD ADD VOLUNTEERING TO THEIR TO-DO LIST

BY RYLIE WILTON, EVENT MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR, WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Young adults often look at volunteering as the 40 mandatory hours required to graduate secondary school, but it can be much more than that. While volunteering offers help to people and organizations in need, it can also offer a variety of personal benefits for the volunteer. Volunteering allows people to gain experience and develop skills that can be transferred into the workforce. It provides the individual an opportunity to sprout roots in their community by building strong relationships with local businesses and community members.

In an increasingly competitive world, it can be hard to stand out — volunteering is a great way to do so. There are tons of organizations in need of volunteers. Whether it's greeting guests at registration, selling raffle tickets or being a part of the planning committee, volunteers are a fundamental part of an event's success. For opportunities in your community, a great place to start is by checking out your local Chamber of Commerce, Board of Trade, business improvement area (BIA) or Rotary Club.

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) is a non-profit organization fuelled by membership, sponsorship and events. Hosting more than 80 annual events, the chamber provides its membership with a variety of opportunities to volunteer. For more information about the WCC and ways you can get involved, email us at info@whitbychamber.org.

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FANSAVES: THE CHAMBER'S FREE MOBILE APP

GET ACCESS TO EXCLUSIVE DEALS IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND

Are you a fan of the Chamber? The Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) team is excited to offer the power of FanSaves to its membership (included in your membership)! FanSaves is the mobile app that gives you access to discounts and deals at fellow WCC member businesses.

To see deals available to you, [download the FanSaves app](#) on your mobile device and select the Whitby Chamber of Commerce as your Primary Team. Redeem exclusive deals using your WCC membership code. Not sure what your code is? [Contact us to find out!](#)

- Remember that all of your employees are members of the Chamber - so share this code with

them as an employee benefit

- Support fellow members by shopping local
- Find deals near you to save on everyday purchases

To offer a Member 2 Member Deal through FanSaves, fill out the [FanSaves Business Contract](#) and email it to info@fansaves.com.

A few things you should know about offering a deal to fellow members:

- You can offer more than one deal (up to a maximum of three)
- You can change your offer monthly
- You'll have access to a personalized dashboard so

you can see how your deal is performing

To date, 210 Chamber members have downloaded the app! What are you waiting for?





**Grab a drink after work,
test out local restaurants and
make connections!**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
5 TO 7 P.M.
BATON ROUGE
RESTAURANT & BAR**



SAVE THE DATE

Friday, June 5

Royal Ashburn Golf Club

whitbychamber.org/golf

BOARD NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

TAKE ON A LEADERSHIP ROLE AT THE CHAMBER

KEY DATES

Friday, January 10 at 5 p.m.

Deadline for nominations to be submitted to Brion Hendry, Chair of the Policy & Governance Committee. Please submit completed forms via email to bhendry@bdo.ca.

Friday, January 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mandatory candidate briefing in WCC boardroom, which will include an introduction to the WCC Board structure and process, overview of the role of Director at the organization and opportunity for candidates to ask questions. At the end of this meeting, candidates will be asked to sign a letter of commitment indicating they understand the role and can fulfill their obligations to serve if elected.

Monday, January 27 at 11 a.m.

The online voting opens listing the names, pictures and bios of all candidates who have signed the letters of commitment.

Monday, February 24 at 5 p.m.

Online voting closes.

Tuesday, February 25 to Friday, February 28

Successful and unsuccessful candidates are called and advised of the results.

Tuesday, March 17 from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

Slate of candidates, as voted by the membership, invited to attend board meeting as observers.

Last week of March

AGM and candidate slate presented to membership.

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce has had a tremendous year of growth - the membership is now comprised of more than 700 businesses! This growth is due to not only the Chamber staff and its programming, but is also a testament to the strength of the volunteers who dedicate their extra time to making the Chamber an extraordinary place for fellow members to succeed.

It is important for board prospects to know that while having the opportunity to serve the membership is deeply rewarding, it is a commitment. It is a commitment beyond the monthly 90-minute Board meeting. The Board is empowered with the responsibility to shepherd the Chamber on behalf of each and every member. This is your opportunity to elevate your Chamber experience and the experience of the entire membership. Nominate yourself or a fellow member by filling out the [nomination form](#).

The WCC recognizes and embraces the benefits of diversity in Board members. If you have the time and the passion to support the Chamber as a Director, I sincerely encourage you to [seek a nomination](#). As well, if you know of a member who you think would be a great addition to the Board, please nominate them.

CHRISTMAS MARKET
DOWNTOWN WHITBY BIA

PRESENTED BY:  **Trafalgar Castle School**

December 6 - 8, 2019
Celebration Square
405 Dundas St. W., Whitby

*Shopping, skating, live music,
food & drink*

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KEY NOTE SPEAKER
SUSAN HAY
GLOBAL NEWS

CONNECT WOMEN

Hindsight is 2020

The ninth annual Connect Women event takes a look at the pinnacle moments in life that shape career successes, failures and great lessons. Learn from each other's moments and share your own at this full-day conference featuring a vibrant marketplace of local businesses.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3 | 9 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE

Speak up about employment challenges in your community!



<http://bit.ly/durhamregionworkforce>

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authority



This study has been approved by the UOIT Research Ethics Board REB #15449 on July 29, 2019

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

HUNDREDS TAKE PART IN COMMUNITY KICK-OFF FOR ROGERS HOMETOWN HOCKEY



On Sunday, November 24, the Town of Whitby celebrated the community kick-off to Rogers Hometown Hockey with two free family skate events held at the McKinney Centre and Iroquois Park Sports Centre. Around 350 community members made their way to the arenas to hit the ice, enjoy some free hot chocolate and cookies, snap some photos and join in on the excitement of Rogers Hometown Hockey.

The community kick-off event celebrated Whitby's stop on the cross-Canada Hometown Hockey Tour, which will take place at Iroquois Park Sports Centre on Saturday, December 28 and Sunday, December 29. Community members can get involved in the fun by registering to participate in the Town's Paint the Town Red contest and decorating their homes, schools, or storefronts in red to help Whitby prepare for the big event.

To learn more about Rogers Hometown Hockey, request a decal for your window or to download a colouring page, visit whitby.ca/hometownhockey.

IN THE TOWN

Interested in advertising your event to the membership? Check out our Community Event calendar.

Check out what's happening in your community!



FIND ALL OF THE CHAT WITH NAT VIDEOS ON OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



PAINT THE TOWN RED

Get in the spirit of Rogers Hometown Hockey,
show your Whitby hockey pride and you could win.

ENTER TO WIN!

ALL WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INITIATIVES ARE MADE
POSSIBLE WITH THE SUPPORT OF OUR PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS.

...thank you!