



*chamber*

# INSIDER



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from the desk of



# SUSANNE

Dear Members and Friends,

## Blue Ribbon News

Time surely flies when you are in good company! Since January we have had many Grand Openings: Amica Taunton, Valhallan Esports Training, Perspective Studio Productions Inc., Aspira Lynde Creek Gardens, Realty ONE Group Reveal, Brokerage & Little Beasts Brewing Co., with many more in the coming months. Whitby continues to thrive and welcomes amazing new businesses in the community. [Please welcome and visit them when you are out and about.](#)



## Chamber Updates

Alongside Board Directors & the team, we have been busy visiting several members to learn more about You and we'll continue to do so.

At our AGM we launched our [submission portal](#) of our [Business Achievement Awards](#). Taking the time to nominate a business is incredibly rewarding for them, knowing you went the extra mile. If you attended the Mayors' Luncheon, you might have caught a glimpse of this year's PPBAA theme. [Follow us on Instagram](#) and prepare to dress to impress.

## Supporting our Community

We kicked off our "Give Back" campaign with our Connect Women Connectivity Conference. All raffle sales proceeds went

to Durham Region Non-Profit Housing Corp. We are committed to contributing to Not-For-Profits with each signature event. The Golf Raffle will benefit The Alzheimer Society of Durham Region.

With the economic outlook, it's essential that we come together as a community to support our businesses. You will continue to see us out and about, eager to learn how we can support YOU!

- Susanne Gagnon, Chief Executive Officer, Whitby Chamber of Commerce



# UPCOMING EVENTS

JAVA JOLT

may 1

THINK TANK TUESDAY

may 7

CHAMBER ROCKS @ 5  
O'CLOCK

may 28



WHITBY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# FAIRWAY FRIDAY

GOLF TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 | 8:00 AM | ROYAL ASHBURN GOLF CLUB

Whitby Chamber of Commerce

SCAN ME

The poster features a stylized illustration of a golf course with green fairways, brown sand traps, and a white golf ball on a red tee. In the background, there are blue mountains and a blue sky. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Creative Director: [Joshua Dawson, Manager, Marketing & Communications](#)

Advertising Sales: [Lorna McGhee, Manager, Engagement & Outreach](#)



The 13th annual Connectivity Conference, formerly Connect Women, took place on Thursday, March 7 at Deer Creek Golf & Banquet Facility. This year's theme was Maximizing Outcomes. Guests learned how to re-focus their energy and activities to win! Winning could be advancing in their business, career or personal goals; none of which come easy if you're not clear on what you're trying to achieve.





In addition to our dynamic list of speakers, this year's event featured a business expo with over a dozen exhibitors and raffle draws for amazing prizes! [Contact us](#) for details about how to get involved next year, more information and for sponsorship opportunities.



**CONNECTIVITY CONFERENCE:  
MAXIMIZING OUTCOMES**

**MARCH 7, 2024 @ DEER CREEK**

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS



Thank you to all of the sponsors of our Connectivity Conference.

Without you, events like this would not be possible.





# Whitby Chamber of Commerce President's Message

The beginning of a new year is an exciting time to be a Chamber member. We started off with our Black History Month event, where we collaborated with local Chambers and Boards of Trade. This collaboration enhances our programming, provides greater networking opportunities, and brings more focus to the topic. It was an inspiring event that called upon each and every one of us to take action.

During our Connect Women event, we learned simple yet effective decision-making questions: "If we do this, does it propel our organization forward? Does it also propel the work of our partners forward?" This advice resonates with me because often we only consider the internal consequences of our decisions. Taking our business to the next level requires partnership and support from those around us. It's about community, not competition.

Our YEP committee organized another successful curling event this year, which sold out quickly. If you haven't attended in the past, I strongly urge you to participate. I use this event as an opportunity to connect with my team in a relaxed environment—no podium speeches, formal dining, or uncomfortable clothes. It's a day that combines strategy with laughter. Our next team event will be volleyball in June. Whether you sign up with a team or come alone, all are welcome to join.

If you're new to the Chamber, please visit our website and connect with one of our Chamber Champions. These Champions are active members who go above and beyond to contribute their time and make your Chamber experience memorable. Reach out to them for guidance on maximizing your membership benefits or even to connect with potential partners. They are here to assist you.

I look forward to connecting with you at an upcoming event. Wishing you all a prosperous year.

Andrew,

- Andrew Scuse, Manager,  
Corporate Training Services,  
Durham College.

WCC Board President.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: PURPOSE & POSSIBILITIES

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2024  
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
@ AJAX CONVENTION CENTRE

This year's theme was Purpose & Possibilities! Our outstanding speakers and panelists reimagined our history, by creating a new identity built upon hope, achievement, contribution and success and served as a power of example for others in our business community and beyond.





We embarked on this journey from a place of collaboration, unity and trust, and acknowledged the opulence, achievements and rich contributions of Black community business members. It was truly an opportunity for all of us, regardless of cultural background to collaborate, share, learn and grow.





The Whitby Chamber of Commerce proudly presented its ninth annual curling funspiel. As always, hosted by our Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals Committee (YEP).

This years' theme was Superheroes! Players came dressed as their favourite Superhero character to network, refer and curl!!!





Launched over 10 years ago by younger members of the WCC, the YEP Committee hosts four events a year that are designed to encourage young professionals and those young at heart to attend. Designed to encourage business connections, YEP events range from curling and beach volleyball to creek cleanups and unique holiday parties.



# Reflections from WCC's Black History Month Event

For a lot of people being a business owner seems like it will only ever be a dream and never a possibility. However, entrepreneurs are speaking up and stepping out to show that it can become a reality.

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce held their 2024 Black History Month event, Purpose and Possibilities back in February. The event featured a business panel which discussed mentoring, workforce, opportunities & challenges, and addressed gaps in representation, intersectionality considerations. The event was also highlighted by keynote speaker Dr. Vibe and spoken word artist Dwayne Morgan who each shared their own journeys as entrepreneurs.

The panelist Ryan O'Neil Knight, Kim West, Boyd Reid, Judith Tate and myself, Deidra Clarke, took to the stage to share the trials and success they have faced as entrepreneurs. We

encouraged the audience to pursue any dreams of being entrepreneurs and enlightened them on how to overcome barriers and obstacles that stand in the way. The panel was a chance for entrepreneurs to learn from each other and teach others about their experiences as Black business owners.

It takes courage to start a business and step into a world that is new and unfamiliar. As a Durham College student and D.I.A. Tribe founder, my goal is to inspire others in similar positions as myself. It is important to share my story so other little Black girls and Type 1 diabetics can see me and feel motivated to consider being an entrepreneur themselves.

This event was more than just an opportunity for entrepreneurs to gather, it was also a time of reflection and healing. A platform to hear these stories and voices has not always been given,

but as the culture continues to shift it allows for more voices to be recognized and heard.

This event was made possible by The Whitby Chamber of Commerce along with the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade, Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce, Durham Region Association of Black Professional Entrepreneurs, the Afro Caribbean Business Network and The Oshawa Chamber of Commerce. Their support was present and an active part in making this day possible.

- Deidra Clarke - Durham College Student & WCC Intern



# TEES & BREWS

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

@ ELDORADO GOLF CLUB | 6:00 - 8:00PM



GOLF - DRINKS - PRIZES - FREE GOLF LESSON



# CHAMBER SMASH & BEACH BASH

VOLLEYBALL MEET-UP

JUNE 21 | 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM





A new offering from the Whitby Chamber of Commerce! If you have an event you'd like to host at a great location and would like some additional marketing support, this package may be for you.

As a member of the Whitby Chamber of Commerce, you have the opportunity to leverage our boardroom once a month for an hour free! BUT if you want some additional marketing support:

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### YOU RECEIVE

- Three (3) hours of boardroom time
- Your event advertised in the WCC Upcoming Events email
- Your event listed on the WCC Events Calendar
- Coffee/Tea/Water
- Projector

### YOU PROVIDE

- Your registration link and marketing info. (event description/visuals etc.)
- Food / snacks are optional; but alcohol is not permitted
- Additional marketing (i.e.) that the Chamber team will watch for and support in social media
- Desired content for the WCC Community Calendar

### DETAILS

#### TIME:

- 9AM to 12PM or
- 1PM to 4PM

#### COST:

- \$350/half day
  - \$600/full day
- 

For more information please contact Lorna McGhee, Engagement & Outreach Manager, at [opportunities@whitbychamber.org](mailto:opportunities@whitbychamber.org) or 905-668-4506 ext. 231.



# Canada's #1 Plan for Employee Benefits



## Chambers Plan Employee Benefits

For more information, please contact:



Megan O'Shaughnessy  
289-927-4285  
moshaughnessy@hmabenefits.ca

For details, or to request a free quote, visit:

[chamberplan.ca](https://chamberplan.ca)



# Budget Season: Why it Matters

'Tis that time of year. Budget season is upon us. Get your popcorn popping because the Provincial budget is set to be delivered on March 26th followed by the Federal budget on April 16th. I know there are people out there that may think 'who cares' or 'why do budgets matter' but they DO matter, they matter quite a lot to our families, our small businesses, and our communities.

Budgets lay the foundation for essential services that we need like healthcare, infrastructure, and education. They might seem dry, but the truth is budgets play a tremendous role in our communities. They hold great significance to the well-being of our economy, our local businesses, and our families. Learning where the money is allocated and how it may impact or benefit small businesses, build on community initiatives, and help families is important. Informed communities are strong communities. We work hard for our money each day and by

learning how budgets work we can gain a deeper understanding of where our taxes are invested and why. We can play a role in shaping the budgets. Sharing our voice in the arena can make a difference (think of how powerful collective voices sound cheering at a game versus one lonely 'whoop' in the crowd). Use your voice to share where you want your money to go.

Each level of government is responsible for its own budgetary responsibilities, whether your interest is international trade or foreign affairs, healthcare, social programming, post-secondary education, or local public transit and waste management services, there is a budget for you. You may have more interest in the federal or provincial budgets, or maybe you feel more connected to the municipal budget that more directly impacts your daily life, wherever your interest lies there is a way to get involved.

'Pre-budget' season for each level of government offers plenty of opportunities to become involved in their budget process. A good first step is to meet with your local representatives, meet your ward Councillor, your MPP and your MP, add your name to their email distribution lists and/or watch their social media and government websites so when governments are seeking public input you will know how and when you can share your feedback. When governments are holding pre-budget consultations via meetings, online or public forums, town halls or offering surveys around budget discussions, tune in, attend, ask questions, share your input. When budget items are reviewed in standing committees, look for ways to participate. Standing committee meetings are posted to government pages with links to prepare a written submission or you can request to appear in person.

Additionally, decisions and key elements of the budget may impact infrastructure projects that help move goods, provide offerings of skills training and workforce development, not to mention influencing how and where people are spending their money. A small business owner may use this time as an opportunity to look for potential tax breaks, loan programs or grants, and other initiatives that may provide relief such as reducing red tape or administrative burdens. By actively engaging with the budget process and advocating for programs that benefit small businesses, owners can ensure their businesses are able to maximize the benefits of these opportunities for their continued success.

Engaging in opportunities through your local chambers, boards of trade, community organizations or advocacy groups that you are interested in and joining their advocacy

efforts is another great way to stay informed. Chambers and boards of trade are an essential tool for small businesses, especially at budget time as they can provide many resources, workshops, networking events and advocacy tools that can help you stay informed, become active and understand the budget process and how it impacts local businesses.

Just as small businesses are critical to strong and thriving communities, so too are budgets, and we all have a responsibility to our communities, local businesses, and the services we use to advocate for investments to programming and funding that benefit our

families, strengthen our businesses, and grow prosperous communities.

At the end of the day, we may not all share the same views of where money is spent or how it flows but at the very least being informed and involved in the process may foster a deeper sense of connection to your community.

– Shannon Thornton,  
Government Relations  
Officer, Ontario Tech  
University.

WCC Advocacy Committee





Have you nominated a company yet for the Business Achievement Awards? It takes you less than 5 minutes! This is an amazing opportunity to put one of your favorite WCC Member Businesses into the spotlight!

[Click here to get nominating.](#)



## Video Mini Sessions with North Brothers Films



On May 22nd, North Brothers is partnering with the Whitby Chamber to offer you high quality video at an affordable rate! For \$500 and 15 minutes of your time, you will walk away with a video up to 1 minute long that you will be proud to show your clients!





# Membership Committee Update

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce has been quite active with events lately. Keeping our 600+ members engaged with the business community is our focus.

February 2nd had our 4th annual Black History Month. A Joint event with with the Afro Caribbean Business Network, Ajax Pickering Board of Trade, Canadian Black Chamber of Commerce, Clarington Board of Trade, Durham Region Association of Black Professional Entrepreneurs, Greater Oshawa Chamber of Commerce and Whitby Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the contribution of Black businesses to the Region of Durham.

A week hadn't passed and the Whitby Chamber was once again partnering with the Ajax-Pickering, Clarington, and Oshawa once again. This time inviting all to get an update from Regional Chair and CEO, John Henry.

We pride ourselves on collaborating with all the

local professional networks, Boards of Trade and Chamber of Commerce organizations. They were two very well received events.

February also had the YEP's annual curling funspiel. All skill levels were there. Thanks to the YEP committee for continuing to lead this event.

March came in like a Lion too. The 13th annual Connectivity (Connect Women) Conference: Maximizing Outcomes was a stellar event. The speakers were incredibly insightful. The crowd enjoyed every moment of it.

Java Jolts and Chamber Rocks events continue to be great successes. They are at or over capacity most days. This is thanks to our active Whitby Chamber member community (the life blood of our not-for-profit).

We had the Mayor's Address on April 5th. Thanks to Mayor Roy for her continued support of our Chamber.

For all those interested in more networking opportunities please check the Chamber website and go to the [Events Calendar](#). Here you will find information on future Chamber activities detailed on an easy to use calendar.

Looking forward to updating you on events and the status of our members later this year.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, we thank you for your continued membership and involvement in this community.



- Joel Davies, CEO, Render Developments  
WCC Board Director,  
Membership Committee  
Conduit

# MENTORSHIP



## WELCOME

Welcome to the Whitby Chamber of Commerce (WCC) Mentorship Program. Designed to keep it fun and simple for both mentors and mentees, the WCC wants to introduce experienced business-people with less experienced ones. We've created this program to allow mentors and mentees of all shapes and sizes to inspire and be inspired. Membership is not required, but an enthusiasm to help grow our business community is.

## WHAT IT IS:

Your opportunity to connect with someone who:

- Will help broaden your network to help your business or career
- Wants you to succeed
- Will ensure you own the outcome
- Is interested in giving back and standing-up young professionals in our business community

## WHAT IT'S NOT:

- Tons of work – you get as much as you put in
- Formal coaching/consultant
- Career-counselling
- Employment recruitment

## HOW IT WORKS:

- Mentors and Mentees scan the QR code for your application form
- Fill it out so we can learn more about you
- The WCC Mentorship Committee will make introductions
- You start the conversation over coffee, zoom, telephone – whatever works for you!



*"I have always found the counsel and encouragement of mentors during my career to be indispensable in how I reviewed opportunities and maintained the motivation to pursue them. Providing a forum to facilitate the creation of those connections for managers and entrepreneurs is an excellent program provided by the Chamber, and I am delighted to be part of it."*

*- Jeff Bakker, Mentorship Committee*

# YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROFESSIONALS &



## *Build Your Network*

Our Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals Committee is looking for new members. Entrepreneurs, employees or students are all welcome. If you're interested in growing your network, creating events that draw the business community in and meet like-minded business leaders in our community, check us out.



SCAN ME



# Peter Perry

& BUSINESS  
ACHIEVEMENT  
AWARDS



We were honoured to have eight past recipients of the Peter Perry Award in attendance at our annual Mayor's Luncheon. John Vickery (2012), Terry Johnston (2020), Trevor Bardens (2017), Grant Souter (2013), Joyce Marshall (2006), Peter Irvine (2007), Eleanor Stevenson (2008) & Barry Mount (2003).

Nominations for the 2024 Peter Perry Award open on May 29th. Please start thinking about worthy nominees.

[Join us](#) at our gala celebration at Deer Creek on November 7th as this year's winner will be announced.

Thank you to DKI-CRCS for their sponsorship of this prestigious table.



Show Us Some Love

Like our programming?  
Scan the QR code and give us a shout-out!



# THINK TANK TUESDAYS

Switch up your routine every other  
Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

**Location:**  
Whitby Chamber of Commerce office



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Matisse Nelis Consulting  
matissenelis.com  
905) 431-0237

BINAL PADHARIA REAL ESTATE  
binalpadharia.ca  
(905) 999-5410

Epic Bingo  
epicbingo.ca  
(905) 914-0029

La Lumiere Inc (Oxygen Yoga  
and Fitness) South Whitby  
(905) 903-2658

Little Beasts Brewing Co  
littlebeastsbrewing.com  
(905) 723-2337

Love Child Connected LTD  
lovechildconnected.ca  
(905) 447-8615

Michael Durham Landscaping Inc  
michaeldurhamlandscaping.com  
(289) 928-8206

Realty ONE Group Reveal,  
Brokerage  
realtyonegroupreveal.ca  
(905) 233-2461

OASIS  
oasionline.ca  
(613) 407-1721

Carjoel Financial Associates Inc.  
(416) 616-0935

Monarch Print Services  
(800) 999-5649

Moodswing Golf  
moodswinggolf.com  
905) 914-2255

369 Global Inc.  
369global.com  
(416) 723-3042

BeWell Therapy Ontario  
bewelltherapy.ca  
(647) 302-9355

Deepdive Cleaning Service  
deepdivecleaning.ca  
(647) 699-3303

Gone Sailing Adventures  
gonesailingadventures.com  
(416) 240-0202

Shaw Computer Systems Inc.  
shawcsit.com  
(365) 662-1966

barBURRITO Whitby North  
barburrito.ca/location/whitby-  
north/  
(647) 517-2677

Beyond the Vision  
beyondthevision.co  
(905) 442-6016

CanaSpeaks  
canaspeaks.com  
(647) 868-6357

CORRADOS RESTAURANT &  
BAR  
corradosrestaurant.com  
(416) 471-5670

GFM Towing  
gfmtowing.ca  
(905) 430-8222

Jacked Up Coffee  
jackedupcoffee.com  
(905) 924-0031

Mercedes Benz Durham  
mercedes-benz-durham.ca  
(905) 666-8805

Perspective Studio  
Productions Inc.  
perspectivestudioproductions.  
com  
(647) 528-8610

Taylor Made Logistics Inc  
taylormadelogistics.com  
(905) 493-1093

Waza Home Comfort  
wazahome.com  
(647) 972-7560

Be Free Mindset  
(289) 893-2773

Real North Strategies  
realnorthstrategies.ca  
(647) 534-7325

The Travelling Stage  
travellingstage.com  
(416) 317-8950

## MEET THE WCC TEAM



Susanne Gagnon - Chief Executive Officer

Brenda Bemis - Office Manager

Joshua Dawson - Manager, Marketing & Communications

Lorna McGhee - Engagement and Outreach Manager

Gizem Uysal - Event Coordinator

# CHECK OUT OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR



[whitbychamber.org/communityevents](http://whitbychamber.org/communityevents)



All Whitby Chamber of Commerce initiatives are made possible with the support of our membership, partners and volunteers.

...thank you.