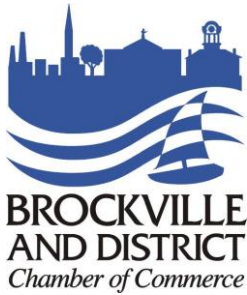


Dear Valued Member,



Thank you for your continued support of the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce. In 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting over 20 events that helped to celebrate and strengthen our local businesses and relationships. We're excited to extend these opportunities throughout 2025, and we hope that both you and your business continue to find value in the activities and networking opportunities that we offer.

President

Steve Latimer
Beattie Dodge Chrysler Ltd

Vice President

Teanne Larocque
Calian

Secretary/Treasurer

Christina Covey-Shannon
Royal Bank of Canada

Past President

Orlando Spicer
Modern Brock Group

Directors

Keeley Patterson
O'Farrell Financial Services
Inc.

Kent Henderson
Royal Bank of Canada

Zeke Cox
TD Commercial Banking

Andrew Melchers
IN Engineering & Surveying

Melissa Hindman – YPN
United Way of Leeds Grenville

Taylor Dunster- YPN
W.C. Burgess Insurance
Services

Rich Muir
3M Canada

Michael Richards
St. Lawrence College

Kelly Brintnell
Brockville Tourism

Robyn Holmes
John Howard Society of
Kingston and District

In 2024, our Chamber was busy on the advocacy front. In early February, we conducted a second survey about the CEBA loan and the impact of the repayment deadline on businesses. In March, we submitted a letter of support for proposed amendments to the official plan and zoning by-law for 36-46 King Street West (the Woolworth building). In April, we co-sponsored five policy resolutions at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce's Annual General Meeting. In May, we joined the Canadian Chamber to send a joint letter to Ministers O'Regan Jr. and Rodriguez about the labor disruption in Class I railways. Later, in August, we raised the issue again with our MP, Michael Barrett. In November, we wrote to Ministers MacKinnon and Anand regarding the shutdown of British Columbia ports. Throughout the year, we worked alongside the Canadian and Ontario Chambers to keep our members informed about various federal and provincial issues, such as the GST/HST relief measure and the looming threat of a 25% tariff on Canadian goods. All our advocacy efforts can be found on our website's advocacy tab and on our blog.

Furthermore, we actively engaged in community participation and advocacy to represent the interest of our members. This involved acting as an advocate for businesses at Federal, Provincial, and Municipal government levels and provided a platform for businesses to hear updates from all three levels of government. We are proud to offer these meetings on an annual basis for members (and nonmembers) to attend.

In March, we held our Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony, where we welcomed new board members and presented the Lifetime Business Achievement Award to George Tackaberry and the Lifetime Volunteer Award to Linda Eyre.

Our Chamber team is small but mighty, consisting of myself, our Executive Director Pam, and our Office Accountant Cathie. We are dedicated and passionate about supporting our members and community. We were proud to attend many local events, ribbon cuttings, and grand openings in 2024, showing our support for both our members and the community.

We were thrilled to bring back our "Shop Where Your Heart Is" campaign for its fourth year during the 2024 holiday season. This shop local initiative encouraged shoppers to support local businesses during the holiday season by submitting their receipts for a chance to win prizes. This year, we partnered with the City's Economic Development department, the Downtown Brockville BIA, and Brockville Tourism, allowing us to offer more prizes and spread the word further. Supporting local is vital to our community, especially for our small and medium-sized businesses, and we look forward to running this campaign again during the 2025 holiday season.



We also saw great success with some of our signature events. Our Fun Golf Tournament in June was a fantastic success thanks to our sponsors and prize donations, and despite the heat, everyone had a great time! In September, we celebrated a milestone with our 65th Annual Awards of Excellence Gala, which was held at the Brockville Country Club—this venue change was very well received. We were proud to recognize over 20 local businesses and individuals, which included both our award finalists and winners, for their exceptional achievements.

We were also fortunate to have two summer students assist with various tasks from June to August, including gala administration and website and CRM updates. Thanks to the Canada Summer Jobs program, we look forward to bringing in more students in 2025.

We have continued to expand our local M2M program and build relationships with affinity partners. This summer, we partnered with HR Covered, the official HR provider for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, to offer HR support to businesses in need. We're excited to enhance our member benefits and look forward to introducing even more exciting perks this year. Additionally, we've been working with Erin Campbell, the Employee Benefits Broker at O'Farrell Financial, to raise awareness among Chamber members about the advantages of the Chamber Group Insurance Plan.

In October, we elevated our Annual Fall Boat Cruise through a great collaboration with the Brockville Women in Business, North Grenville Chamber of Commerce, and North Dundas Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to this partnership, the event was another sold-out success!

We wrapped up the year in December with our Holiday Cocktail event, held at Arbru Solar Brewery. It was a great turnout, and we were delighted to encourage attendees to bring toys for Arbru's toy drive, giving back to our community in a meaningful way.

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on membership, events, and non-revenue streams like our affinity programs to fund our Chamber. Your ongoing support is crucial to helping us continue serving you and our community. We also want to take this opportunity to remind you of the valuable benefits that come with your membership, including access to networking events, advocacy on local, provincial, and federal levels, discounts through our local M2M and affinity programs, and opportunities to showcase your business within the community. We strive to provide resources that help your business grow and thrive in our community. If there is ever anything you require to help enhance your membership, we are just a phone call away.

Enclosed with this letter, you'll find your 2025-member door decal. If there's anything else you need, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Chamber office.

Once again, thank you for your continued trust, support, and membership. Here's to a successful and prosperous 2025!

Yours in Success,

Victoria Redekopp
Business Development and Membership Services Coordinator
Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce