

## Good for business: opening the door for a new Open Data policy

By: Sandra Dueck, Policy Analyst, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

At the City of Peterborough Committee of the Whole meeting earlier this week, councillors approved a report proposing a new Geomatics/Mapping GIS Open Data policy. The report will now go to Council for final approval. Further, Mayor Bennett made a motion asking staff to bring back a corporate-wide Open Data initiative. This motion was passed.

While these policies might not seem grand in nature, they are proposals that have the potential to allow for innovative economic opportunities for current and new businesses in the Peterborough area.

Open Data is defined as data sets generated by government entities that do not disclose any information that threatens privacy or public security. Open Data policies allow for the provision of those data sets to the public in a common computer format, without restrictions of copyright, patent or other control mechanisms, and free of charge (Report PLGMD 15-002 GIS Open Data Initiative).

The Chamber Network has been advocating for Open Data policies at the various levels of government for almost four years, so the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce is pleased to see the City of Peterborough taking this step.



We have been asking for:

- the release of all data, with the exception of data that threatens privacy or public security
- the release of data with a license that gives users the right to use and modify the data, merge it with other data, and distribute it for commercial and non-commercial purposes without restrictions
- a mandate that all municipalities, including their boards, agencies and commissions, make their data open to the public using the same formats and licensing arrangements as the province.

The program is strong in the United Kingdom and United States, and the City of Peterborough report says, "Since 2008, more than 50 Canadian jurisdictions have joined the Open Data movement and are freely providing municipal data via the web." Additionally, a look at a U.S. website shows 40 U.S. states, 48 U.S. Cities and Counties, 52 International Countries, and 164 International

regions involved in Open Data programs.

The City report identifies five drivers behind the Open Data movement, including Open Data as an Economic Driver of Growth. Public Sector Information (PSI) constitutes the raw material for a variety of products and services in applications across a wide range of industries, and analysis has concluded that it is an important economic asset. The report goes on to say that geographic data has one of the greatest economic potentials and in its use, so far, has had positive impacts on employment and growth.

Throughout the Chamber Network in Ontario, we have heard of enterprising companies and entrepreneurs who have used public data to create new apps to help the citizens of their community (e.g., improving garbage schedule awareness; a parking app that can lead you back to your vehicle, or an app that communicates bus locations in real time).

The Ontario government has also

started opening up data under a new directive that was approved late last fall. In fact, at the time of this printing, the provincial government will have about 75 per cent of its data inventory published with the full inventory published online by the end of October.

The provincial database will include whether a data set is currently open, in progress to become open, under review, or restricted from being open. The provincial program includes 529 data sets in a number of areas from the environment and energy to business and the economy to education and training. The provincial government also recognizes that these data sets can have a positive economic impact as "researchers, app developers, non-profit organizations and others are using our [provincial] data to come up with innovative applications, programs and solutions to help Ontarians".

We at the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce hope the City of Peterborough continues to open the door to open data.

## CCC: new Chair of Board takes the helm

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce proudly announced the election of Duncan Wilson, Vice President, Corporate Social Responsibility at the Port of Vancouver as volunteer Chair of its Board for 2016-2017 at its Annual General Meeting in Regina.

"Today, more than ever before in Canada, business has to contend with new challenges and I'm very pleased to be chairing an organization that is taking such a leadership role," said Mr. Wilson,

Chair of the Board of Directors. "My first priority is to ensure that the Chamber is leading in helping business adapt to the realities of climate change. As we put in place the tools and measures to grow our economy, that's something we can't ignore. With a broad network of 450 chambers and more than 200,000 businesses across Canada, the Canadian Chamber is uniquely positioned to collaborate with government on ways to address this challenge."

"Duncan Wilson is a well respected and committed executive who brings experience and innovative business ideas to our organization," said the Hon. Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "He will be an outstanding Chair for the Canadian Chamber and we look forward to working with him."

Find a list of the entire board of directors for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on their website.

For more: [chamber.ca](http://chamber.ca)

**STRENGTHENING BUSINESS.**  
**ONE MEMBER AT A TIME.**

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## Event Calendar



**TUESDAY,**  
October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Celebrating Green Business

Camp Kawartha & The Kawartha Outdoor Education Centre  
1010 Birchview Road  
Douro-Dummer

**4:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Details:** Experience the camp with fun activities and networking at the mini-trade show.

**Cost:** Free, courtesy of Shorelines Slots at Kawartha Downs



**TUESDAY**  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Save on Energy: Incentives & Free upgrades to reduce your electricity use & save money

Carousel Restaurant  
116 Lansdowne Street East  
Coffee's on at 7:00am  
Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

**Speaker:** Cathy Mitchell, Peterborough Distribution Inc.  
**Cost:** Pay for your breakfast



**WEDNESDAY,**  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Monthly Meet Up

Chamber Boardroom  
175 George Street North  
**7:00pm – 9:00pm**

**Cost:** Free



**Special Day!**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
(Chamber & WBN members only)

### H2H Marketing in a Digital World

Chamber Boardroom  
175 George Street North  
**12:00pm – 1:00pm**

**Speaker:** Shaun Pearce, Movingmedia  
**Details:** H2H stands for "human to human". Shaun Pearce will bring years of experience in the digital marketing world to this workshop and enlighten guests on how to maximize impact in both H2H and Digital marketing. It is more important than ever in a digital world to bring the two methods of marketing together.  
**Cost:** Free (bring your own lunch)  
**Sponsor:** Bell  
**Note:** Pre-registration is required

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## 2016 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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Lang Pioneer Village Museum



[www.excellencepeterborough.ca](http://www.excellencepeterborough.ca)

## Member Milestones:



### Parent company of local radio stations makes list of Canada's fastest growing companies

MY Broadcasting Corporation, owner of Peterborough's Extra 90.5 and Oldies 96.7FM, has received recognition for the sixth year in a row for posting a five year growth rate of 157%. Congrats!

More: [oldies967fm.ca](http://oldies967fm.ca)

### Peterborough coffee shop makes an impression

Amuse Coffee Co., one of the newest coffee houses in downtown Peterborough, has won the Peterborough Examiner's Readers Choice Award for Favourite New Business. Congrats!

More: [amusecoffeeco.ca](http://amusecoffeeco.ca)

### Architect firm taking on more space

Lett Architects will be moving to a larger location on Simcoe Street, next to the Bank of Montreal. Renovations are hoped to be done by early 2017. Congrats!

More:

### New role for a member of #TeamPTBO

Dawn Hennessey of the Business Development Bank of Canada, and Chamber Board member, is now the Business Centre Manager for Peterborough. Congrats!

More: [bdc.ca](http://bdc.ca)

We love to hear about the milestones achieved by our Chamber members!

Contact: Karen August at 705.748.9771 x200 or [karen@peterboroughchamber.ca](mailto:karen@peterboroughchamber.ca)

More Member Milestones can be found at: [peterboroughchamber.ca/member-milestones.html](http://peterboroughchamber.ca/member-milestones.html)



[www.peterboroughchamber.ca](http://www.peterboroughchamber.ca)

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