

## 2016, it was a very good year...

By: **Stuart Harrison, President & CEO, Greater Peterborough Chamber of Commerce**

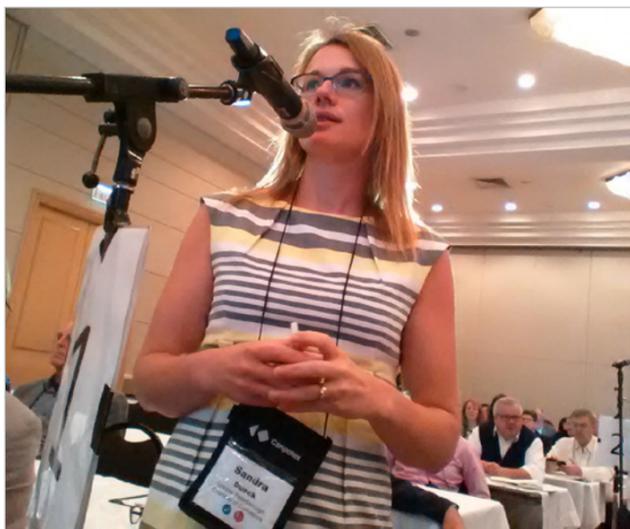
If you are a regular reader of this page, you'll have a sense of the type of work we are involved in at the Chamber of Commerce. As much as the word has taken on some darker undertones in the last few years, we are lobbyists for the business community. We belong to both the Ontario Chamber and the Canadian Chamber networks and as such are able to voice your concerns at all three levels of Government: Municipal, Provincial and Federal. We employ a full-time Policy Analyst, Sandra Dueck, whose byline you normally see in this space, and who does an amazing job of studying the issues, lobbying the appropriate halls of power, and communicating it all to you here on this page, in her weekly television feature, on our website and on social media. Sandra's policy work was recognized this year when she was awarded the Staff Person of the Year from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. She is indeed the best in the country...

Here is a sampling of the policy work completed on your behalf this year:

- Four policy resolutions were advanced by the Peterborough Chamber (Policy Resolutions are approved at the Municipal level by our Policy Committee and Board of Directors, at the Provincial level by the delegates

to the Ontario Chamber AGM and the Federal level, by the delegates to the Canadian Chamber AGM). They are:

- o Federal level
  1. Advancing Canadian Competitiveness Using Short Line Rail
    - Create a dedicated short line capital funding program that is accessible to all short line companies.
    - Establish a tax credit program to assist short line rail companies in making capital investments.
  2. Restoring Canada's Innovation Competitiveness
    - Recommendations include the need for a tax credit beyond the SR&ED program.
- o Provincial level
  3. Recognize the different requirements for apprenticeships in rural communities vs urban communities.
  4. Identify the cost drivers behind electricity prices
    - Electricity prices have been a major focus for the Chamber in 2016. Identified as one of the key barriers to business in the province, we have written letters, submitted to the Long-Term Energy Plan consultations, and included our concerns in the "Small Business - Too Big to Ignore" report. We also recorded a question to the Premier on the Government's hydro strategy, which was chosen and played for the Premier at the annual Ontario Economic Summit.
    - The Ontario Government picked up an idea from the Ontario Chamber of Commerce called The Red Tape Challenge. The government is now drilling down in six specific sectors including; financial services, food processing, and automotive parts



Policy Analyst Sandra Dueck speaks during the policy debate at the 2016 CCC AGM

manufacturing and will also be adding the tourism sector into the mix.

o Locally

- Established #TeamPtbo, a rallying cry for collaboration amongst Peterborough businesses, economic development partners and government
- Participated on taskforces on agriculture and tourism
- Lobbied for the continuation of the Tax Ratio Reduction program
- Participated in Climate Change Action plan talks and represented the business community on the Sustainable PTBO Business group
- Weighed in on numerous issues of importance to local business through letters, columns, and media commentary

Looking forward we see tremendous opportunity for Peterborough in 2017, including:

- Trent Research and Innovation Park, which will begin construction and already has its first tenant in NobleGEN.

- Tourism will feature prominently. With Canada's 150th birthday the Trent Severn Waterway is waving it's fees for 2017, providing a tremendous opportunity to showcase the waterway and all of the surrounding tourism infrastructure.
- Venture North, the new business hub in the downtown core which brings together key economic development agencies under one roof - #TeamPtbo.
- VIA Rail and the recently announced proposal to introduce daily commuter rail service between Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, Peterborough and Toronto. This is all pending federal Government approval, but hopes are high.

The Chamber will continue its core work by continuing to lobby for a level playing field for business, and offering specific programming for the local business community such as our Power Hour, PBX, Trade Shows, Next Level and Leaders Lunches, all designed to Strengthen Business.

## Financial Services being tapped for Red Tape Challenge

Did you know that the financial services sector in Ontario is second only to New York in North America?

According to the Ontario Government, there are more than 12,000 companies employing more than 380,000 people. For those working in the sector, what are your challenges? What are those regulatory pieces that require time and take time out of your business?

Here's your chance to speak up and have your voice heard:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/red-tape-challenge>

About the Red Tape Challenge  
The Red Tape Challenge is a provincial government initiative examining six sector areas for efficiencies: automotive parts manufacturing, food processing, financial services, mining, chemical manufacturing forestry and tourism.

The Ontario Chamber of Commerce proposed such a program in its Emerging Stronger 2015 document. The program has had great success in the UK.



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

**JOIN US**

**POWER HOUR**  
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

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



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## Member Milestones: ...#TeamPTBO



The Publican House Restaurant is taking shape

The iconic building at the corner of Charlotte and Rubidge is undergoing a complete renovation, with an opening planned for early in the new year. The menu is being developed with advice from Brad and Katie Watt of Rare Grill House.

More: [thepublicanhousebrewery.com](http://thepublicanhousebrewery.com)

Meanwhile, the exterior of the building is getting special attention from Peter Woodworth of The Brick Painters. Peter specialises in the restoration of brick buildings using a system that sees every single brick painted in a faux finish that is durable, long lasting, and inexpensive.

More: [thebrickpainters.com](http://thebrickpainters.com)



Photo by: Eva Fisher



Celebrating a decade of service

Emmatt Digital Solutions is very pleased to congratulate lead programmer, Andrew Dunn, on his 10th Anniversary with the company!

Andrew is an integral member of the team and has been a major contributor to the company's success.

More: [emmattweb.com](http://emmattweb.com)

 #LOVE LOCALPTBO

STRENGTHENING BUSINESS



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

## Event Calendar

 **Special Location!**  
**TUESDAY**  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Meet Your Business Citizen of the Year: Steve Kylie**

The Quality Inn  
1074 Lansdowne Street West



Coffee's on at 7:00am

Speakers from 7:30-8:30am

**Speaker:** Steve Kylie, Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public

**Cost:** Free buffet breakfast sponsored by Quality Inn

 **Special Day!**  
**TUESDAY**  
January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Discovery PBX**

The Venue PTBO  
286 George Street North  
**4:00pm - 6:00pm**



**Details:** Come join us and celebrate the businesses that joined the Chamber in 2016.

Plus the launch of the BizMap Ptbo show sponsored by the Peterborough Chamber.

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

 **WEDNESDAY**  
January 18<sup>th</sup> 2017  
(Chamber & WBN members only)

**Energy Savings for Business**

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



**Speaker:** Cathy Mitchell, PDI

**Details:** Learn about the energy savings programs your business could tap into.

**Cost:** Free (bring your own lunch)

**Sponsor:** Bell

**Note:** Pre-registration is required

 **WEDNESDAY**  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**An Evening with our Elected Officials**

The Venue PTBO  
286 George Street North  
**5:30pm-9:00pm**



**Details:** Guests will hear from our MP, MPP, Warden, and Mayor as they reflect on their mandates so far, and look toward the next two years.

**Tickets:** \$65 Members/  
\$75 Non-Members

**Note:** Pre-registration is required

**Sponsor:** Cogeco Connexion

 **FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES**

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

**contact:** Brian Bulger at 741-1400

## Ever Dreamed of Having Your Own IT Dept for Your Business?

**Happy Holidays**

per user  
**\$25<sup>00</sup>**  
per month

Your users will benefit from the following:

- Unlimited user Help Desk calls (15 minute max)
- Managed anti-virus
- Managed patches, updates to all Windows Systems

\*may require assessment to review overall infrastructure

705.876.1177 or [sales@microageptbo.com](mailto:sales@microageptbo.com)

Contact MicroAge Peterborough for all your business IT needs

  
Your Trusted Business Technology Partner