

## The Power of an Hour with our elected leaders...

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

What's the power of an hour? In our experience at the Chamber an hour with our four elected leaders and members of city and county councils is invaluable. This was the format of the second annual Power Hour. Recorded by CogecoTV and Cogeco Connexion to be aired over a half a dozen times, the Power Hour allows our MP, MPP, Warden, and Mayor to talk about the issues on their radar and answer questions about the issues on the radar of the Peterborough business community.

"The Power Hour format not only provides the elected official's position on each issue, but also clearly shows us the alignment amongst local, provincial, and federal policies on those issues," said Jim Hill, James F Hill Financial Management Services and Chair of the Board of Directors for the Peterborough Chamber. "That type of insight and the connection with each level of government the Chamber provides its members is why we are known as the Voice of Business."

The amount of change in the past year defined the event, including: a new US administration, our MP and MPP taking on new portfolios (Minister of the Status of Women and Minister Responsible for Small Business, respectively), a new Warden for the County of Peterborough and new ideas and vision for the future of the City of Peterborough from the Mayor.



We talked about our local business community needing the tools and framework to be competitive, creative, and confident as they build, maintain and grow their businesses. This framework needs to recognize that over 98% of Canadian business is considered small business. Within the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce, 93% of our membership is made up of small business.

With the emphasis on entrepreneurship and innovation, we are going to see even more small businesses open their doors.

Trade relations with the US, hydro, the impact of a completed 407, planning for the future growth of the city, taxes, VIA Rail and mental health were all touched upon during question period but first, the elected officials had the opportunity to talk about their work.

The Honourable Maryam Monsef spoke about how the stories from constituents are resonating with her and her colleagues on Parliament Hill. As the new Minister for the Status of Women, she is looking forward to moving the conversation forward and working with programs to advance the representation of women in a variety of areas.

County of Peterborough Warden Joe Taylor highlighted a growth analysis study that is underway, as well as the pursuit of a more regional perspective on certain issues. He also touched on the need for infrastructure dollars to help

maintain 725 kilometres of roads and 154 bridge structures in the county.

Mayor Daryl Bennett spoke about the tough decisions council has made from the sale of Peterborough Distribution Inc, the need for an expanded Parkway to the south and north of Jackson Park to accommodate growth, and the balance of progress and prosperity in community building.

The Honourable Jeff Leal talked about the role of Ontario in the agri-food sector. He stated that this province has the potential to play a pivotal role in feeding the future population of the world and that the Foodland Ontario brand signifies prestige and confidence around food safety in other parts of the world. In his new role as the Minister Responsible for Small Business he talked about what he saw as a competitive tax rate relative to our closest trading partners.

On the issue of trade, Minister Monsef recognized the interconnectivity between Canada and the US and emphasized the importance of the needs of Canadians, adding that the Canadian Trade Team is ready. Minister Leal suggested fostering good relationships with key people in the American government.

On the issue of hydro, Minister Leal told the crowd more relief options could be in sight. He added that the rebuilding of the transmission lines to increase the reliability of the electricity system was successful,

but expensive, and will continue to be expensive with the needed refurbishment of Darlington Nuclear. Warden Taylor challenged him on the long term energy plan and the Green Energy Act calling them flawed legislation that puts rural Ontario at a disadvantage.

Warden Taylor went on to emphasize his anticipation of the results of the growth analysis underway at the County, which will include some analysis of the 407 impact. And Mayor Bennett stressed the importance of pushing a new vision for the city, and the need for serviced industrial land. His comments were supported by Minister Monsef who has been in favour of seeing a new convention hall for the community.

Also touched upon during the evening was mental health, with the Canadian Mental Health Association for Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge asking that the federal government ensure the \$5 million earmarked for mental health programs does not get wrapped into other health care needs.

Trent University's Julie Davis also asked what each level of government is doing to facilitate real life work experience for students.

Stay tuned for more follow up with our leaders on questions that were not addressed due to time.

You can catch the Power Hour one more time on Cogeco TV Peterborough, this Saturday at 5:30pm.

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GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

Experience how these entrepreneurs are taking it to the next level. Discover who they think is next!

**Next Level**  
Wednesday, February 22, 2017  
Doors open at 11:45am | Lunch at 12:00pm  
Live Production 12:15 - 12:45pm  
The Venue PTBO

PTBO CHAMBER MEMBER  
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Uniglass Plus Ziebart celebrates a quarter century of Chamber membership

Thank you to the team at Uniglass Plus Ziebart in Peterborough for 25 years of Chamber membership. Your commitment to the Chamber and business community is inspiring! Located on The Parkway, they are specialists in windshield repair and

replacement, manage insurance claims and offer a full array of auto glass services.

More: uniglassplus.com/85-peterborough-store.html

**Peterborough Now Recognized for Environmental Learning**

Thanks to the work of GreenUP, the United Nations has designated the Peterborough area as one of the world's top centres for learning about environmentalism. The

Regional Centre of Excellence (RCE) initiative recognizes regions from around the world that demonstrate leadership in addressing complex sustainability challenges, and works to network these communities internationally to support even greater innovation and collaboration.

Peterborough-Kawartha-Haliburton is only the third RCE to be designated in the province, and the eighth in Canada. There are 150 RCEs globally.

More: greenup.on.ca

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## Event Calendar

**PBX with the Petes**  
Peterborough Memorial Centre  
151 Lansdowne Street West  
4:00pm - 6:00pm

**Details:** Join us in the lobby of the Peterborough Memorial Centre to celebrate the business and history of sport in our community.

The Peterborough & District Sports of Hall of Fame will be open for guests.

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

**CHAMBER AM**  
TUESDAY February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**Chamber AM Meet Up**  
The Carousel  
116 Lansdowne Street East  
Coffee's on at 7:00am  
Speakers from 7:30-8:30am  
**Speaker: Carlo Raponi, Ptbo Axe Club**

**Details:** Network with fellow Chamber members.

**Cost:** Pay for your breakfast

**LUNCHBOX LEARNING**  
WEDNESDAY February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Chamber & WBN members only)

**Realizing Your Marketing Investment**  
**Bell**

**Chamber Boardroom**  
175 George Street North  
12:00pm - 1:00pm  
**Speaker:** Darren Murphy & Mike Healey, The Peterborough Examiner

**Details:** Learn about the marketing funnel and the influence you have on the consumer's path to purchase.

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

**Sponsor:** Bell  
**Note:** Pre-registration is required

**NEXT LEVEL PTBO**  
WEDNESDAY, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

**The Venue PTBO**  
286 George Street North  
11:45am - 1:00pm  
**Speakers:** Aletta Littlemore, Torbram Electric  
Trent Gervais, Loomex Group  
Alysha Dominico, Tangible Words

**Cost:** Free

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan<sup>SM</sup>

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