

## What's in store for Peterborough in 2019...?

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

We have new Municipal Councils, a new MPP and a Federal election. We have a possible VIA Rail announcement, an official plan to complete, and numerous local decisions to be made. We've had the closure of GE and will likely face continued pressures on businesses, both large and small.

Our local Councils, be they Township, County or City, are in tough. If it's one thing we face together, it's the accumulated debt of all levels of government. Our rural governments find keeping up with basic infrastructure needs a challenge, let alone providing for waste management, social services, recreation or EMS. They all find a way, but it's not getting any easier.

Our new City Council, the youngest and most diverse Council in our history, will face many big decisions in 2019. The budget, the official plan, arenas, affordable housing, and significant projects such as the Louis Street Park and the Bethune Street development will all require Councils attention. This of course barely scratches the surface, and it remains to be seen whether Council has the appetite to go back and undue some of the work of the previous Council. Let's hope not...

The Federal election will most certainly trigger significant



discussion. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is active on a number of federal policy files, including trade/exports, taxation, regulation, agriculture, and resource development. Opportunity abounds if we can work well with the new USMCA and CPTPP trade agreements, not only developing new markets, but attracting investment. Simply improving trade between our own Provinces can be a challenge!

Who knows whether we will see Federal support for VIA Rail's High Frequency Rail proposal, but the fact is that the project checks a lot of boxes. The vast majority of VIA's business comes from the Quebec City – Windsor corridor. VIA has faced decades of challenge trying to provide timely, let alone high frequency service along the Lakeshore line. Their HFR proposal

completely changes to game, allowing VIA to provide consistent, predictable, high frequency service to the most densely populated region of Canada. The Federal Government did its own study of the VIA Rail proposal in 2018 and the decision is on the Ministers desk. We wait with fingers crossed. And just to make the point, anyone who politicizes this project is doing it a tremendous disservice.

The role of the Chamber in all of this is not always clear to everyone. For nearly 130 years the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce has served the business community by making suggestions to all three levels of Government. Our lobbying efforts focus on policy, not politics, and we work closely with whoever is elected. Our core function is to make sure the Government understands the role

of the business community and the challenges it faces. Sometimes that can be seen as pitting the business community against other sectors, and as "politics" becomes increasingly polarized, there is a danger that the business community will too.

We don't always have the answers, but we will always try to provide a balanced argument on behalf of our members.

- Over 41% of Canada's GDP is contributed by SMEs
- 9 in 10 Canadians work for an SME in the private sector
- Over 99% of businesses are small to medium sized, they are the heart of our economy and their success is essential to Canada's growth.

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

**POWER HOUR**  
STRENGTHENING BUSINESS

Are you ready to see your elected officials in the **hot seat**?

**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

Get your tickets: [peterboroughchamber.ca](http://peterboroughchamber.ca)

GREATER Peterborough Chamber of Commerce

## Inspiring start to 2019 with Heather Doughty

For the past year, Heather has been introducing Peterborough and beyond to the extraordinary women in our community. Her passion is **Inspire: The Women's Portrait Project** a compilation of photos and stories from local women.

At a recent ChamberAM event, Heather spoke about how each story is a gift. Reminding us that "being inspirational is not how we deem ourselves worthy, it is how others deem us worthy."

A good thought to kick off 2019.

Learn more: [inspirethewomensportraitproject.com](http://inspirethewomensportraitproject.com)



business building program.

- **Collins Barrow Kawarthas LLP** is now **Baker Tilly**. Same ownership structure, same people, but can now provide a global perspective to their clients! Congratulations!
- **Lynn Teatro of Teatro** is launching a weekly Facebook Live series called **Focus 15**. She will be interviewing entrepreneurs about actionable tips for other entrepreneurs.
- **Leons Peterborough** kept the season of giving going during **Boxing Week** with a donation of a GE washer and dryer to the **Warming Room**.
- **Team Vanrahan Century 21** is hosting a **First Time Home Buyers** seminar **Wed, Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 7pm** at the **Century 21** offices.

### Featured Member Discount Program: Is your digital marketing working for you?

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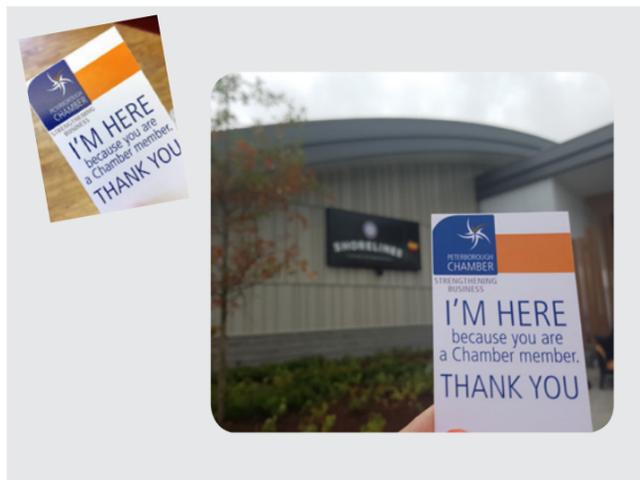
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## Event Calendar



**WEDNESDAY**  
January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
(Chamber & WBN Members only)

**3 Ways Risk Affects Your Business**



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

**Speaker:** Kelland Sewell, rPM<sup>3</sup> Solutions Canada Inc.

**Details:** This free, noon hour series is open to Chamber members and WBN members interested in professional development and connecting with fellow members. Located in the Chamber boardroom, bring your lunch along, listen to a short presentation, and ask some questions.

**Cost:** Free (Bring your lunch)

**Note:** Pre-registration required



**TUESDAY**  
February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Peterborough Business Hub**  
398 McDonnell Street



**4:00pm - 6:00pm**

**Details:** PBX is a great opportunity for the business community, employers, consumers, and community agencies to make valuable connections.

Bring your business cards and get ready to get connected to the Peterborough business community.

**Cost:** Free, courtesy of Shorelines Casino Peterborough



**TUESDAY**  
February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Managing Stress in the Workplace**

**The Carousel**  
116 Lansdowne Street East

**Coffee's on at 7:00am**  
**Speakers from 7:30-8:30am**

**Cost:** Pay for your breakfast

**Speaker:** Dr. Doug Lukinuk, Maximized Living

**Details:** The Chamber Breakfast meetings are a great way to fuel up for your busy workday. Network with fellow Chamber members, have a delicious fresh breakfast and enjoy a short presentation from our guest speaker.

**Note:** Pre-registration encouraged

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan

FOR FIRMS WITH 1-50 EMPLOYEES

Insurance for small business that's anything but small

contact: Brian Bulger at 741-1400



### Member Milestones

- **Habitat for Humanity Peterborough & Kawartha Region** offices have moved to 300 Milroy Drive. The not-for-profit will also be opening a second ReStore at their new location in the spring. Congratulations!
- **Community Futures Peterborough** will be launching its Ignite 100 program today (January 10) at the Venture North building. Ignite is a



## 2019 Peterborough Chamber of Commerce Travel Program

Discover Ireland  
May 27 - June 4, 2019

Join us for our 5<sup>th</sup> China Trip  
October 18 - 29, 2019

Incredible India  
October 24 - November 2, 2019

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

