



“BRIDGING OPPORTUNITY”

Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT...

I would like to thank you for your continued support over the years of the Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce. We have many objectives at the Chamber which range from promotion and improvement of trade and commerce, to being a cohesive force for business interests by representing commerce to all levels of government, promoting businesses and the community, providing a forum for business interaction and also providing membership services.

I would like to personally thank the outgoing Board of Directors for their hard work and dedication over the past year. We have seen great things happen in our community over the past twelve months. The 2011 Board of Directors consisted of Stacey Ewing, John Ritchie, Karen Verstappen, Janet Barnes, Lisa Nogueira, Travis Hooper, Karen Debergh, Greg Hetherington, Fran Dobbelaar, John Salisbury, Mike Hatfield, Matt Montague, Gerry Flynn, Kelly Hetherington, and Greg Walton. We would also like to thank Tina Fraleigh, Office Administrator for all her hard work in the past years with several community groups as well as with the Chamber.

As president, I worked hard at creating a new communication group called the **President’s Forum**. This was an opportunity for all groups in our wonderful community to get together and discuss what the groups

were working on, what projects they needed help with, or just to talk. The last project this group initiated was a Volunteer Fair hosted at our local High School where several groups participated and showcased where students could work to attain their volunteer hours. Membership Chair, Karen Debergh, worked on a partnership with Chantelle Kennedy, CIK Marketing to enhance the Value Added Member program by replacing it with the Shop Local CK. This was a step forward for our membership by keeping our community spending its hard earned dollars locally. Finally, as a community, we seen the showcasing of Wallaceburg through **Minor Lacrosse’s hard work and dedication** in receiving recognition from Kraft and TSN. This was an amazing weekend for everyone. The Chamber welcomed 16 new members; Ad-Venture Media, Art and Play Therapy, CBD Club, CIK Marketing, Schepens & Sons Limited, Lundy Insurance, CK Spices Coffees & Teas, **Sam’s Hotel**, **LMI - Lifestyle Material Innovations**, St. Clair College Employment **Centre**, **Dimitar’s**, **Decam Cav Moulds**, **EMC Ready Mix**, Challenge Cup, Cryderman Productions, and Sydenham Cultural Action Team.

As President of the 2012 Board of Directors, I assure you we will be working hard to maintain and find new initiatives to programs the Chamber currently offers its membership. We have asked the Membership Committee to take a hard look at its Membership Enrolment Package to develop a new program set to launch in 2013. We have also asked the Marketing Committee to create a marketing strategy to

improve our illuminated Bridging Opportunity signs in the very near future. We have already started to work on the 15th Annual Business & Community Excellence Awards Gala, Chamber Annual Golf Tournament, and of course our Community After 5 events.

The 2012 Board of Directors Executive Committee consists of John Ritchie as President, Carmen McGregor as Vice President, Matt Montague as Treasurer and Mike Hatfield as Secretary. The 2012 Directors are as follows; Gerry Flynn, Kelly Hetherington, Brad Borland, Greg Walton, Fran Dobbelaar, Gloria Tulp, Whitney McGregor, Greg Hetherington, John Salisbury, Dan Chauvin and Ron Laroche. Your Chamber will continue to work together for the betterment of our business community. Through partnerships with the **BIA, EDC, President’s Forum and the Municipality** there are more opportunities to come for Wallaceburg.

We encourage you to become an active member of the Chamber by participating in any of our events, volunteering on one of our committees or even contacting us with ideas you have to improve our Business & Community District.

Please feel free to contact Tina (519) 627-1443 or myself (519) 626-9772 if we can be of any assistance. I am looking forward to a great year as YOUR President.

Sincerely,
John J. Ritchie

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WALLACEBURG & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"Bridging Opportunity" is the quarterly publication of the Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce.

OUR MISSION

The Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce shall be a cohesive force for business interests by:

- A) Representing Wallaceburg & District businesses to Governments, Community Interests Groups, Businesses and other Chambers of Commerce;
- B) Promoting Wallaceburg & District Businesses and Community;
- C) Providing a forum for business interaction, and
- D) Providing Membership services

Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce
2011 - 2012 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

John Ritchie
(519) 626-9772

VICE PRESIDENT

Carmen McGregor
(519) 784-3726

TREASURER

Matt Montague
(519) 627-9971

SECRETARY

Mike Hatfield
(519) 627-1022

STAFF

Tina Fraleigh
(519) 627-1443

DIRECTORS

John Salisbury
 Fran Dobbelaar
 Greg Hetherington
 Kelly Hetherington
 Greg Walton
 Gerry Flynn
 Whitney McGregor
 Dan Chauvin
 Ron Laroche
 Gloria Tulp
 Brad Borland



*You are cordially invited to the
Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce*

15th Annual Business & Community Excellence Awards

on April 19, 2012

*at the UAW Hall, Wallaceburg
Cocktails at 6:00 p.m.—Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Award Ceremony & Presentation
Cost per person \$45.00 (plus HST)*

*Please RSVP your reservation to the Chamber office at
(519) 627-1443 or by email at
info@wallaceburgchamber.com*



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Get to know your Executive Committee . . .



President, John Ritchie

John worked in the food industry for about a decade with companies such as **Harvey's, Pizza Hut** and KFC. His business demeanor showed an interest in business administration where he left the food industry to pursue a degree in accounting. While attending St. Clair College, John wrote his exams to offer insurance and investments as well.

In 2009, John opened Sydenham Financial as a Financial Advisor and Tax Consultant. He decided to stay in the community in which he was born and raised, opening his business in a space located within the Chamber building. Sydenham Financial flourished, so in 2010 John joined forces with a local accountant and opened a new company called Integrated Financial Services to better serve the community and surrounding area. The company is constructed of Paul Turner FCGA, Resident Business Advisor; Matt Montague, Resident Farm Advisor; Wendy Suisham and Linda Moore, Staff Accountants; and John Ritchie, Resident Financial Advisor.

In 2009, John became a Director with the Chamber. He took the role of Membership Chair in his first year. He helped create synergies within the business district and helped develop the Value Added Member-to-Member Discount program. In 2010, he was elected President. His drive improved relationships in the community. John **introduced the President's Forum to the community** which is where all groups collectively meet and open lines of communication between them. John was also asked to be the Chairperson of the Community Park Project which took a look at creating a new park in Wallaceburg to offer more quality of life options.

Going into 2012 John has been re-elected as President of the Chamber. **In John's personal life he is married to**

Kristine and has two sons, Gavin and Logan. John resides in Wallaceburg where his family raises the boys. Kristine is a successful Registered Massage Therapist, Gavin is entering school in 2012 and Logan is 18 months old. John felt that he needed to help Wallaceburg offer families and businesses a better place for everyone to work, live and play.



Vice President, Carmen McGregor

Carmen was born and raised in Wallaceburg. She has 4 children and 4 grandchildren. Carmen is married to Tom and they live on their family farm outside of Tupperville. Carmen works as the Office Manager at Hyde, Hyde & McGregor. She is a Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board and sits as a Director on the Sydenham Community Fund and the Chatham-Kent **Women's Centre Board.**



Treasurer, Matt Montague

Matt Montague joined TurnerMoore LLP in Wallaceburg in 2007 as a staff accountant. His role within the company has grown to become a personal tax return final review, corporate tax return and financial statement preparer, farm and business advisor, and to offer tax planning.

Matt is currently an active enrolled student in the Certified General Accountants of Ontario (CGA) program working towards his CGA designation. He has earned diplomas from Fanshawe College in Business Administration, Business Accounting, and Financial Services. These designations provide Matt with knowledge and expertise to handle various accounting and tax issues and to provide the appropriate advice to their clients.

Matt is a director and also the Treasurer

for Selkirk History Faire Board. Matt was born and raised in Wallaceburg, Ontario. He and his wife Ashley, also from Wallaceburg, lived in London for five years until relocating back to Wallaceburg in 2007.



Secretary, Mike Hatfield

Mike is a graduate of Lambton College from the 3 year Business Administration Program and a major in Marketing. He has worked in the Oil Industry and Pulp and Paper Mining across North America until 2002 as an Engineering Sales Manager. Mike met his wife Denise in 2004 and they both retired in the same year. In 2008 Mike & Denise decided to open their own Café & Bistro. The business has grown into catering as well as fine dining and shows no signs of slowing down. Mike and Denise have been active in the community with both the BIA and the Chamber. Mike and Denise were major sponsors of the Wallaceburg Relay For Life event during its first year and will continue again this year by donating all the food required for 300 to 400 participants at no cost. They feel this is a major event that has touched both of their families in many ways. Mike and Denise feel grateful to have been given this honour and opportunity to participate.

Mike feels the town of Wallaceburg has been incredible in the way they accepted them into the community with open arms and they will always be proud of their new home here and look forward to many years of supporting and serving their community in anyway they can.

Mike would like to thank Wallaceburg for being the best place they have ever lived, and they have lived coast to coast.



SHOP LOCAL CK LOYALTY PROGRAM

Shop Local CK and the Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce have joined forces in order to introduce an exciting local loyalty program to business members.

The Shop Local CK loyalty program gives people the tools and incentives they need to locate and support the independent and locally-owned businesses that make Chatham-Kent great. With the purchase of **this unique loyalty card you'll unlock great discounts at more than 65 local retailers, restaurants, and service providers.** What's more, \$1 from your card purchase will be donated to United Way of Chatham-Kent to help fund important local programs.

As of September 1, 2011, Wallaceburg & District Chamber of Commerce members are invited to purchase a limited number of discounted Shop Local CK cards directly from the Chamber office in order to share

with their employees and clients. For more information on this unique offer, please visit <http://www.shoplocalck.com> and click on the "Wallaceburg Chamber Offer" button in the bottom right corner.

Shop Local CK is designed to help Chatham-Kent's local businesses grow, prosper, and expand. Reward your employees with a Shop Local CK Card and **you'll be directly contributing to the revitalization of our vibrant communities...** and lets not forget about the great savings **you'll be passing on!** To purchase your discounted Shop Local CK Cards, please contact the Chamber Office at (519) 627-1443.

Chamber business members are also encouraged to participate in the Shop Local CK program as a member business. Business participation is FREE - the only

requirement is that you must be located within Chatham-Kent, and you must agree to offer your discount for one full year from the date of enrollment. To enroll your business, please visit <http://www.shoplocalck.com/enroll-your-business/>.

The small businesses of Chatham-Kent are committed to making more than just money—they're committed to making a difference. Show your dedication to local growth—purchase your Shop Local CK Card today!

Please note: The Shop Local CK program has replaced the current Value Added Member to Member Program. As such, your current Member-to-Member Program card will no longer be honoured.

FROM THE WALLACEBURG BIA . . .

The Wallaceburg BIA's main purpose is to enhance, beautify and promote the downtown core of Wallaceburg. It has been a struggle and not without hardship but we the business owners of the small, the unique and the specialty stores plan to survive. Now more than ever, we must combine our talents, promote one another and reinvent who we are as a town. Who is Wallaceburg and where is it going?

Many are convinced that there is more elsewhere, and no one has to

shop in our town so we need to make Wallaceburg a town for them to want to.

The BIA wishes to embark upon a more aggressive campaign to bring back the Wallaceburg of yesterday. To identify who the Wallaceburg of the next generation will be an to develop a total town concept that will benefit the

merchants, the consumers, and the community.

The AGM of the Wallaceburg BIA is fast approaching. It is time to embark upon a journey that involves all BIA merchants, to create a total town picture, to go beyond the confines of our comfort zone and explore partnerships with the Chamber and with Council. We need you to be part of this progression. Come to the AGM and help bring back the voices on the street that proudly exclaim "I bought that in Wallaceburg"



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