



CHAMBER E-NEWS



FEBRUARY 2025

19

YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR CHAMBER

- OPPORTUNITIES
- INFORMATION
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STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

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Sick of rising health and dental premiums?

Chambers Plan has the cure.

Chambers Plan
Employee Benefits



K. BREWER FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

GET A FREE QUOTE



Let us help you start your year off right with **no monthly equipment fees for a year!***

Get your equipment fees credited for 1 year* when you establish a new merchant account between January 1 and February 28, 2025.

Our full suite of point-of-sale solutions provide the tools you need to run your business. From inventory management and staff timekeeping to invoicing and business analytics, and so much more. We offer innovative and reliable payment technology that allows you and your customers to feel at ease knowing that your payments are being processed securely.

Let's kick start the new year with this incredible offer.
Contact me today to get started.

join.paymentstart.com/cachamber

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Elavon.

Disclaimer:

* To qualify for the promotion, you must sign up for a new payment processing account with Elavon Canada between January 1 and February 28, 2025. Merchant accounts must be activated and actively processing payment transactions March 15, 2025 for a minimum of one week and be in an open status at the time of the incentive credit. This promotion is limited to two (2) point-of-sale devices per member, select Register package rentals are excluded from the promotion. The twelve-month equipment credit will be applied to the Elavon monthly statement within 90 days of the first deposit date. The value of the twelve-month statement credit will offset the Solution Service fees billed for one year. Limit one credit per customer. Cannot be combined with another offer. Elavon reserves the right in its sole discretion to modify, suspend or terminate the promotion at any time without additional notice. Restrictions may apply. Services provided by Elavon Canada Company.

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Member benefits worth **SHOUTING** about.



Save 3.5¢ per litre on Esso® and Mobil™ fuel.

With the Chamber's Esso and Mobil Business Fleet Card Program, your business can enjoy a 3.5¢ per litre discount on every fuel purchase at Canada's largest retail fuel network of over 2,000 Esso and Mobil stations. This exceptional fuel discount is usually available within, well, shouting distance.

Card program advantages and benefits:

- Fuel securely with prompts at the pump and 24/7 customer support.
- Track spending easily with paperless receipts and insights into every transaction.
- Pay bills, manage cards, and mitigate unauthorized spending with online and mobile tools.
- Fill up with Synergy Fuel™, engineered for better gas mileage,** at over 2,000 Esso and Mobil stations across Canada.
- Get on the road to rewards with the PC Optimum™ program.**
- Save 10% on all oil changes at Mr. Lube when you show your Esso and Mobil Business Card or Premier Plus Business Card.

Start saving today

For more information or to apply, please contact your sales representative.

Mario Ojeda-Iniguez
Regional Sales Manager | Ontario
c. 819.962.4465
mario.ojeda-iniguez@wexinc.com



**New accounts only. Valid at participating Esso and Mobil locations. Discounts earned will be credited directly to your account. Eligible only for Canadian Chamber of Commerce members.
**Exemptions, such as fuel economy, are based on Synergy-branded gasoline, where and when available, compared to gasoline meeting minimum Canadian government denaturation standards. Actual benefits will vary depending on factors such as vehicle type, driving style, and gasoline previously used.
***Conditions apply. The Esso Extra program is available at participating Esso and Mobil stations in Canada, excluding Mobil stations located adjacent to a Loblaw banner grocery store. For complete PC Optimum program terms and conditions visit www.pc-optimum.ca.
Mobil and Fuel Technology are registered trademarks or registered trademarks of Esso Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries. Imperial Oil, Esso is a trademark of Imperial Oil Limited. Imperial Oil, Esso, PC Optimum are trademarks of Esso Mobil Corporation. The Esso and Mobil Business Fleet Card Program is administered by WEX Inc. ES5_580651_15/03/22

NEW

MEMBER EXCLUSIVE PROGRAM



HR Hub Document Library

Access 1,000+ up-to-date, federally and provincially compliant HR documents, policies, and forms. Click [here](#) for complimentary access.

NO CHARGE

~~\$990~~

Compliant Policy Manual

This manual is your guide to establishing a foundation for legal compliance in your jurisdiction. Watch this [video](#) to learn how it will help protect your organization. Get your manual created today, free of charge. Click [here](#) to book your meeting.

NO CHARGE

~~\$1500~~

Webinars

Stay current with HR trends nationwide at no cost to you. Click [here](#) to explore our schedule of webinars covering a range of HR topics.



Unlimited HR

Our flagship service, Unlimited HR, provides you with unlimited HR advice for all your needs. You'll also gain access to employment contract templates, legislative training for your staff, and custom documentation upon request. Pricing is based on your number of employees, jurisdiction and subscription term. Click [here](#) to book your meeting and see how we can support your HR needs.



About HRCovered

Proudly 100% Canadian owned. We support over 2,000 Canadian organizations with cost-effective HR solutions. Watch our company [video](#) and [client testimonials](#) to discover the HR Covered difference.



www.hrcovered.com 886.691.6438 partnerships@hrcovered.com

Opportunities





Business Awards **Nominations**



The 30th Annual Business Awards are here, and we need your help to recognize the businesses, entrepreneurs, and organizations making a difference in Bracebridge!

Nominate Now

This is your opportunity to highlight those who go above and beyond to serve the community, innovate in their industry, and create a lasting impact.



BUSINESS AWARDS GALA **APRIL 3RD**

MUSKOKA LUMBER COMMUNITY CENTRE

This year, we're celebrating two incredible milestones—30th Annual Bracebridge Business Awards Gala, our Pearl Anniversary — and Bracebridge's 150th anniversary! The Pearls symbolize wisdom, resilience, and the beauty that emerges through growth over time. These qualities perfectly reflect our community and its businesses as we honor their contributions to Bracebridge's legacy and future.

APP OR DESSERT
PROVIDER - RFP

SPONSORSHIP

RAFFLE PRIZE
DONATION

MUSKOKA HOUSING TASK FORCE 2.0



Two new funding opportunities are now available through the Muskoka Affordable Housing Initiatives Program (MAHIP) to help create more affordable housing in our community!

The funding opportunities are as follows:

1. MAHIP Capital Incentive Program: Multi-Residential Rental Units

Builders and developers can receive up to \$100,000 per unit to create affordable rental housing through new construction or by converting existing buildings—such as schools, churches, or retail spaces—into multi-unit housing.

2. MAHIP Capital Incentive Program: Additional Residential Units (ARUs)

Homeowners and property owners can receive up to \$50,000 per unit to create ARUs (also known as secondary suites), such as basement apartments or garden suites, offering flexible housing options and potential rental income. A step-by-step guide to building ARUs and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the District website to help get you started.

Detailed program information, eligibility, and applications can be found on the District website at www.muskoka.on.ca/mahip.

You can learn more about Muskoka's action towards housing for everyone at www.muskoka.on.ca/housing.



**Vendor
call**

As part of the Bracebridge 150 Community Celebration, on June 7 and 8, 2025 at the JD Lang Activity Park (Bracebridge Fairgrounds). There is the “Meet Your Community Showcase” which will feature local businesses and organizations, artisans and historical displays. More details can be found in the links below;

- [Exhibitor/Vendor/Artisan Information](#)
- [Community Picnic - Food Vendors/Food Trucks/Refreshment Carts](#)
- [Historical displays](#)

We have had some registration, but we are hoping to have more Bracebridge focused businesses, food trucks and vendors sign up.



Grants, Funds & Information

OUR MEMBERS ARE HIRING

VACANCY



Are You Hiring?

Members can post listings at:
bracebridgechamber.com

M MUSKOKA
JOB BOARD

WORK IN
MUSKOKA



DATA & MORE
2025

SKILLFORCE

RSVP

The annual Local Labour Market Plan (LLMP) Report is a detailed snapshot of workforce activity in Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka. As such, it is an important source of information for employers, employment service providers, LBS service providers, economic development, and anyone who needs to know what is happening in all sectors of the labour market.

Please join us as we review the findings in our annual Data and More presentation, featuring Data Analyst Tom Zizys.

This is our first in-person Data and More event post COVID-19 and we are very excited to have you join us! March 4th from 10 am - 12 pm at Liberty North, 100 Caplan Ave., Barrie.

Lunch will be provided, vegetarian and vegan options will be available.

JOB FAIR

Connect with the right talent
for your business needs!

When: Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 9am-3pm
Where: Rotary Centre (131 Wellington Street, Bracebridge)

*Space is limited

Please email bracebridge@agilec.ca to secure your spot.

In lieu of a registration cost, please bring a food donation for the Manna and Salvation Army food banks on the day of the job fair.



ARE YOU HIRING?

Learn how we can help you fill your
employment needs

MARCH 6, 2025 | 5:30 PM-7:00PM
MUSKOKA EDUCATION CENTRE
1271 CEDAR LN BRACEBRIDGE



Find out about potential employees that you may not have otherwise connected with.

Learn simple and effective ways to support employees to do their best work - necessary for some, good for all!

Hear from people who have experience - students, employees, fellow employers, and the available support in the community

For more information or to register

Agilec. | FLEMING Muskoka-Kawartha Employment Services | Canada | EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO | Ontario

705-706-2058

Kirons@clsm.on.ca
danielle.reimer@tlds.on.ca

Trillium
Lakelands
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Community Living
South Muskoka

Businesses can submit their made in Canada products on **MADE IN CA** to help connect you with customers looking to support Canadian products:



www.madeinca.ca

[Home](#)
[Made in Canada Grocery Guide](#)
[Categories](#)
[* Submit a Business *](#)
[About Us](#)
[Donate](#)

**BY CANADIANS,
FOR CANADIANS.**

Submit A Business

Home » Submit A Business

Thank you for thinking of contributing to Made in CA! Whether you're:

- Sharing a Canadian company proudly manufacturing their products in Canada
- Highlighting a foreign company manufacturing goods in Canada

Note: We are not currently publishing service-based businesses or those that do not manufacture in Canada.

Before submitting

1. Please use the search bar at the top of the page to check if the company or product is already listed to avoid duplicate entries.
2. Read the example below of how descriptions can be written:

Since 1955, Jackson Hives has served Canadian communities by providing organic honey and honey products across Ontario and beyond. Founded as a small family farm, they started by selling honey off their front porch. Over the years, they've expanded to a much larger farm and production plant, which includes ethical hives and bees hand-raised by expert beekeepers.

You can purchase Jackson Hives' honey online and in retail stores throughout Canada. They make honey, creamed honey products, beeswax lip balms, beeswax candles, and other personal care.

Company Name *

What products does the company make? *

What city are the products manufactured in? *

Where can you purchase these products? *

☐ Online

☐ Retail stores

Website *

Canadian Owned *

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Overview of the Company *

Paragraph

B **I** **U** **L** **Link** **Image** **Table** **Code** **Undo** **Redo**

NAVIGATING U.S. TARIFFS:

10 TIPS FOR ONTARIO SMES TO STAY COMPETITIVE



Preparing for U.S. tariffs can be challenging for small and medium-sized businesses in Ontario, but with the right strategies, you can mitigate the impact. Here are ten steps you can take:

- 1 Understand Tariff Implications**

Familiarize yourself with how tariffs work and their potential impact on your business.
- 2 Assess Risks**

Identify key risks for your organization, including increased costs and supply chain disruptions.
- 3 Review Pricing and Contracts**

Evaluate your contracts and communications with vendors and customers to understand your rights and obligations under any tariff conditions.
- 4 Diversify Suppliers**

Consider sourcing materials from alternative sources not affected by U.S. tariffs to reduce Ontario dependency on U.S. imports, like other countries, provinces and local suppliers.
- 5 Optimize Inventory Management**

Implement strategies and scenario planning to manage inventory more efficiently, minimizing the need for goods subject to tariffs.
- 6 Enhance Trade Compliance**

Ensure your trade practices comply with regulations to minimize duties payable.
- 7 Lobby for Support**

Join your local chamber of commerce and engage with industry groups who will help you advocate for your business's interests and leverage government programs.
- 8 Monitor Currency Fluctuations**

Keep an eye on currency exchange rates, as fluctuations can compound the financial strain of tariffs.
- 9 Explore Tariff Exclusions**

Investigate if your products qualify for any tariff exclusions or reductions.
- 10 Stay Informed**

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments in U.S.-Canada trade policies to anticipate and respond to changes.

NEWS RELEASE

2025 Muskoka Community Grant Program

Stay Informed!



2025 Muskoka Community Grant Program - Now Open and Accepting Applications

The Community Grant Program funds local projects that strengthen the community and support Muskoka's most vulnerable residents.

Two grant opportunities are available in 2025:

Pay It Forward - Up to \$2,500 for community members or grassroots groups that support projects that bring people together, fill a community need and create positive change.

Community Enhancement Fund - Up to \$10,000 for non-profit community organizations and registered charities to fund projects that address poverty reduction, food security, housing, education and other community support programs.

Deadline: Friday, March 21, 2025

For full details visit: www.engagemuskoka.ca/muskoka-community-grants



GET A \$7800 WAGE SUBSIDY



ACCELERATE YOUR GROWTH PROJECT

Applications Now Open!



DEADLINE

Applications Close April 11th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, AND TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATIONS VISIT

WWW.IION.CA/SDPP

Applications are now open!
Accelerate your growth project with SDPP.

Eligible, for-profit, innovative companies may apply to receive a competitive wage subsidy of \$13/hr to hire an individual full-time (37.5 hours/week) over a 16-week period (May 5th, 2025-August 22, 2025).

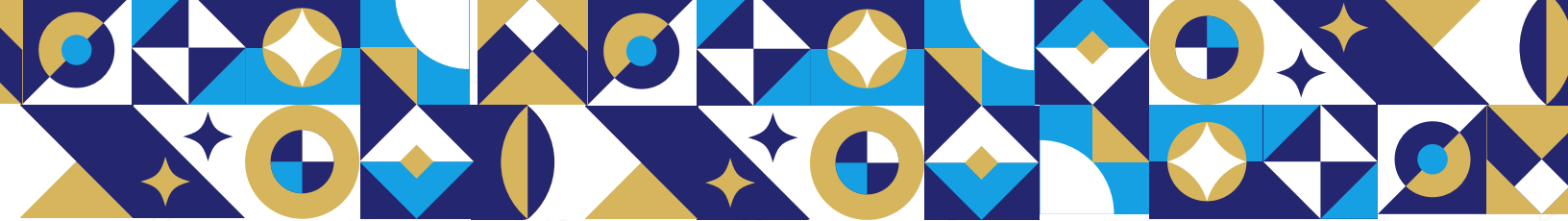
Participants will complete virtual workshops and attend an in-person innovation retreat that will bolster their personal and professional development.

Companies must be registered and operating within the Nipissing, Timiskaming, Parry Sound, or Muskoka region.

To learn more, and to apply please visit www.iion.ca/sdpp

Community News





WHERE TO VOTE

AS A BRACEBRIDGE RESIDENT

- **Now - Feb 26: 321 Muskoka Rd 3 N, Huntsville**
- **Feb 20-22: 56 Salmon Ave, Bracebridge**
- **Election day Feb 27: Visit tinyurl.com/BBelectionInfo**

Elections Ontario hours: 10am - 8pm Monday-Saturday & 12pm-5pm on Sunday.

Please Note: The last time to vote early at the Huntsville returning office is Feb 26 at 6:00 pm.

Need some help? Contact the local elections Ontario office at
1-(833) 205-0110

HOW TO VOTE

AS A BRACEBRIDGE RESIDENT

- **With Voter information card:
Bring one piece of ID with your name on it**
- **Without Voter information card:
Bring one piece of ID with your name and address on it**

A full list of acceptable identification for each method can be found
here: tinyurl.com/VoteIDInfo

Need some help? Contact the local elections Ontario office at
1-(833) 205-0110

If you are unhoused please visit a local shelter, food bank, or
community health care facility for assistance with voting. The staff
at one of these locations can visit:
tinyurl.com/UnhousedVotingInfo for info on how to support you.

PARRY SOUND-MUSKOKA
2025 ONTARIO ELECTION DEBATE

YOUR VOTE



YourTV
truly local

COGECO

TONIGHT

8:30pm February 19th
Aired on the YourTV channel for Cogeco subscribers
& on YouTube @YourTVMuskoka

Monday
Deep Flow with Melanie
9:30 - 10:30am
Vinyasa Flow with Melanie
6:00 - 7:00pm

Tuesday
Sunrise Flow with Julie
6:00 7:00am
Yin Yoga with Jacqueline
6:00 - 7:00pm

Wednesday
Vinyasa Flow with Melanie
9:30 -10:30am
Yoga/Pilates Fusion with Cara
6:00 7:00pm

Thursday
Yin Yoga with Melanie
9:30 - 10:30am
Somatic Yoga with Melanie
6:00 - 7:00pm

Friday
Mat Pilates with Jersie
9:30- 10:30am

Saturday
Deep Flow with Melanie
9:30 -10:30am


Sunday
Yin/Yang with Erin
9:30 - 10:30am

Please check schedule and website for more detailed info on each class and additional Workshops

Sign up online at freedomwellnessmuskoka.com

158 MANITOBA ST
LOWER UNIT
BRACEBRIDGE
705-644-3824





Karma Free Yoga Class

With Erin Cunningham
(Teacher Trainer/Registered Nurse)

JOIN ME AT FREEDOM WELLNESS MUSKOKA'S BOUTIQUE YOGA STUDIO FOR YIN YANG YOGA


WEAVING TOGETHER SLOW DEEP STRETCHES WITH ENERGY RAISING MOVEMENTS.

AS YOU ROLL OUT YOUR MAT, I OFFER YOU MORE THAN JUST A CLASS. I STRIVE TO SUPPORT YOUR JOINT MOBILITY, BREAKING THROUGH YOUR STUCK-NESS AS YOU LOWER CORTISOL AND BOOST YOUR WELL-BEING.

9:30-10:30 a.m

Sundays
February 16, 23,
March 9, 16, 23

158 Manitoba St. Bracebridge
www.freedomwellnessmuskoka.com for booking



MUSKOKA ARTS & CRAFTS



Call For Artists

Our Spring Members' Show will be happening in our NEW location downtown Bracebridge this year!

Please ensure your MAC Artist & Maker Membership is up to date!

Deadline: 01 March 2025

[Apply here](#)



IMPORTANT DATES

Application Opens: 13 December 2024

Application deadline: 28 February 2025

Acceptance Emails & invoices: 01 April 2025

Payment Deadline: 11 April 2025

Insurance Deadline: 02 June 2025

Show Dates: 18th-20th July 2025

[Summer Show Application](#)

Calling all Food Artists!

Applications Live: 13 December 2025

Deadline: 28 February 2025

Acceptance: 01 April 2025

Payment Deadline: 11 April 2025

[APPLICATION](#)

Calling all Musicians & Buskers!

Application Opens: 13 December 2025

Application deadline: 01 March 2025

Acceptance Emails: 01 April 2025

Show Dates: 18th-20th July 2025

[APPLICATION](#)

A woman with blonde hair, wearing a black dress and a pearl necklace, stands with her hands on her hips against a dark, starry background with stylized clouds and orange diamond patterns.

GYNDI Tryon

LIVE HYPNOSIS SHOW

MARCH 7TH 7:00PM

BRACEBRIDGE LEGION

\$25
SEATING LIMITED

Join us for a night of unforgettable fun and laughter as we dive into the wondrous world of hypnosis. Doors open at 6pm, cash bar open from 6-7pm. Space limited, proceeds will be donated to Community Living South Muskoka. Tickets available by donation through Canada Helps at

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/community-living-south-muskoka/events/cyndi-tryon-live-hypnosis-show/

 **Community Living
South Muskoka**



...or by clicking the QR code here!



About the Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce

The Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce is a membership-based, politically independent, not-for-profit organization that supports businesses of all sectors to convene, collaborate, advocate and create solutions for the regional economic prosperity of Muskoka. We enable this by providing our members with exclusive business opportunities, networking events, a united voice for improving business competitiveness across all sectors, and access to innovative insight and relevant solutions. The Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce knows that vibrant competitive & economically sustainable business communities are the foundation for a *prosperous Muskoka.*

Please visit our website for more information at:

Find us on social media

