

CHAMBER E - N E W S

TOGETHER WE HAVE

A STRONGER VOICE

JANUARY 8, 2025

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WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBER!

Become a Chamber Member Today
K.Brewer Financial-Chamber's Plan Group Insurance
Esso/Mobil - Member Benefits
New Affiliate Program! - HR Covered

Opportunities

- Bracebridge Chamber AGM Muskoka Collective Jan 29th @ 5:30pm
- Networking w/ MAWER and Muskoka Lakes Chamber- Feb 6 @ Barrelhouse
- Join the Fire and Ice Food Crawl Last Call!
- Join Fire and Ice as a Volunteer! Free Hat
- Quality Inn Choice Accommodator Fire and Ice deal
- Work in Muskoka muskokajobboard.ca
- Nominations open for the province's highest civilian honour OntarioGov
- Bracebridge Farmers' Market Applications Open
- Bracebridge 150 Calling all Bracebridge talent

Grants, Funds & Information

- IION Step Forward Entrepreneurs Program (SFEP)- Jan 30 Deadline
- WSPS WSIB Excellence Program
- OTF Grant Deadlines and Information
- Save Money Save Energy Program expansion ON Gov
- CRA Benefits Q&A Webinar Jan 29th @ 2pm

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- YWCA Women of Distinction Nominate Now
- Bracebridge Recreation Programs available for sign up
- Town of Bracebridge Hiring Camp Counsellors & Coordinators
- Enliven Muskoka Program Registration
- Kubota Wellness Centre @ Sportsplex Grand Opening Jansuary 15th



TLC Alert Nursing and Home Care Services



www.tlcnursing.ca











CONNECTION

EDUCATION

PROMOTION

While you're taking care of business, who's taking care of you?



GET A FREE QUOTE



Chambers Plan Overview

Plans are fully customizable to make it work for all kinds of businesses



Dental Coverage

Coverage options include routine and emergency procedures, to help with rising costs.



Health Coverage

Including vision care, prescription drugs, travel insurance, paramedical services, and more.



Disability and Critical Illness Coverage

If an employee gets in an accident or can no longer work due to a disability or illness, they'll be covered.



Life Insurance

To give employees peace of mind, provide financial support to beneficiaries in the event of a death.



Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Supporting employees through life's challenges so they can live and work productively.



Health and Lifestyle Spending Accounts

Give employees the freedom to choose where they use their coverage.



Industry-Leading Customer Service

Industry-leading customer service means plan members are treated like people, not just numbers.



Value-Add Programs

Free programs that support plan-holders with business advice, mental health guidance, and more.





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



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
 traceaction.
- 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.

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HR Hub Document Library

Access 1,000+ up-to-date, federally and provincially compliant HR documents, policies, and forms. Click **here** for complimentary access.



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.



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.





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.





BRACEBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMMERCE

2025

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING





JAN 29, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 PM Muskoka Collective 16 Dominon St. BRACEBRIDGE www.bracebridgechamber.com

Attention Bracebridge Chamber Members! The 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce is just around the corner! Mark your calendars:

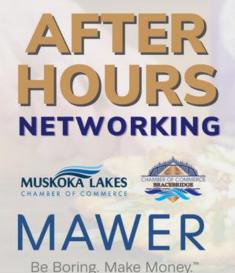
📅 Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

(1) Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Muskoka Collective, 16 Dominion St., Bracebridge

RVSP NOW! We look forward to seeing you there!





RSVP at bracebridgechamber.com



Presented by MAWER Investment Management, in partnership with the Bracebridge Chamber and Muskoka Lakes Chamber, this is your invitation to take a break from the hustle and join us at the Bracebridge Barrelhouse for a night of relaxed networking, delicious bites, and refreshing drinks.

📅 When: Tuesday, February 6th

Where: Bracebridge Barrelhouse What Makes This Night Super:

Trinks and good vibes in a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere

Taste a selection of tapas-style foods, oysters and beer pairings

Making connections with other business professionals in Muskoka

Plus: Bring your business cards for a chance to score in our business card draw featuring two incredible gift baskets.









The Concept

Described as 'speed dating with restaurants,' the Bracebridge Fire & Ice Food Crawl is a fantastic opportunity for local establishments to showcase their unique flavours and hospitality while attracting new customers.

This self-guided culinary adventure takes participants on a journey through the core of Bracebridge and beyond, offering them the chance to sample exceptional food and drink pairings from the best local spots.

Each eligible purchase from a local establishment earns entries for a draw to win an exciting prize.



App + Drink Sample

Entries for Participants: 1

Serve a taste of your most popular appetizer or craft a special themed app inspired by the Fire & Ice Festival. Pair it with a sample-sized beverage choose from wine, beer, or a non-alcoholic drink to give participants a delightful experience that showcases your unique offerings.

Maximum price to be included in the tour: \$15



Takeout Special

Entries for Participants: 1

Create a signature takeout special that embodies the spirit of the Fire & Ice Festival! This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your restaurant's flavours with a meal that's easy for participants to grab and enjoy on the go.

Maximum Price to Be Included in the Tour: \$20



Breakfast Special

Entries for Participants: 1

Start the day with a breakfast special that highlights your restaurant's morning favorites or a dish inspired by the Fire & Ice Festival. Whether it's a hearty classic or a creative twist, this is your chance to draw in early risers and brunch lovers alike.

Maximum Price to Be Included in the Tour: \$15

Additional Entries

The Socialite: 3 Entries

Participants can share their experience on social media with #FireIceFoodie for 3 additional entries.

The Explorer: 3 Entries

Participants who go to at least one restaurant outside of the festival boundaries get an additional 3 entries

The Philanthropist: 3 Entries

Participants who donate to the Manna Food Bank recieve an additional 3 entries

Benefits of Participation

- Free to participate as we pilot the program
- Increased promotion of your business
- Contribute meaningfully to the Fire and Ice atmosphere

Tips

- Tell your customers about the tour leading up to the festival to increase interest
- Design your specials to be quick and easy to make
- Keep your price affordable to attract more participants

Contact & Deadline

jaden@bracebridgechamber.com



CALL for VOLUNTEERS



Each volunteer receives FREE access to the day's events, a fast pass to skip the tube run line, along with a warm & comfy toque. The expectation is that each person works for a minimum of one, 3 hour shift. However, if you volunteer for more than one, 3 hour shift, you will also be provided with a hot meal.

We are looking for volunteers in the following areas:

- Ticket Sales
- Tube Run Attendants
- Parking Attendants
- Mascot/Entertainer
- Carnival Game Attendants
- Set Up/Tear Down Crew

Choice Accommodator



705.645.8775 or 1.800.461.4474 300 Ecclestone Drive , Bracebridge, ON

info@qualityinnbracebridge.com | www.qualityinnbracebridge.com







Quality Inn will provide two Fire & Ice tickets included per room for 1- or 2-night stays on January 24 or January 25, 2025.







Honours and awards

Ontario's medal and recognition programs celebrate the people who make our province a better place to live.



Overview

These programs honour and recognize a diverse range of Ontarians for extraordinary acts of bravery, citizenship, volunteerism and community service.

Several honours and medal programs are part of Canada's Order of Precedence, including The Order of Ontario, the province's highest honour, as well as the Queen Elizabeth II Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship, the Ontario Medal for Police Bravery and the Ontario Medal for Firefighter Bravery.

Learn about the honours and awards, including how to nominate someone.

Go to nomination portal

Order of Ontario

The Order of Ontario is the province's highest honour. An Ontarian who has shown outstanding qualities of individual excellence and achievement in any field is eligible to be appointed.

Learn about the Order of Ontario and how you can nominate someone.



2025

Vendor Applications ARE NOW Open!

visit www.bracebridgefarmersmarkets.ca for more details.



BRACEBRIDGE

The Town of Bracebridge is looking for performers to participate in the Bracebridge 150 Community Celebration and Showcase taking place on June 7 and 8, 2025, at J.D. Lang Park.

Interested?

Performers of all genres, including musicians, dancers, and other entertainers, are encouraged to express their interest in performing at this historic event by completing the online form by January 20, 2025 at engagebracebridge.ca/bracebridge150.







INTAKE TWO DEADLINE: JANUARY 30, 2025

- *Tradeshow attendance/exhibiting
- *Branding & promotional materials *Sales/marketing plans
- *Prototype/software development *Product testing/trials
- *IP research & protection *Market research *Business strategies *Feasibility studies

*Training & certifications

*Equipment/software to prototype or improve productivity

GRANTS OF UP TO \$10,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.IION.CA/SFEP

- Tradeshow attendance/exhibiting (not previously attended) and associated travel costs
- ****Design/development of branding and select promotional materials (video, print, audio)**
- Market Research
- Sales/marketing plans
- **Report** Label design

SFEP can also support product development and productivity enhancement projects.

To learn more check it out on their new website! www.iion.ca/sfep





Safety Connection: WSIB Health & Safety Excellence program – Learn the Benefits

Join WSPS as we dive into the WSIB Health and Safety Excellence program and explore how it can benefit your business. This session is packed with insights, practical tools, and expert advice to help you boost your workplace safety standards and stay compliant. It's a great opportunity to invest in your team's well-being and your company's success. Don't miss out!

WSIB Health & Safety Excellence program -Learn the Benefits

January 22, 2025 | 10:30 am ET

WSIB Health & Safety Excellence program -Learn the Benefits

February 25, 2025 | 10:30 am ET

Grant Application Deadlines

Deadlines

Capital grant · Application period is from February 5, 2025 to March 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET

Seed grant · Application period is from July 23, 2025 to August 20, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET

Grow grant · Application period is from October 8, 2025 to November 5, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

Youth Opportunities Fund

Grant type

System Innovations grant

Application period opens: November 5, 2024

Youth Innovations and Family Innovations grant:

- · Deadline for lead organizations to complete the required pre-application coaching call: February 19, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET
- Deadline for lead organizations to submit the Organization Information: February 26, 2025, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- · Application deadline: March 12, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET



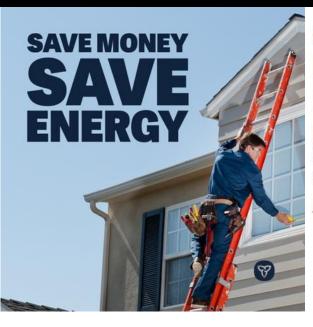
· Expression of interest deadline: April 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

· Application deadline: July 9, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. ET

Ontario 👸

SAVE MY SPOT

SAVE MY SPOT



Ontario Launches New Energy Efficiency Programs to Save You Money

Rebates for home renovations include new windows, doors, insulation, smart thermostats, heat pumps and rooftop solar panels to reduce energy bills

January 07, 2025

Energy Efficiency Incentives for Small Businesses

The province is expanding the Peak Perks program to small businesses, including convenience stores and restaurants. Enroll now to receive \$75 upfront and \$20 annually for each eligible smart thermostat connected to central air or heat pump systems.

Additionally, 12 Save on Energy programs remain available, including the Retrofit Program, supporting businesses, municipalities, institutions, and more with energy-saving initiatives.



Life can be expensive. How can the CRA help?

Raising children, paying rent, or just keeping up with the bills is not always easy.

I can breathe a sigh of relief knowing that I'll be able to provide my son with everything that he needs each month.

How do you get benefits and credits?

You and your spouse or common-law partner need to do your taxes each year to get the benefits and credits you may be eligible for, even if you had no income. If you live in Quebec, you also have to do a provincial tax return. You have until April 30 each year to do your taxes and continue getting your benefits

How much could you get per year?

Canada child benefit - up to \$7,787 for each child under 6 years of age and up to \$6,570 for each child aged 6 to 17.
You need to apply for all children in your household if you have not applied previously and nobody is receiving it for them.

Goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) credit - up to \$519 for an eligible individual and up to \$1,038 for an eligible couple with two children.

Disability tax credit – eligible individuals with a disability or their supporting family member may claim \$9,872 as a non-refundable tax credit. Persons under 18 years of age at the end of the year may also be eligible for an additional amount of up to \$5,758. Go to canada.ca/disability-tax-credit.

Canada workers benefit - up to \$1,590 for an eligible individual and up to \$2,739 for an eligible family as a refundable credit. This credit reduces the tax you owe first and any remaining credit is refunded to you.

Check out the Benefits Finder to see all benefits you may be

Do you need help?



Get your taxes done for free

If you have a modest income and a simple tax situation, you may be able to get your taxes done by a volunteer for free. To learn more, go to canada.ca/taxes-help or call the CRA. If you live in Quebec, go to revenuquebec,ca/volunteers or call Revenu Québec or the CRA.



You can do your taxes online with NETFILE-certified tax software. A variety of tax software packages and web apps are available, some of which are free. For more information, go to canada.ca/netf



Let someone else represent you

You can authorize someone to help manage your tax information with the CRA. For more information,

Don't miss a payment!



Sign up for direct deposit

Direct deposit is a fast, convenient, and secure way to get your tax refund and benefit payments deposited into your account at a financial institution. Learn more about how to sign up at canada.ca/cra-direct-deposit.



My Account lets you view and manage your income tax and benefit information online. You can also view any uncashed cheques you may have from the CRA, and if necessary, ask that a payment be re-issued. Go to canada.ca/my-cra-account



To avoid delays, make sure your personal information (such as your marital status, your address, or your bank account) is up to date in My Account or call the CRA.

For more information:

See the benefits you may be eligible for learn how to apply, and estimate how much you could get. Get benefits and credits for up to 10 years back. Go to: canada.ca/benefits-credits-mo

By phone

To ask about benefits 1-800-387-1193

For other questions or to get forms 1-800-959-8281

If you are calling from the 867 area code 1-866-426-1527

1-800-267-6299

Beware of scammers pretending to be the CRA. When in doubt, check your information in My Account or call the CRA. To learn what to expect if the CRA contacts you, go to canada.ca/taxes-fraud-prevention.

Canada Revenue Agence du revenu Agency du Canada

Canada

Canada Revenue Agence du revenu Agency du Canada

Canada

2025

Webinar

Life can be expensive. CRA wants to help you.

Wednesday January 29, 2025 @ 2PM

Free webinar: Get your benefit and credit payments!

Do you earn a modest income or struggle to find stable housing? Benefit and credit payments can make a difference by helping you pay for rent, groceries, and childcare. Doing your taxes can help you get the payments you're entitled to. Join the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) free webinar to learn more!

They'll talk about the:

Canada child benefit (CCB); GST/HST credit; Canada Carbon Rebate; **Canada workers benefit (CWB)**

Ways to do your taxes, free tax help, and other CRA services

Spaces are limited, so make sure to register for the webinar in advance! If your organization supports individuals and families with a modest income, or individuals experiencing housing insecurity, please let them know of registration availability.





Women of Distinction



We all know a woman worth celebrating. Nominate her today!

www.ywcamuskoka.com



A woman of distinction is an inspiration to others who has made a commitment to her community as a leader and a role-model. As a catalyst for change, she breaks new ground and old barriers.

She shows vision, creativity and initiative and has improved the lives of those in Muskoka.

All nominees will be recognized. Award recipients will be publicly announced on February 7, 2025.

Printable Nomination Form and Details Here

Online Nomination Form and Details Here

Get your tickets today!

19th Women of Distinction Awards Gala

Saturday, March 8, 2025 International Women's Day

- Hidden Valley Resort
- 5:30 Cocktails/Silent Auction
- 6:30 Dinner/Awards

Tickets: \$175 Members: \$160

Dinner, Silent Auction, Mingling, and Awards presentation.

BRACEBRIDGE

Be Active

Happy New Year! As we kick off the winter session beginning January 6th, we're excited to offer a wide range of engaging programs for all ages at the Sportsplex and Muskoka Lumber Community Centre. Whether you're looking to stay active, try something new, or enjoy quality time with family, we have something for everyone. Winter Programs Still Available:

Swimming Lessons: Group and private lessons for all skill levels. Unsure about what swim level to register for? Contact Meghan, our Recreation Programmer, Aquatics, at 705-645-3037 ext. 3713 or msteele@bracebridge.ca for assistance.

Small Group Fitness Classes: Stay active and energized with TRX Yoga, TRX Fitness, Small Group Weight Training, Commit To Get Fit, Functional Training Circuit (multiple days and times), and more.

Personal Training: Get healthier and stronger with a personalised fitness program tailored to your needs.

Art Programs: Engaging and creative programs for various age groups.

Sports for Kids: A variety of registered sport programs for children and youth.

Spaces are still available, but they're filling up quickly! Don't miss the chance to stay active and make the most of this winter season. You can find all of our programs here. How to Register:

Register **ONLINE**

Register over the phone 705-645-3037

Register in person at the Bracebridge Sportsplex or Muskoka Lumber Community Centre We can't wait to see you and your family at the Sportsplex or Muskoka Lumber Community Centre for a winter full of fun, fitness, and new experiences!

we are HIRING

Camp Counsellors









Date:

Wednesday, January 15th - Wednesday, March 19th



Time:

10:30 - 11:30 AM



Location:

Muskoka Dance Connection 7 Barron Drive Bracebridge, On









Write for Wellness

WRITING WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAYS FEBRUARY 5TH, 12TH, 19TH, 26TH 7:00-8:30PM

ONLINE VIA ZOOM

FREE TO ALL THOSE NAVIGATIONG THE CANCER JOURNEY

Register at info@enlivnemuskoka.ca





MONDAYS 11:30-12:30PM

Muskoka Dance 7 Barron Drive Bracebridge, ON

RESTORATIVE YOGA

Open to all those navigating the cancer journey.

> 8 Weeks January 6th to March 3rd (excluding Family Day)

Please email info@enlivenmuskoka.ca to register.



ANNUAL **GENERAL MEETING**



JAN 29, 2025

16 Dominon St. BRACEBRIDGE www.bracebridgechamber.com







KUBOTA NORTH WELLNESS CENTRE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15TH 1030 AM BRACEBRIDGE SPORTSPLEX

