

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR CHAMBER



# CHAMBER E-NEWS

2025 

# MARCH 6

- OPPORTUNITIES
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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



**GET A FREE QUOTE**



Manage every sale from every channel all in one place. And we'll give you a **\$200 statement credit\*** to get you started.

Valid March 1 to April 30, 2025

For over 30 years, we have helped a variety of businesses of different sizes provide fast and secure payment processing for their customers. We can do the same for you.

**Sign up for a new payment processing account today and receive a \$200 statement credit**

From sales & inventory tracking and business analytics to invoice creation and staff scheduling, we will help you save time and simplify the way you run your business.

This great offer ends on **April 30, 2025**. Visit [join.paymentstart.com/cachamber](https://join.paymentstart.com/cachamber) to learn more

**OR**

**Contact me directly to find the payment solution that is best for you.**

Name:

Phone:

Email:



Disclaimer:

\* To qualify for the promotion, you must sign up for a new payment processing account with Elavon Canada between March 1 and April 30, 2025. Merchant accounts must be activated and actively processing payment transactions by May 15, 2025 for a minimum of one week and be in an open status at the time of the incentive credit. A one-time \$200 credit will be applied to your Elavon statement within 90 days after the first deposit date. 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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Chambre de Commerce du Canada

Member benefits worth **SHOUTING** about.



**Save 3.5¢ per litre on Esso<sup>®</sup> and Mobil<sup>™</sup> 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<sup>™</sup>, engineered for better gas mileage,<sup>\*</sup> at over 2,000 Esso and Mobil stations across Canada.
- Get on the road to rewards with the PC Optimum<sup>™</sup> program.<sup>\*\*</sup>
- 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](mailto: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.  
\*\*Expenditures, such as fuel economy, are based on Synergy-branded gasoline, where and when available, compared to gasoline meeting minimum Canadian government emergency standards. Actual benefits will vary depending on factors such as vehicle type, driving style, and gasoline previously used.  
\*\*\*Conditions apply. The Esso Fuel 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 [pc-optimum.ca](https://www.pc-optimum.ca).  
Mobil and Fuel Technology Synergy are 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\_580551\_15/03/22

# 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.





# Opportunities



# *Business Awards* VOTING OPEN



Now is your chance to recognize and celebrate the outstanding businesses, organizations, and individuals shaping our community!

- Voting is open from March 5 to March 24, 2025, at 11:59 PM.

Vote here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025-Voting-Ballot-30thBusinessAwards>

Nominations were received from the public between Feb 18 – March 4 and include information provided by nominators. Show your support and help us celebrate local excellence!



## 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.

SPONSORSHIP

GET TICKETS

RAFFLE PRIZE  
DONATION





1676 Winhara Rd Gravenhurst Muskoka



Copy link



Watch on  YouTube

right here in Muskoka.



AN AFTERNOON WITH

*Avery Swartz*

UNDERSTANDING AI FOR YOUR BUSINESS

**SATURDAY APRIL 5, 2025 1:00-4:00PM**



FUNDED BY:



An engaging presentation making AI clear and accessible for entrepreneurs with Avery Swartz, digital pioneer and founder of Camp Tech.

Muskoka Lumber Community Centre, 56 Salmon Avenue Bracebridge, ON P1L 1C1



# ARE YOU HIRING?

Learn how we can help you fill your  
employment needs

**MARCH 6, 2015 | 5:30 PM-7:00PM**  
**MUSKOKA EDUCATION CENTRE**  
**127 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*

 705-706-2058

 [Kiron@clsm.on.ca](mailto:Kiron@clsm.on.ca)

 [danielle.reimer@tldsbc.on.ca](mailto:danielle.reimer@tldsbc.on.ca)



Community Living  
South Muskoka



A photograph of a wooden Adirondack chair in a snowy outdoor setting. The chair is covered in a layer of white snow, and the ground around it is also covered in snow. In the background, there are evergreen trees and a cloudy sky. A white, rounded rectangular text box is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text "Grants, Funds & Information" in a black, sans-serif font.

# Grants, Funds & Information



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](http://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 are the products manufactured? (e.g., Toronto, ON)**

**Where can you purchase these products? \***

☐ Online

☐ Retail stores

**Website \***

**Canadian Owned \***

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Unsure

**Overview of the Company \***

## 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.



A Canadian flag is positioned diagonally across the left side of the image. The background features a blurred scene of green trees, a building with a glass facade, and a rocky riverbed with water flowing over it.

# TARIFF RESPONSE HUB

[ENGAGEMUSKOKA.CA/  
TARIFF-RESPONSE](https://engagemuskoka.ca/tariff-response)

# 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](http://www.engagemuskoka.ca/muskoka-community-grants)

The SDPP logo features the letters 'S.D.P.P' in a bold, purple, sans-serif font, with dots between the letters. Below it, the text 'SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PLACEMENT PROGRAM' is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. To the left of the logo is the 'iion' logo in blue and yellow, with 'Innovation Initiatives Ontario North' written below it. The background of the graphic is white with blue and yellow curved lines. Below the logo, the text 'GET A \$7800 WAGE SUBSIDY' is written in bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are three circular buttons: a blue one with a hand icon and 'APPLY NOW', a blue one with 'ACCELERATE YOUR GROWTH PROJECT' and 'Applications Now Open!', and a yellow one with a clock icon and 'DEADLINE Applications Close April 11th.'. Below these buttons, the text 'FOR MORE INFORMATION, ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA, AND TO DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATIONS VISIT' is written in bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by the URL 'WWW.IION.CA/SDPP' in blue, sans-serif font.

**\*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](http://www.iion.ca/sdpp)



# Community News



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 two large, pixelated, star-like shapes in the upper corners.

# 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/](http://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!



# JOB FAIR

**Connect with employers  
hiring in the area!**

**When:** Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 9am-3pm

**Where:** Rotary Centre (131 Wellington Street, Bracebridge)

Bring your resume and explore opportunities in landscaping, healthcare, retail, and more!

We will be collecting food donations for the Manna and Salvation Army food banks at the job fair.







## *About the Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce*

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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**

