

## CHAMBER E-NEWS



STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

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### ALL REIGN DESIGNS

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN STUDIO

ALL REIGN DESIGNS arddesigns.ca

### Sick of rising health and dental premiums?

Chambers Plan has the cure.

Chambers Plan Employee Benefits





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:



Disclaime

To gailly for the promotion, you must sign up for a new payment processing account with Glaven Gandad between January 1 and February 39, 2006. Merchant accounts must be activated and actively processing property transactions March 16, 2005 for a minimism of one week and be in an open status at the time of the inconnective credit. The process is intellect to cold, point of-sale devices per member, statisfied from the processing of the sale of the table of the factors and the processing entitle are excluded from the processing control, The table-to-most with payment of the factors are processed as a processing of the sale of the table of the table most and the processing of the sale of the table of the table most and the sale of the table of the table most and the sale of the table of tab

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### Member benefits worth **SHOUTING** about.



### 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
- 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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### **NEW**







### **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.





# SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY



- 🧩 Bracebridge Business Awards Gala 30th (Pearl) Anniversary 🐎
- 📅 Date: April 3, 2024
- T Location: Muskoka Lumber Community Centre, Leon's Auditorium, Bracebridge

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.

**Gala Gold Sponsor(s)** 

**Gala Silver Sponsor(s)** 

Gala Bronze Sponsor(s)

Gala Entertainment Sponsor(s)

**Gala Award Sponsors** 



All incentives can be reviewed and adjusted to meet your businesses unique sponsorship needs.

Reach out to learn more: <a href="mailto:EmilyBrown@bracebridgechamber.com">EmilyBrown@bracebridgechamber.com</a>





## PROVINCIAL ELECTION BUSINESS SURVEY MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

As you may know, a provincial election has been called. At the Bracebridge Chamber of Commerce we are committed to highlighting business needs and priorities. This quick survey provides us with important information about what you value as a business owner. All responses are anonymous and will be used to share information to the general public about the top of mind priorities for our members. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Click here to complete the survey

## 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.













BRACEBRIDGE.CA/BIDSANDTENDERS



Save with the

## GST/HST break

Until February 15, 2025, **no GST/HST** will be charged on certain qualifying items:

- Food
- Beverages
- Restaurants, catering, and other food or drink establishments
- · Children's clothing and footwear
- · Children's diapers
- · Children's car seats
- Children's toys
- Jigsaw puzzles
- Video game consoles, controllers and physical video games
- Physical books
- Printed newspapers
- · Christmas and similar decorative trees

Items must be paid in full and delivered by February 15th, 2025.

Get more details at canada.ca/gst-hst-break.









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





Patriquin Virtual Office Bracebridge Library Hospice Muskoka Taboo Muskoka **True North Log Homes** Bigwin Island Golf Club Muskoka Steamships

Bracebridge RONA South Muskoka Hospital Foundation Route North Signs and Graphics Muskoka Window and Door Centre

### **Are You Hiring?**

Members can post listings at: bracebridgechamber.com



www.muskokajobboard.ca



### **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 Dutavith the right strategies, you can mitigate the impact. Here are ten steps you can take:

Understand Tariff **Implications** 

Familiarize yourself with how tariffs work and their potential impact on your business.

Review Pricing and Contracts

Evaluate your contracts and communications with vendors and customers to understand your rights and obligations under any tariff conditions.

Optimize Inventory Management Implement strategies and scenario planning to manage inventory more efficiently, minimizing the need for goods subject to tariffs.

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.

Explore **Tariff Exclusions** 

Investigate if your products qualify for any tariff exclusions or reductions.

Assess Risks

Identify key risks for your organization, including increased costs and supply chain disruptions.

**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.

Enhance Trade Compliance

Ensure your trade practices comply with regulations to minimize duties payable.

Monitor Currency **Fluctuation** 

Keep an eye on currency exchange rates, as fluctuations can compound the financial strain of tariffs.

Stay Informed

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



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 <a href="https://www.muskoka.on.ca/mahip">www.muskoka.on.ca/mahip</a>.

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



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.

## **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



- Carrons@clsm.on.ca
- anielle.reimer@tldsb.on.ca







### GET A HEAD START ON A **REWARDING CAREER** IN CONSTRUCTION

There are many rewarding and exciting careers in the construction sector waiting for you.

Merit Ontario for Training offers a bundle of 26 FREE online courses called Construction 101 + Apprenticeship 101 that delivers fundamental training for construction workers, supervisors, managers and contractors.

Construction 101 + Apprenticeship 101 includes:

- Apprenticeship to C of Q
  - Part 1: The Journey Begins Day One
- Apprenticeship to C of Q
  - Part 2: Planning for Success Along the Way
- Apprenticeship to C of Q
  - Part 3: Ready to Write the C of Q Exam
- Cold Stress
- Communication Tools for the Workplace
- Conflict Resolution Tools for the Workplace
- Construction Industry Overview
- Fire Prevention
- Health and Safety at Work II
- Heat Stress and Heat Illness Protection
- How to Read a Measuring Tape and Units of Measurement
- Job Application Skills
- Journeyperson Fundamentals
- Lockout and Tagout (LOTO)
- Microsoft Teams
- Naloxone on Construction Sites
- Noise Exposure Awareness
- Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Pre-Apprenticeship Employment Training Pathway (PAETP)
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Spill Awareness
- Stress Management
- VR Orientation
- WHMIS 2015
- Work Ergonomics Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Working Alone Safety

A certificate of completion is provided for each course.

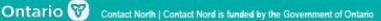


For more information or for help to register, contact us today!

Kelly Dunlop BA MPA **Education and Training Advisor** 705 5710289

muskokahaliburton@contactnorth.ca











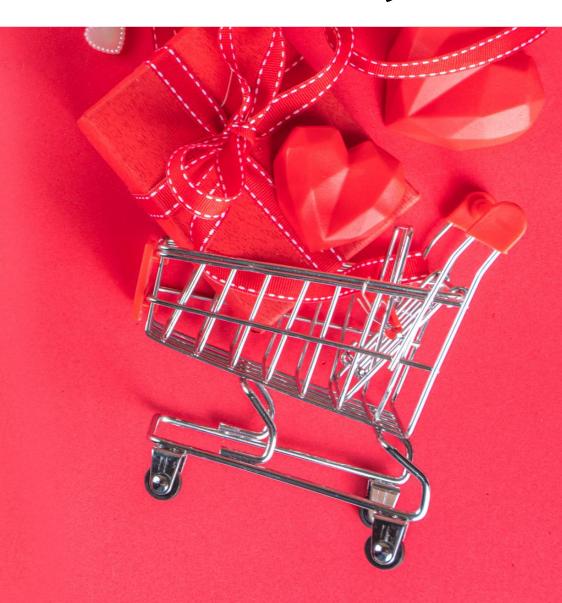








## Community News



# REVIEW

JADEN HOLLINGSHEAD | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"ON THE HEELS OF OUR 2025 AGM, IT IS

MY PRIVILEGE TO REFLECT ON THE PAST YEAR AND SHARE THE PROGRESS WE HAVE MADE TOGETHER. 2024 WAS A TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR FOR OUR CHAMBER, AS WE REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR FOUR STRATEGIC PILLARS: ADVOCACY, CONNECTION. **EDUCATION, AND PROMOTION, THESE** PILLARS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF OUR WORK, AND I WANT TO TAKE A MOMENT TO HIGHLIGHT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE PATH AHEAD...



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# SOVE, KEYS & CANDLELIGHT

ENJOY A NIGHT OF ROMANCE BY CANDLELIGHT LET LIAM SERENADE YOU WITH LOVE SONGS THAT SPAN THE AGES.



### FEATURING LIAM KEARNEY

CHOCOLATE COVERED STRAWBERRIES

LIMITED TICKETS



Lovers of great music from classics to contemporary love songs will enjoy being serenaded by Liam Kearney by candlelight. The perfect addition to your date night. Your ticket includes seating, glass of sparkling wine or mocktail, chocolate covered strawberries and more.

Limited seating available.

Get Tickets at bbhall.ca

### For the month of February:

Receive a Complementary **Essential Oil Upgrade on** Massage Therapy Treatments!



#ATLASRMTMUSKOKA



FEBRUARY 14TH & 15TH \$60/PP

### APPETIZERS

Carrot & Ginger Soup Seafood Bisque Blood Orange & Toasted Walnut Salad

### MAIN COURSE

Beef Tenderloin au Poivre Garlic mashed potatoes, heirloom carrots, and peppercorn cream sauce

Clam & Pancetta Linguine Linguine tossed in sundried tomato & white wine cream sauce, clams, crispy pancetta, parmesan and herbs.

Ricotta Roast Squash Stuffed with basmati rice and roast vegetable prima-vera

### DESSERT

Classic Tiramisu Cinnamon Creme Brulee Zabaione

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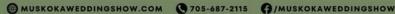


MUSKOKA WEDDING SHOW 2025 MUSKOKA WEDDING SHOW

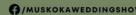
DOOR PRIZES, SAMPLING, ENTERTAINMENT, VENDORS AND MUCH MORE!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025 9 AM TO 4 PM

MUSKOKA DISCOVERY CENTRE 275 STEAMSHIP BAY ROAD, GRAVENHURST, ON









partners from across Muskoka in prioritizing your family's wellness.

Come out and connect with the resources that

Come out and connect with the resources that are available to you in your community and enjoy a variety of wellness experiences for the whole family including head and neck massages, osteopathy, Reiki, reflexology, bouncy castles, Heartworks Children's Studio Experience, and more!



Saturday, February 22nd 10:00am - 3:00pm



Gravenhurst Centennial Centre
101 Centennial Dr.

Registration Required





Cost: \$185.95 per couple or \$95 per individual, plus applicable taxes and gratuity. Ticket includes dinner and show, cash bar available.

For reservations, please call 705-645-2512 Ext 108 or email events@santasvillage.ca



### 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.