



CHAMBER E-NEWS



YOUR COMMUNITY
YOUR CHAMBER

FEBRUARY 2025

06

- OPPORTUNITIES
- INFORMATION
- COMMUNITY NEWS

STAY CONNECTED, STAY INFORMED

Table of Contents

WELCOME NEW CHAMBER MEMBER!

Support Local - We are listening to you

K.Brewer Financial-Chamber's Plan Group Insurance

Esso/Mobil - Member Benefits

New Affiliate Program! - **HR Covered**

Opportunities

- 30th Anniversary Business Awards Gala - Sponsor Opportunity
- Provincial Election Survey for Businesses - Bracebridge Chamber
- Employer Invite to Job Fair - Agliec - Mar.19
- Request for Proposals - Town of Bracebridge/Bracebridge 150
- GST Break Until Feb 15th

Grants, Funds & Information

- Chamber Members Are Hiring! - Work in Muskoka - muskokajobboard.ca
- U.S. Tariffs - 10 Tips For SMEs to Stay Competitive - OCC
- Muskoka Housing Task Force 2.0 - New Funding Available
- Data & More 2025 - SMSkillforce - Labour Market Plan - Mar 4
- CSLM Inclusive Hiring Event - Mar 6
- Head Start Your Construction Career - Contact North Muskoka

Community News

- Year In Review - Bracebridge Chamber
- Love, Keys & Candlelight - Bracebridge Hall - Feb 14
- Basilico - Valentine's Day Special Menu
- Atlas RMT - Feb Self-Love Free Aromatherapy Massage Upgrade
- 2025 Wedding Show - Steamships & Discovery Centre - Feb 8
- Rockwell Osteopathy - Family Wellness Event
- Valentine's Day Love and Laughs - Santa's Village - Feb 14

WE ARE COMMITTED TO OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES
CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Welcome
**TO THE
CHAMBER**



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



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.

Copyright © 2025 Elavon Canada Company. All rights reserved. Elavon is a trademark in the United States and/or other countries. All rights reserved. All features and specifications are subject to change without notice. This document is prepared by Elavon as a service for its customers. The information discussed is general in nature and may not apply to your specific situation.



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

SPONSOR OPPORTUNITY



✦ Bracebridge Business Awards Gala – 30th (Pearl) Anniversary ✦



Date: April 3, 2024



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: EmilyBrown@bracebridgechamber.com



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.



Request for Proposals

ILLUSTRATOR FOR THE WOODCHESTER STORYBOOK TRAIL

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.



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



Find listings on
our website and at
www.muskokajobboard.ca

[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](#)

M MUSKOKA
JOB BOARD

WORK IN
MUSKOKA

Are You Hiring?

Members can post listings at:
bracebridgechamber.com



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~~, 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.

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.

**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.

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

 705-706-2058

 Kiron@clsm.on.ca

 danielle.reimer@tldsbc.on.ca



**Community Living
South Muskoka**
An inclusive community where all are Valued, Respected, and Thrive

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



YEAR IN 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...



[Read the full Executive Director's review here](#)



Thank you Muskoka Collective for having our AGM!

LOVE, KEYS & CANDLELIGHT

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



FEB
14TH

FEATURING LIAM KEARNEY

INCLUDES
ENTRY & YOUR SEAT
GLASS OF PROSECCO
CHOCOLATE COVERED
STRAWBERRIES

DOORS OPEN AT 8PM

BRACEBRIDGE
HALL
— EST. 2019 —

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

Valentine's ^{SPECIAL MENU}

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 primavera

DESSERT

Classic Tiramisu

Cinnamon Creme Brulee

Zabaione

with love,



BASILICO

For the month of February:

Receive a Complementary
Essential Oil Upgrade on
Massage Therapy Treatments!



#ATLASRMTMUSKOKA



MUSKOKA
STEAMSHIPS
& DISCOVERY
CENTRE
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



FAMILY Wellness EVENT

Join EarlyON and our community partners from across Muskoka in prioritizing your family's wellness.

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



REGISTER HERE



Friday February 14th, 2025

Celebrate Valentines Day With Love & Laughs at the Yule Lodge



HEADLINER

FEATURING

MC



Laurie Elliot



Jeff McEnery



Patrick Hays

DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 PM

DINNER STARTS AT 6:30 PM

SHOW STARTS AT 9:00 PM

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.*