



Markdale Chamber of Commerce
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SPRING 2008 – NEWSLETTER

HOME & AUTO INSURANCE DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS

With the assistance of the Chamber's new group insurance broker Rick Gamblen of Grey Bruce Insurance Brokers Inc. (Rick and wife Kathy purchased the home and business of retiring Lloyd & Marie McFadden) the Markdale Chamber of Commerce is now able to offer it's members home and auto insurance discounts through Secure Insurance in Markdale. The insurance, through underwriter ING Insurance, will offer discounts on products for home and auto. Call Secure Insurance for details on how this may work for you – 519-986-3250 to request a quote.

GST WORKSHOPS

The Ministry of Revenue is hosting its annual round of GST/PST Joint Tax Information seminars for small to medium-sized businesses. Learn about how the taxes work, tax credits and overpayments, differences between tax reporting, responsibilities on remitting taxes and answer business questions. Upcoming workshops in the are to be held in Barrie as follows: 9 a.m. workshop on July 9; 1 p.m. workshops on May 21, June 18, August 20; 7 p.m. workshops on June 4 and July 30. For information and registration call 1-888-277-4611 or stop by the Chamber office for a registration form.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION & RECRUITMENT NIGHT

Held on April 22, 2008 at Grey Highlands Secondary School, this event was held to recognize our many diligent volunteers in the municipality. Originally begun by the municipality to thank volunteers on committees, the Markdale Chamber picked up the task of organizing the event under a Job Creation Project in 2007, that event had over 400 people in attendance to receive scrolls of thanks from the municipality and Grey Bruce Owen Sound MPP Bill Murdoch. This year's event was more casual and practical – offering an Event Planning workshop with Joanne Robbins of Saugeen Shores Chamber (who is past organizer of the popular Pumpkin Festival) and an opportunity for local organizations to put up tables to display their efforts and recruit new volunteers. Approximately 80 people attended this year's event, and over a dozen groups had information tables. Surveys were distributed to assess needs for three more volunteer training workshops to come later this year. This event was also supported by the Trillium grant funding.

GREY HIGHLANDS EVENTS BROCHURE

The Grey Highlands Event Network, coordinated by the Markdale Chamber Manager, submitted information and photos for a 2008 Events Brochure. Covering 16 separate events across the municipality, as well as golf tournaments, events in neighboring

communities and the Flesherton Farmer's Market, this brochure includes a photo collage of the events, contact information for all the groups running events (including volunteer recruitment messages) and a map of the municipality sourced with permission from the popular Grey Bruce map. The Chamber had 5,000 copies of the brochure printed. Distribution began May 6 at the Grey Bruce Regional Tourism Marketing Partnership brochure swap event at Cobble Beach. A box of brochures (1,000) were given out and requests are coming in from areas near the region including the Georgian Triangle Tourist Association. Mary Lanktree of the Feversham Fall Fair and an organizer of an upcoming Retired Women Teachers of Ontario convention at Blue Mountain has also requested copies to insert in welcome bags. This project was funded through the Trillium grant with a view to increasing attendance at events in the municipality and boosting tourism in Grey Highlands, with a side effort of encouraging more volunteers to assist at events. If you'd like some brochures for your business, please contact the Chamber at 519-986-4612 or via email at markdalechamber@cablerocket.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS MARKDALE CHAMBER SUPPORTS:

Classic Cruise Night – July 4th will be the 6th annual Classic Cruise Night in Downtown Markdale. Despite the Ice Cream Festival hiatus in 2008, this popular event will continue to attract over 150 classic cars to the village for an evening of socializing, music and prizes. From 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. A sponsor is still needed for the event. If interested in sponsoring or volunteer, contact the Chamber manager at 519-986-4612.

Eugenia Gold Rush Days – July 5th & 6th – Eugenia Park and Eugenia Falls Conservation area. Markdale Chamber will host a children's arts and crafts area at the conservation area from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. as part of the Trillium grant fulfillment. Artists have been invited to submit their work to be juried. Booth space for displays is \$35 as determined by the organizing committee of the Eugenia & District Community Improvement Association. Other events through the weekend include panning for gold at the conservation area, music and beer tent at the community park, Hydro building tours on Lower Valley Road and more. For information see www.eugeniagoldrush.com.

EVENTS MARKDALE CHAMBER WILL ATTEND:

Centennial College Culture & Heritage Institute will host a Symposium on Culture & Heritage about Built Heritage on June 9th & 10th. This event will gather planners, heritage groups, funders and researchers to discuss Ontario's built heritage and how it affects local and regional tourism. The Markdale Chamber Manager will attend to learn more about funding access and model cases for redevelopment of heritage buildings to access information to inform the restoration and redevelopment of the Olde Firehall in downtown Markdale.

CHAMBER EXECUTIVE SEEKING NEW DIRECTORS

With the retirement of board members Charlie Rheume (Chapman's Ice Cream) and the relocation and resignation of President Teresa Pascoe (Pascoe Roofing) the Markdale Chamber of Commerce is seeking new board members. Vice President Nereda Manion has recently had a baby, so is unable to step into the president's place. If you are

interested in becoming a Chamber executive member, contact the manager at 519-986-4612.

CHAMBER CHALLENGES BUSINESS TO SUPPORT 150TH FALL FAIR:

The Markdale Chamber of Commerce recently made a donation of \$150 towards the 150th Markdale Fall Fair – scheduled for August 22-24th, 2008. The fair board had sent out sponsorship letters to local businesses, encouraging support for the fall fair – which will be expanded this year to celebrate the sesquicentennial of the event. A midway will be on hand from Thursday night, as well as interactive demonstrations from Grey Roots Museum, the South Grey Museum, the Grey Roots Steam Traction will attend as well as many other special attractions, including a larger children's area. The Chamber is encouraging local business to get involved, with a donation of \$150, gift certificates or items for the fundraising silent auction. The Chamber also hopes Markdale businesses will support the event through entering the Business Window Display competition. Details of this opportunity are:

CLASS 11 MARKDALE FALL FAIR WINDOW DISPLAY COMPETITION

Prize money: 1st: -\$30; 2nd: -\$20; 3rd: -\$10

Open to Markdale Area Business Merchants.

Display to be registered with Secretary Kate Russell (986-4612) or markdaleagsociety@live.ca by August 1, 08.

Guidelines:

Display can be a portion of a window that clearly faces a public road and must include agricultural products, equipment or animal props to advertise the 2008 theme of the fair-
"Sprouting up Green Growth while Harvesting Golden Memories"

The display is also to have the lettering

MARKDALE FALL FAIR AUGUST 22, 23, 24

Display size to be a minimum 4' x 4', to an unlimited maximum size. It must be in place by August 1 through to August 24th

Winner to be announced at the Variety Night Concert (August 22)

Sponsored by the Markdale Chamber of Commerce.