

Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce



**Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce
Membership Information Package**

*“Is your resolution to
build your business?”
We can help.*





Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary Membership organization made up of well over 200 businesses in the Municipality of Port Hope.

The chamber is accountable exclusively to the Membership through an elected Board of Directors. By providing a unified voice of business, the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce serves to protect the interests of the business community, enhance the commercial climate of the region and encourage continued growth and expansion.

This commitment to the business community has earned the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce a well deserved reputation as “ the first place to contact” for consumers seeking information on locally available products and services.

Mission Statement:

To safeguard the economic status and promote the economic development of business and industry within Port Hope and the surrounding area.

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1874 and is a non-profit, voluntary membership organization that serves to provide a unified voice for businesses. With over 200 members, the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce has representation encompassing the large and diverse business community. Our membership includes all business sectors, including retail, industrial, manufacturing, service, tourism and agribusiness.

The Goals of the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce:

- Promote the spirit of the Municipality of Port Hope
- Develop a high level of goodwill and support among the Chamber membership, the Municipality government and the general public
- Achieve a stabilized broadened base for the Chamber
- Develop a positive relationship with members from industry
- Develop a positive image for the Municipality
- Expand the convention and meeting business within the Port Hope District
- Bring new enterprises to Port Hope in addition to promoting those presently in town



*Can the Port Hope & District
Chamber of Commerce
Help your Business?
CAN DO!*

***Credibility *Advocacy *Networking *Development *Organization**

CREDIBILITY:

Consumers invest their trust in the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce and the integrity it represents. By advertising your participation in the region's largest and most respected business organization, potential customers will recognize your commitment to the community at large. Members of the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce are provided with display plaques for their place of business, decals for store windows and company vehicles and are authorized to include a "Membership Logo" in their advertising.

ADVOCACY:

Recognized as the "voice of business" in the Municipality of Port Hope, The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce has a longstanding reputation for bringing business issues before all levels of government and lobbying for positive change. As a voting Member of both the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce ensures that the voice of the Membership is heard and respected at Municipal, Provincial and Federal levels.

NETWORKING:

One of the best places to promote your business is within the business community itself. With that in mind, the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce hosts a number of events designed to promote "Member to Member" networking. In addition to the popular "Business After 5" events, Members have the opportunity to participate in a number of annual events including but not limited to, an annual golf tournament, the Taste of Port Hope and Business Excellence Awards. Volunteering for a Chamber Committee is another great way to network with fellow Members.

DEVELOPMENT:

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce is constantly seeking out new professional development opportunities to ensure that the Membership is current, up-to-date and well informed on a wide range of business related topics. From counterfeit detection to multi-national exporting, staff motivation to health and safety issues, municipal taxation to government grants and subsidies-when the Membership needs information, the Chamber provides it.

ORGANIZATION:

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce is governed by a Board Directors. This Board strives to ensure representation from all major business sectors. Furthermore, the staff members at the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce are also local residents who are committed to the success and growth of the business community and economic well-being of the region.



Exclusive Programs

Available to Chamber Members

Group Insurance:

The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance plan was developed with smaller firms in mind. It makes benefits available to firms of up to 50 employees, including coverage traditionally reserved for the largest employers. The plan offers a number of advantages over its competitors:

- Virtually any business which has been in operation for at least six months is guaranteed eligible
- The plan is affordable the plan is run under the direction of a “not-for-profit” organization
- Premium rates show a track record of stable prices
- The Chambers Plan offers guaranteed renewable coverage and delivers easy administration

For further details on the Chamber Group Insurance Plan, contact local representative Arnold McCurdy at (905) 372-4501.



Membership Listings:

Unlike many other business organizations, the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce does not sell or make available its “membership Listing” to non-members. We believe that access to this information is an important benefit of Membership, and that it is a potential disservice to our members to provide contact information to transient sales agents who may be in direct competition with our own Members. Consumers in search of specific products or services are, of course, provided with relevant contact information.

(See “Marketing & Promotion “, “Referrals”) Members can request complete listings at any time by emailing thechamber@porthope.ca . These listings are merged from the active database at the time of request, and are far more up -to-date, accurate and cost-efficient than the outdated “Annual Directory.”



Savings

Payment Card Merchant Rates

Members of Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce are eligible for preferential credit card and debit card transaction rates through specific financial institutions. For many members, **the savings realized with this benefit (sometimes as high as 50%, depending on current merchant rates) far exceeds the annual cost of Chamber Membership.**



1.59%

On Visa credit receipts
With electronic deposits



1.64%

On MasterCard credit receipts
With electronic deposits



\$0.069

On Interac Direct Payment receipts
With electronic deposits

Member to Member Discounts

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce "Member Discount Program" not only provides exclusive discounts for Chamber Members and their employees, but also serves to promote participating Members to the nearly 500 local consumers who receive the discount card! Updated annually, the Member Discount Listings includes discounts and special offers on a wide range of Member products and services, including advertising, business supplies, food and fashion.



Marketing & Promotion

Media Presence:

We promote members and Chamber events through many avenues such as our weekly radio spot, called "The Chamber Minute," and can maximize exposure for your business through many social media venue's including "Facebook", "Twitter" and "LinkedIn". Unlike many other business organizations, there is no additional charge for this service. As internet research has become one of the most important tools for your potential market, members of the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce are listed on our website porthopechamber.com through Your Local Market (YLM). YLM allows businesses to include information regarding their business and a direct link to their website and email addresses.

Business Matters:

The "Chamber Update" in the form of a newsletter is the official publication of the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce. This newsletter is directly mailed and/or emailed to all Members, surrounding Chambers and business organizations. The "Chamber Update" has a current readership of well over 300 owners, managers, and professionals. All Members are invited to submit articles of interest to the business community, including special events, promotions and business updates. We have recently moved to sending our newsletter via email, therefore reaching a much broader audience and decreasing costs for members to advertise in the publication.

Chamber Member Business Cards & Information Rack:

The Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce operates one of the regions largest and busiest privately owned Driver & Vehicle License Office- averaging 600 transactions a week. Chamber members have exclusive access to information racks prominently displayed to take advantage of this high traffic location. It also maintains a business card holder for public viewing of all Chamber Member Business Cards.

Referrals:

Consumers seeking specific products and services contact the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce on a daily basis. Through our searchable database, Chamber staff provides these potential customers with contact information for Chamber Members offering the requested (and related) products and services. If, for example, a request is made for the name of a Real Estate Agent, the Chamber provides contact information for all Member Realtors, Home Inspection Services and Real Estate Lawyers. It's important to note that, while Chamber introduces potential customers to its members, we cannot provide "references" for our members. Members are advised to keep an up to date list of references to be shared with potential clients.



Membership Application

Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce
 58 Queen Street, Port Hope, ON, L1A 3Z9
 905-885-5519 Fax: 905-885-1142
thechamber@porthope.ca
www.porthopechamber.com

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Business Address: _____

Number of Permanent Employees: _____ **Date Established:** _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

Email: _____ **Website:** _____

Description of your product/service: _____

We/I hereby make application for membership in the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce. We/I agree to be governed by the By-Laws of the Chamber. I have read and understood the PHDCC Personal Information Protection Policy on this application form.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

2012 Fee Schedule

# of Employees	Annual Fee	HST	Total Membership Dues
1-5	\$185.00	\$24.05	\$209.05
6-10	\$290.00	\$37.70	\$327.70
11-25	\$370.00	\$48.10	\$418.10
26-100 (Plus \$1.50 for each full-time employee over the base of # of 25.1)	\$430.00+	\$55.90+	\$485.90+
Over 100 (Plus \$1.50 for each employee over the base number of 100.0)	\$555.00+	\$72.15+	\$627.15+
Non-Profit	\$94.00	\$12.22	\$106.22

Payment Options: Visa MasterCard Cash Cheque
 Card Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____
 Signature: _____

Please make cheques payable to Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce
 Membership fees include \$10 affiliation fee for the Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Instant Gratification!!

As soon as your business joins the Chamber of Commerce you will receive:

- ◆ A certificate for a free 1/8 page black & white Ad in Northumberland Today. (\$220 Value)
- ◆ A public plaque presentation and business recognition.
- ◆ Recognition in the Chamber's promotional features; The Chamber monthly newsletter, and our "Chamber Minute" on Star 93.3 and The Breeze 107.9.
- ◆ Special Member to Member discounts for first time members from Pineridge Broadcasting (tar 93.3 and 107.9 The Breeze) and MZ Media (Classical 103.1FM)

Ongoing Membership Benefits:

- Consumers like doing business with Chamber members – it's a recognized sign of credibility
- Lobbying of Municipal, Provincial and Federal levels of government on issues effecting business locally, nationally, and internationally
- Endless networking opportunities to help you build your business and contacts
- Business referrals from Chamber staff
- Member to member discount program – saving you money and promoting local businesses
- Web site listing & free link to your own site
- Exposure on all our social media profiles, "Facebook", "Twitter", "LinkedIn"
- Listing in our Chamber membership directory and buyer's guide
- Discounted group health insurance through the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan®
- Preferred merchant rates for Visa (1.59%) and MasterCard (1.64%) and Interact (\$0.69)
- Advertising and promotional opportunities
- Monthly newsletter to keep you informed of Chamber events and news
- Esso Direct Driver Billing Program (saving you 3.5% on all fuel purchases)
- Your membership dues are a tax deductible investment in your business

The list is endless, but only if you become an active member and take advantage of the opportunities presented by your Chamber!

Are you interested in participating on the Chamber's Board of Directors? Or perhaps getting involved with another Committee?

Yes, Please contact me. No, Thanks. Maybe, Next Year.

As a Corporate/Individual member of the Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce, I/we recognize that membership is a privilege and a membership undertaking. The PHDCC herein shall be understood to mean the "Port Hope & District Chamber of Commerce". Accordingly, I/we shall undertake to: conduct business and professional activities in a reputable manner so as to reflect honorable upon the business community; respect the reputation, preface and status of the PHDCC and represent the PHDCC accordingly; understand, support and promote the missions and goals of the PHDCC; participate in the functions and activities of the PHDCC and where possible lend my/our business and professional expertise; play a role in promotion, development and enhancement of business growth and activities within Port Hope and the surrounding area.