

## **OBAA Nominations Deadline August 31, 2004**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) is quickly approaching. This year's OBAA gala dinner will take place on **November 10, 2004** at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. To continue to publicly recognize the excellent businesses and entrepreneurial spirit in Ontario, local chambers of commerce and boards of trade are requested to send in their nominations by **August 31, 2004**.

Since 1983, over 100 Outstanding Business Achievement Awards have been presented to Ontario companies that have exemplified excellence. Previous winners include Ford Motor Company of Canada, RIM Ltd., Magna International Inc., Zenon Environmental Inc., Rand Technology Corporation, Brampton Brick Limited, Automation Tooling Systems, Wardrop Engineering Inc., and Janes Family Foods Ltd., among others.

Four OBAA awards will be presented to those businesses whose achievements in sales, innovation, entrepreneurship, and overall business excellence and acumen, will be recognized at the gala dinner. New for this year is the division to have two small business awards (fewer than 250 employees) and two large business awards (over 250 employees).

The Community Export Development Award recognizes a community – as represented by a chamber of commerce, board of trade, or business development organization – that has successfully created an environment which fosters business and export development.

The Bell Innovation Technology Award recognizes Ontario businesses that have demonstrated excellence in innovation, adaptability, and the successful application of new technology to the development & growth of their products and/or services.

Additionally, the OCC is very excited to present two **new awards** at this year's OBAA. The **Skills Development Award** will recognize business excellence in the area of skills development and training, and the **Corporate Governance Award** will honour an Ontario business that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment in the area of corporate governance.

To view the complete nominations guideline please visit our website at <http://occ.on.ca/2obaa.asp>. For information about the nominations process or about reservations for the OBAA Awards Dinner Presentation, please contact Colleen MacIntyre via email at [colleenmacintyre@occ.on.ca](mailto:colleenmacintyre@occ.on.ca) or by telephone at (416) 482-5222, extension 222.

## **Economic Opportunity Tours Gear Up for Fall**

The OCC is pleased to announce the next in our series of Ontario Economic Opportunities Tours. The Chamber invites you to **Cleveland, Ohio** from **September 8-9, 2004**. The theme of the trip is urban infrastructure and economic development, and will include a reception with local business leaders at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, as well as a luncheon featuring keynote speaker **Steve Forbes**, Editor-in-Chief of Forbes Magazine.

The complete agenda is being finalized, and further information will be available soon. In the meantime, for more information, please contact Stuart Johnston via email at [stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca](mailto:stuartjohnston@occ.on.ca) or by telephone at (416) 482-5222, extension 232, and/or contact Ryan Clarke at [ryan@advocaecysolutions.ca](mailto:ryan@advocaecysolutions.ca).

### **Prime Minister Announces New Federal Cabinet**

On July 20, 2004, Prime Minister Paul Martin announced a new federal cabinet. In his remarks the Prime Minister also highlighted the importance of the role the Parliamentary Secretaries will play in supporting the government's agenda. He also stated that few changes have been made to the structure of the government so as to continue its focus on legislative and policy priorities.

Of the few changes that were made, the PM announced a new position of Minister of State (Infrastructure and Communities), Minister of State (Families and Caregivers) in the Social Development portfolio, as well as the new position of Minister of Labour and Housing. The Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet has been dissolved and its responsibilities will be assumed by Cabinet and the Operations Committee.

Anne McLellan will remain as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and Ralph Goodale remains a Minister of Finance. Other key portfolio appointments of note include Jean-C. Lapierre, Minister of Transport; Pierre Pettigrew, Minister of Foreign Affairs; James Scott Peterson, Minister of International Trade; and Ujjal Dosanjh, Minister of Health. The complete Cabinet list can be viewed at [http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new\\_team.asp](http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/new_team.asp).

### **Building a Culture of Conservation in Ontario**

On July 19, 2004, Leona Dombrowsky, Minister of the Environment, launched a new website and conservation guide "Ontario Conserves" includes tips on how to save money by reducing energy consumption, conserving water and keeping our air clean, and it also outlines Ontario's conservation strategy. The guide and other helpful links can be found at [www.ontarioconserves.gov.on.ca](http://www.ontarioconserves.gov.on.ca). You can also obtain a copy of the Conservation Tips booklet by calling 1-866-608-4824.

A unique component of the new website is an ideas exchange. Home owners, businesses, chambers and boards can design their own conservation action plan by exchanging conservation ideas with others. Visit the website to submit ideas and tips on how to conserve Ontario's resources, including air, water, waste, and energy. This section of the site allows users to create a personalized, printable Conservation Action Plan made up of their favourite conservation ideas.

To view the full news release and related fact sheets, please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/news/2004/071901.htm>.

### **Literacy and Numeracy Summer Programs 2004 - Training for Teachers**

On July 22, 2004, the Ministry of Education launched the Literacy and Numeracy Strategy Summer Program, which offers two, two-day courses for Kindergarten to Grade 3 teachers, one on reading and the other on mathematics. The sessions are free to Ontario teachers. Courses will be held during the weeks of August 16 and 23, 2004.

For more information on the courses and where they are being held please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/literacynumeracy/index.html>.

For information or to register please contact Judy Speirs at the Ministry of Education via email at [judy.speirs@edu.gov.on.ca](mailto:judy.speirs@edu.gov.on.ca) or by telephone at (416) 212-4249.

### **Proxies Needed for Convention**

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's (CCC) annual convention is quickly approaching. This year's event is in Calgary, Alberta, from September 18-20, 2004.

To ensure an adequate Ontario representation at the caucus meeting we encourage all those Ontario chambers and boards who are members of the CCC, but are unable to attend the convention, to tender their proxy to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. If you have not received the proxy form sent in the email, please email Rachel Kagan. For those that have received their form, **please** send the completed form to Rachel via fax at (416) 482-5879.

Thank you to all those chambers and boards who have already taken the time to fax back their completed forms.

### **Upcoming Events**

Listed below are some upcoming events that may be of interest:

- Civic Holiday – OCC Offices Closed, August 2
- OCC Education Committee Meeting, August 5
- OCC Health Policy Committee Meeting, August 10
- OCC Energy Task Force Meeting, August 11
- Team Ontario Conference Call, August 12
- Ontario Economic Summit (OES), Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 6-7
- Outstanding Business Achievement Awards (OBAA) Gala Dinner, November 10