

2004 AGM Early Bird Registration – Enjoy it Before It’s Too Late!

The early bird registration deadline for the upcoming 92nd Annual General Meeting & Convention is quickly approaching - register before **March 29, 2004** and save on fees.

This year’s AGM will take place in Thunder Bay from April 30 - May 2. Details on airline and hotel discounts are on our website.

The agenda is still being finalized but promises to be stimulating – there will be lots of opportunities for networking with your peers, engaging in dialogue with topical guest speakers, as well as the always exciting debates and discussions which ensue during the policy plenary sessions. Submitted resolutions will be posted on the website next week and will be updated and finalized prior to the AGM.

Some of the keynote speakers already confirmed include **Derek Holt**, Assistant Chief Economist, RBC Financial Group. We are pleased to have Derek kick off the policy plenary sessions on Saturday, May 1, as he will provide delegates with an overview of the Ontario economy. The keynote speaker for the *Business in Action Luncheon* will be **The Honourable Dwight Duncan**, MPP, Minister of Energy. On Sunday, May 2, **Gerald Protti**, Chair at the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, will provide an update on federal policies affecting Ontario

which will lead into a panel discussion on Canada-U.S. relations.

Don’t forget that the nominations for the three awards that will be presented at this year’s AGM is on **March 31**, so get your nominations in to us as soon as possible. First, there is the **Burnie Gillespie Memorial Award**, sponsored by The Johnston Group. This is awarded to an individual whose principal occupation is management of a Chamber or Board in Ontario during the past full calendar year.

Next is the **Chair’s Award**, which is presented in various areas of Chamber/Board activity to recognize new and innovative initiatives that have contributed to Chamber/Board success over the past year.

Lastly, there is the **Membership Award** which recognizes a Chamber’s outstanding efforts in the areas of membership retention and development. Please visit the OCC website at www.occ.on.ca today to find registration forms, flight and accommodation information and discounts, as well as information on submitting nominations for awards. For additional information, please contact Scott McCammon at scottmccammon@occ.on.ca or at (416) 482-5222, extension 228.

In Memory of Dominic Agostino

Dominic Agostino, MPP, passed away on March 24 of liver cancer. He was 43 years old. Mr. Agostino was popular in his riding in Hamilton East and very well liked in the legislature among his peers. He was the Chair of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies and the Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Environment.

The Legislature has been recessed until Monday, March 29, out of respect for Mr. Agostino.

OCC Welcomes New Staff Member

On Monday, March 29, the OCC will welcome Colleen MacIntyre as its new Events Coordinator. Colleen joins us from her previous role in events and member services with the Society of Composers, Authors & Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN). Prior to SOCAN, Colleen was with the Canadian Country Music Association in Events and Communications.

Colleen can be reached by email at colleenmacintyre@occ.on.ca or by telephone at (416) 482-5222, extension 222.

Important Message from OCC Education Committee Chair

Dear Chamber and Board Executives:

My name is John Hertel, and for the past 10 months I have been privileged to lead the OCC Education Committee.

It is very clear that there is a very high level of interest across the province’s Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in the role of education as a major building block in growing Ontario’s competitiveness and prosperity, not only in Canada but on the international stage. We have seen great examples of projects, studies and local initiatives that all contribute to raising the bar of excellence in our communities

through an environment of interdependence of business, government, education, and labour.

Through this note, I would like to request that we build on the momentum that exists within the individual Chambers and Boards of Trade by harnessing and leveraging the work and sharing it across the province. We should look for simple beginnings like sharing minutes from committee meetings, identifying best practices across the Province, and perhaps establishing a broader web based level of participation in the identification of both issues and solutions.

To help us begin, I am making a personal and passionate request that you send the OCC a brief email with the name, email and key activities of your chamber or board’s education and training, or related, committee. Please send this information to rachelkagan@occ.on.ca as soon as possible.

Regards,

John Hertel

Chair
OCC Education Committee