



## Ontario Ready to Compromise on Equalization

Premier Dalton McGuinty is conceding that enriching the National Equalization Program will likely have to be part of a deal to fix the fiscal imbalance. McGuinty argues that the fiscal imbalance, which sees Ottawa with a budget surplus while many provinces struggle, should be fixed through increased federal transfer payments on a per capita basis across Canada. The coming meeting of provincial and territorial leaders will likely be about combining enhanced equalization and increased per capita transfers to the provinces as a way to address the fiscal imbalance. Prime Minister Harper has said he wants to begin addressing the fiscal imbalance in the fall and if the premiers don't come up with their own solution, they could see one imposed on them. The OCC has recommended that both the provincial and federal governments put in place measurable benchmarks for the level of public services provided in different provinces across Canada. We believe that if this compromise is reached and the federal government enhances its transfers to provincial

governments, the system will remain flawed and unfair as per its current design. (From OCC Legislative Watch)

## WTO Negotiations Suspended

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006 Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Pascal Lamy announced that the Doha Development Agenda negotiations have been suspended indefinitely. Member countries were unable to reach an agreement on agricultural reform - the key pillar of the negotiations. This is a significant setback to Canadian interests as our ability to negotiate a reduction in US farm subsidies, an issue of high importance for Canadian grain and red meat farmers, has gone up in smoke. It remains unclear at this point when negotiations will restart. Given the unlikelihood regarding the renewal of the United States' Trade Promotion Authority, current thinking suggests that it could be at least 2009/2010 before negotiations begin again. In the short term, expect Canada and many other nations, to refocus on bilateral negotiations. The Canadian Chamber of Commerce will keep you informed on developments in this area.

## **2006-2007**

### **Executive Officers**

#### **Chair of the Board**

Janet Davies  
Cedar Beach Park & Trailer Sales

#### **Secretary**

Vicki Wilhelm  
Visual Perspective

#### **Treasurer**

Lynda Sargeant  
Lindy's Floral Boutique

#### **Directors**

Nitin Badhwar  
Welcomehome Relocations Inc.

Michele Bell  
Cole Engineering Group Ltd.

Sean Steenson  
Novopharm Ltd.

Peter Taws  
Keystone Benefits Inc.

#### **Office Administration**

President & CEO  
Helene Johnson

Dale Marie Arnold  
Tessa Olsen  
Jon Stallan

W/S Chamber of Commerce  
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Fax: 905-642-8966  
chamber@whitchurchstouffville.ca  
[www.whitchurchstouffville.ca](http://www.whitchurchstouffville.ca)

#### **Go Sales and Tourist Information**

Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00  
Sat 7:30-4:00  
Sun & Holidays 10:00-4:00

## **Welcome New Members**

#### **Canco Carstar Collision**

Jim Shirliff  
7 Laidlaw Blvd.  
Markham, ON L3P 1W5  
Tel: 905-294-3443  
Fax: 905-294-9505

#### **Automotive Repair & Service**

#### **Elizabeth Johnson**

Elizabeth Johnson  
14695 Ninth Line  
Stouffville, ON L4A 7X3  
Tel: 905-642-8692

#### **Jewellers**

#### **Govedaris Professional Corporation**

Gregory Govedaris  
6383 Main Street  
Stouffville, ON L4A 1G4  
Tel: 905-642-2090  
Fax: 905-642-2101

#### **Lawyers**

#### **Rice Commercial Group**

Doris McDonald  
15 Gormley Industrial Ave., Unit 3  
Gormley, ON L0H 1G0  
Tel: 905-888-1277  
Fax: 905-888-1440

#### **Land Developers**

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## **COMING EVENTS**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

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**Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> - 8:00 am**

#### **Networking Breakfast**

**Sydney's Home Décor**, 6292 Main St.  
Members \$10.00, Potential Members \$15.00

**Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm**

#### **Luncheon**

Location: Stakeout Dining Room & Lounge  
Speaker: David J. Cash  
CAO Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville  
Members \$30.00, Potential Members \$40.00

**Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup> - 12:00 pm**

#### **Luncheon**

#### **Crossroads Restaurant**

Subject: Meet the Mayoral Candidates  
Cost: To be Announced

**Registration & Advance Payment Required**