



## CONTINUAL RENEWAL IN 2005: THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2004 the OCC renewed its energy, commitment and vision and became *Ontario's Business Advocate*. We will continue to renew in 2005 by building on our successes of this past year. Looking ahead, 2005 is a year of opportunities as the OCC's network continues to develop and our influence with the provincial government is growing. In the new year the OCC will be focused on the 2005 Ontario Budget expected in March. The Ontario government is currently planning its pre-budget consultations which the OCC will be involved in.

## MODERATE GROWTH FOR CANADIAN ECONOMY IN 2005 - CANADIAN CHAMBER

**Ottawa – January 4, 2005.** In its 2005 *Economic Outlook*, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce forecasts a year of tempered growth for the Canadian economy. For 2005 as a whole, growth in real gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to average around 2.8 per cent, a slight increase from the 2.7 per cent growth rate anticipated for 2004, but much lower than the expected 3.5 per cent growth rate in the U.S. for 2005.

“We expect the Canadian economy to grow moderately in the coming year,” stated Nancy Hughes Anthony, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. “Economic growth will be fuelled largely by robust business investment in machinery and equipment, supported by moderate gains in consumer spending and healthy increases in government spending, but the boost to economic growth from exports that we saw last year will wind down.”

The Canadian Chamber expects softer commodity prices and competition from low-cost countries will continue to dampen real export growth through 2005. However, a high employment rate, rising personal incomes and a continued low interest rate environment should continue to support moderate gains in consumer spending in 2005. While growth in corporate profits is expected to be much more muted as energy and commodity prices retreat somewhat, business investment in machinery and equipment will continue to be a key driver for the economy.

The Canadian Chamber expects the Bank of Canada to leave rates unchanged in the first half of the year. However, as economic growth picks up in the second half of 2005, and with the core rate of inflation expected to trend towards 2 per cent by the end of 2005, Canada's central bank is expected to deliver, in total, a 50 basis points increase in the second half of 2005, bringing the overnight rate to 3 per cent by year-end 2005. (View the *Economic Review and Outlook*, at [www.chamber.ca](http://www.chamber.ca))

## 2004-2005

### Executive Officers

#### Chairman of the Board

Garth Bell

Dynamic Building Operators

#### Secretary

Mike Bell

Roberts Bell Engineering Ltd.

#### Treasurer

Michael Deegan

Stouffville Denture Clinic

#### Directors

Nitin Badhwar

Welcomehome Relocations Inc.

Maribel Camilleri Saringer

Mysthaven Workshop Retreat  
Centre

Elaine McNeil

Cook (Canada) Inc.

Jay Meiliunas

Investors Group Financial Services

#### Office Administration

President & CEO

Helene Johnson

Suzanne Allison

Kevin Rice

Maureen Wood

W/S Chamber of Commerce

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#### Go Sales and Tourist Information

Mon-Fri 7:30-5:00

Sat 7:30-4:00

## "Exploring Whitchurch-Stouffville"

In the year 2005 we are embarking on a new publication for Whitchurch-Stouffville. The circulation will be 25,000, and it will be distributed throughout Ontario.

It will contain a calendar of events for 2005, history, highlights of our historic downtown, tourist destinations and all of our numerous Golf Clubs, Businesses, New Home Development and Economic Development.

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### COMING EVENTS

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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Networking Breakfasts -7:30 a.m.

Cost - members \$10

Non-members \$15

Please call the office to advise us if you would like to attend any of these meetings. In doing so, we may inform the respective caterers of our numbers.

**Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>.** Networking Meeting at Christian Blind Mission. 3802 Stouffville Rd. (just east of McCowan).

**Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>.** Networking Meeting hosted by T.D. Canada Trust and T.D. Merchant Visa at Garden View Restaurant in **Parkview Village**.

**March 17<sup>th</sup>.** Networking Meeting at Stouffville Joint Venture. 6212 Main St. Suite 202.

**April 14<sup>th</sup>.** Annual General Meeting and Business Awards Dinner. Details to follow.

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Your Chamber of Commerce wishes you a prosperous  
New Year.