

News Release



For Immediate Release
March 20th, 2007

OAKVILLE CHAMBER HOSTS PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTER FOR BUDGET TALK

OAKVILLE, ON – The Oakville Chamber of Commerce is presenting a post-budget talk with the Provincial Finance Minister, the Hon. Greg Sorbara, on March 30th.

“It is truly an honour to have the Finance Minister here in Oakville to discuss his 2007 Ontario Budget, only a few days after its release,” stated Chamber President Stephen Sparling. “On Monday (March 26th), we will be hosting a breakfast with John Tory, the Ontario Conservative Leader. Within one week we will be giving our Members the opportunity to hear two key political leaders. The budget is a statement of the government’s priorities and, to some degree, it will have an effect on all of us.”

Mr. Sorbara will review highlights of the budget which is set to be released on March 22nd. It will be the last budget before the next Ontario election, which is scheduled for October.

The sit-down lunch will be held at Oakville Conference Centre, 2515 Wycroft Road, from 12:00pm to 1:30pm, registrations to begin at 11:30am. Tickets are \$30 and is open to Non-Chamber Members.

For more information, or to register, contact Jad at 905-845-6613 ext. 28 or jad@oakvillechamber.com.

Over the past year the Chamber has hosted events with a number of high profile elected officials. Including; Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Minister Jim Prentice, Minister Michael Chong, Minister Chris Bentley, Minister Steve Peters, Minister David Caplan, Minister Marie Bountrogianni, Kevin Flynn, MPP, and Ted Chudleigh, MPP.

For additional information contact:

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BACKGROUND:

The Oakville Chamber of Commerce is the voice of the Oakville business community. We provide member benefits which include advocacy, corporate benefits, networking opportunities, business development and educational forums. Our mission is to foster a healthy economic environment for Oakville.

A not-for-profit organization, the Oakville Chamber of Commerce was established in 1949. The Chamber has grown to over 1000 member businesses representing over 37,000 employees. The Chamber is one of the largest associations of any kind in the Town of Oakville.



Hon. Greg Sorbara, MPP Vaughan-King-Aurora

Greg was first elected MPP for York North in 1985 and re-elected for the new riding of York Centre in 1987 and 1990. In the previous Liberal government, he held a series of senior cabinet posts, including the double portfolios of Minister of Colleges and Universities/Minister of Skills Development and Minister of Labour/Minister Responsible for Women's Issues. He later served as Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

Greg returned to the private sector in 1995 and remained active in his community and in business. He was a partner in The Sorbara Group, an Ontario-based land development and property management company.

He served as a director of the United Way of York Region from 1998 to 2001 and has been a member of the board of the York University Alumni Association for several years.

Greg returned to the public arena in November 1999 when he was elected president of the Ontario Liberal Party; a position he held until February 2004. He also served as the party's campaign chair for the 2003 election. He was elected MPP for the riding of Vaughan-King-Aurora in a June 2001 by-election and was re-elected in the 2003 general election.

He holds a bachelor of arts from York University's Glendon College and a law degree from Osgoode Hall Law School. Greg and his wife, Katie, have six children and eight grandchildren.