

MEDIA RELEASE



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OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RECEIVES PROVINCIAL AWARD

LONDON: The Oakville Chamber of Commerce has received provincial recognition for excellence in chamber operations.

The Chamber's on-line business education program, The Chamber E-Learning Centre, was one of three initiatives from local chambers of commerce in Ontario to receive a Chair's Award at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting in London on the weekend.

"Enhanced knowledge and skills of our workforce will lead to increased productivity in Ontario," explains Len Crispino, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. "The Chamber E-Learning Centre provides businesses with a low-cost, flexible way to enhance the skills of their greatest resource - their people

Recognizing that small and medium businesses often have difficulty finding employees with the appropriate training and skills, the Oakville Chamber of Commerce partnered with Growth Advisors Inc. to create a comprehensive internet based curriculum. The resulting programs are comparable to those offered at large institutions and will help with attraction and retention of quality staff.

The following are some of the reasons why The Chamber E-Learning Centre was recognized with a Chair's Award:

- Innovative partnership for the benefit of business community
- Importance of enhanced training and skills for productivity
- Enhanced value of Chamber membership as a result of access to new program
- High participation rate in initial offering - 15 firms for a total of 46 users after just 90 days
- Broader benefit for chamber network across Ontario with opportunity to offer the program in other communities

Stephen Sparling, President of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce and John Sawyer, Executive Director, were on hand to receive the award.

The OCC represents over 57,000 businesses through 160 local Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade, and has been Ontario's business advocate since 1911. Its advocacy and policy initiatives focus on six areas key to the economic well-being of the province: health; education; energy; finance & taxation; transportation & infrastructure; and border issues.

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