

News Release



**GLEN ABBEY UNITED CHURCH and
THE OAKVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

For Immediate Release: September 5th, 2007

MIXING POLITICS, BUSINESS AND THE CHURCH

OAKVILLE, ON - Glen Abbey United Church will be the venue partner for the October 3rd, 2007 Provincial Election All Candidates Debate. The Oakville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the All Candidate Debates for the Member of Provincial Parliament in the Oakville riding. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

Stephen Sparling, President of the Oakville Chamber of Commerce commented: "We found Glen Abbey United Church to be an excellent venue for past Federal & Municipal Elections 'All Candidates Debates.' Their congregation and management committee did a wonderful job helping to organize the evening and work with the Chamber to bring this important event to the local community." He went on to state that "the Chamber is also looking forward to working with the United Way as a sponsor and Cogeco who will broadcast the event."

Glen Abbey United Church Minister Reverend Jeff Crittenden explained: "Our congregation is very committed to being an active participant in the local community and consequently we have been open to contributing in a variety of ways."

"In addition to sharing in the benefits this kind of event offers to the local community, the congregation also benefits in ways less obvious: for example, high school aged youth volunteers help participate by distributing flyers announcing the event, they then receive community service hours which count toward their high school graduation. Through their involvement our youth also gain a better understanding of the election process and of the issues of the day."

The Candidates for Oakville have all committed to attend the All Candidates Debate at Glen Abbey United Church. Anyone wishing to submit a question for the Candidates should fax it to the Chamber at 905-845-6475 or e-mail johnsawyer@oakvillechamber.com.

Date: **Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007**
Time: **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** (doors open to the public at 6:30 p.m.)
Location: Glen Abbey United Church (**1469 Nottinghill Gate**, south of Upper Middle Road between Dorval Drive and Third Line, opposite Loyola High School in Oakville)

For further information please 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.

Over the past 18 months the Chamber has hosted events with a number of high profile government officials. Including; Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Dalton McGuinty, Federal Green Party Leader Elizabeth May, Federal NDP Leader Jack Layton, Ontario PC Leader John Tory, Minister Greg Sorbara, Minister Jim Prentice, Minister Michael Chong, Minister Chris Bentley, Minister Steve Peters, Minister David Caplan, Minister Marie Bountrogianni, MPP's Kevin Flynn, Ted Chudleigh, Norm Sterling, Norm Miller, Christine Elliot and Deputy Minister David Lindsay.

The Chamber has also hosted a number of prominent business leaders, notably Bill Osborne, President of the Ford Motor Company of Canada, Pierre Morrissette, founder and CEO of The Weather Network and John Suk, founder and CEO of Altana Pharma Canada now known as Nycomed Canada.

The Oakville Chamber of Commerce was the 2007 Chair's Award recipient. This award is presented annually by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce to Chambers that develop outstanding new programs.

Glen Abbey United Church, located at 1469 Nottinghill Gate, has a growing congregation of approximately 300 who welcome all to partake in a thriving spirit of fellowship, caring and community support. Together, under the spiritual guidance of their minister Reverend Jeff Crittenden, the congregation provides the opportunity for everyone to explore and deepen their faith and to find encouragement for living in today's complex society. A wide range of programs is offered including Sunday school, nursery, youth groups, music groups, adult choir, men's basketball, social groups, outings, events and many outreach programs and charitable opportunities. Sunday Service begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends with friendly socializing over tea, coffee and cold beverages.