



NORTHUMBERLAND CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

TOWN OF COBOURG · HAMILTON TOWNSHIP · ALNWICK/HALDIMAND TOWNSHIP

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Chamber of Commerce invests in community, future.

Cobourg - The Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce today unveiled plans to relocate its offices to Cobourg's downtown heritage district. "It's a very exciting time for the Chamber and its members" said Chamber President Bonnie Thrasher "A great deal of time and effort has been put into this process, and we know that the decision to invest in real estate at this point in time is a sound business move that will help to ensure the continued viability and growth of the Chamber of Commerce" she continued.

The Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce has purchased a two storey commercial property located at 278 George Street, in downtown Cobourg, one block north of Victoria Hall. "The location is ideal for the evolving needs of the Chamber" explained Past President Bruce McCartney, "it's convenient to the downtown core and municipal parking, has a visible and accessible street level presence, but it's not prime commercial space on the main street that is better suited to use by the retail or service sector." The Chamber has plans to renovate the main floor commercial space for offices and meeting rooms, and is investigating the option of co-occupying the main floor space with a business tenant. The residential apartments on the second floor of the building will be maintained as a source of non-membership revenue.

"It's bittersweet in some ways," observed General Manager Kevin Ward, "The Chamber has been based in the lower level of the Northumberland Mall for over 10 years, and has enjoyed an exceptional relationship with the landlord and our fellow tenants. Service Ontario's decision to take over the driver and vehicle licensing office dramatically changed the business plan; and now is the time to implement a strategic contingency plan that's been 5 years in the making." The Cobourg Driver and Vehicle Licensing office is one of many across the province being taken over by the government agency in an effort to consolidate services. "The slogan we adopted in our centennial year was perhaps more prophetic than we thought" concluded Thrasher, "we're certainly **Looking back with pride, and moving forward with purpose.**"

The Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary membership organization serving the needs of the business community in Cobourg and the townships of Hamilton and Alnwick/Haldimand. Renovations of the new office are expected to take place throughout the summer, with a planned September move-in date. The license office will continue operations in the Northumberland Mall under Chamber management until November 29, 2010.

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