

BUSINESS CONNECT

Serving Trenton, Frankford, Sidney and Murray Ward



“ As spring settles into Quinte West, there’s a familiar sense of optimism in the air. Warmer days remind us that growth starts quietly. - Suzanne Andrews, CEO

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In business, seasons matter. Winter is often about training, tightening systems, reviewing strategy, and getting organized. It’s where we prepare. Strong growth seasons are built during disciplined ones.

Spring is when that preparation turns into action. It’s a season of momentum, collaboration, and renewed energy across our business community. It’s also a season of growth within the Chamber itself. I look forward to working with our new Board members who have stepped forward to serve. Leadership and volunteerism at this level strengthens the direction and long-term impact of our organization.

We’re also excited to welcome new Chamber staff members who have joined the team. Their energy and commitment are already contributing to the momentum we’re building. Behind every event and initiative is a dedicated staff working hard to create value for our members. From the Home Show to Monthly Get Connected networking events, Round Tables, the AGM, and even our Golf Tournament, which, for many of us, proves that business strategy doesn’t always translate to a consistent short game.

Spring brings events and connections. It brings opportunity. I encourage you to lean in, show up, and make the most of this season. Growth happens when we participate.

- Jeff McKerracher, President

UPCOMING EVENTS



AGM & President's Dinner
March 26

Occasions by the Bay, 6-10pm



Get Connected
April 14

BSens CAA Arena, 5-7pm



BoQ Home Show
April 24-26

Trenton Memorial Gardens



Get Connected
May 6

Habitat Restore Trenton, 5-7pm



Home Services Round Table
May 13

QW Chamber, 9:30-11:30am



Chamber Golf Classic
May 29

Timber Ridge Golf Course

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Events Coordinator

DANIELA PATANE 613-392-7635
Communications



Spring Is a Natural Time to Reflect on Where We Are Heading and To Prepare

As spring settles into Quinte West, there's a familiar sense of optimism in the air. Warmer days always remind us that growth starts quietly, and this year, that feeling lines up well with what we're seeing in Ontario's economy. While the province is still navigating some uncertainty, especially around trade, there are steady signs that we're moving in the right direction.

Ontario's real GDP is expected to grow by 1.4% in 2026, holding close to last year's pace. Lower interest rates and easing trade pressures are helping keep things stable. For many businesses, that stability matters more than anything because it creates room to plan, invest, and make confident decisions. According to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, business confidence in the broader economy sits at 23%, but more importantly, 52% of businesses feel confident about their own future. This is a reflection of the determination and creativity we see every day among entrepreneurs.

Even with U.S. tariffs and uncertainty around the upcoming CUSMA review, businesses across the province continue to adapt—diversifying suppliers, rethinking expansion timelines, and managing rising costs with resilience and innovation. At the same time, household spending and residential investment continue to support Ontario's economic stability, helping to keep the province on steady ground.

We're also encouraged by the province's improving financial position. Ontario's upgraded credit rating has lowered borrowing costs and made the province more attractive to investors. That positive shift supports major infrastructure investment and job creation—opening the door to opportunities that benefit communities like ours here in Quinte West.

Here at home, we know that growth isn't just about economic indicators. It's about people—local businesses that show up every day, innovative ideas taking root, and the partnerships that strengthen our community. Spring is a natural time to reflect on where your business is heading, whether you're preparing for a busy season, launching something new, or simply nurturing the next stage of your journey.

As the days get brighter, let's carry that spring energy forward. Here's to renewal, resilience, and shared growth across Quinte West.

— Suzanne Andrews, CEO

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

We will be holding our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** on March 26 at Occasions by the Bay.

The AGM portion of the evening will begin at approximately 8:15pm after the President's Dinner.

It will include a presentation of the Annual Report, 2025 Review Engagement, appointment of next years accountant and swearing in of the new board.

If interested in joining just the AGM portion of the evening, please contact us. 613-392-7635 | events@quintewestchamber.ca

President's Dinner
&
AGM

YOU'RE INVITED
March 26, 2026 | Occasions by the Bay
Tickets: www.quintwestchamber.ca

Register your team today!

See the form inside this newsletter.

May 29th 2026 | **\$10,000 HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE**

TIMBER RIDGE
GOLF COURSE

WCC

2026

GOLF CLASSIC

GET CONNECTED

Spring Mega Mingle

April 14, 2026

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
www.quintwestchamber.ca

JOIN US for an exclusive networking event at the home of the **Belleville Senators!** Members from Quinte West, Belleville and PEC Chambers will enjoy an elevated networking experience showcasing some of the ways that the businesses of the Bay of Quinte come together with it's hometown AHL team.



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