ANNUAL REPORT 2026

MILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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WHAT'S INSIDE

4
2026 BY THE NUMBERS

7
MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

8 - 9
BRINGING MILTON TOGETHER

10
VALUE IN EVERY CONNECTION

12
ADVOCATING FOR A THRIVING MILTON

14
ADDRESSING BUSINESS CHALLENGES

16 - 17
YOUR CHAMBER

18
OUR PARTNERS

2026 BY THE NUMBERS

700+
MEMBERS OF THE MILTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

10,000+
@MILTONCHAMBER SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

7,300+
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

60
FREE EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

12,353
EVENT ATTENDEES

7
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO LOCAL STUDENTS

67
MEMBER & CHAMBER SOCIAL MEDIA VIDEOS

50
MEMBER-ONLY DISCOUNTS OFFERED



RBC team at the 2026 Milton Excellence Awards.

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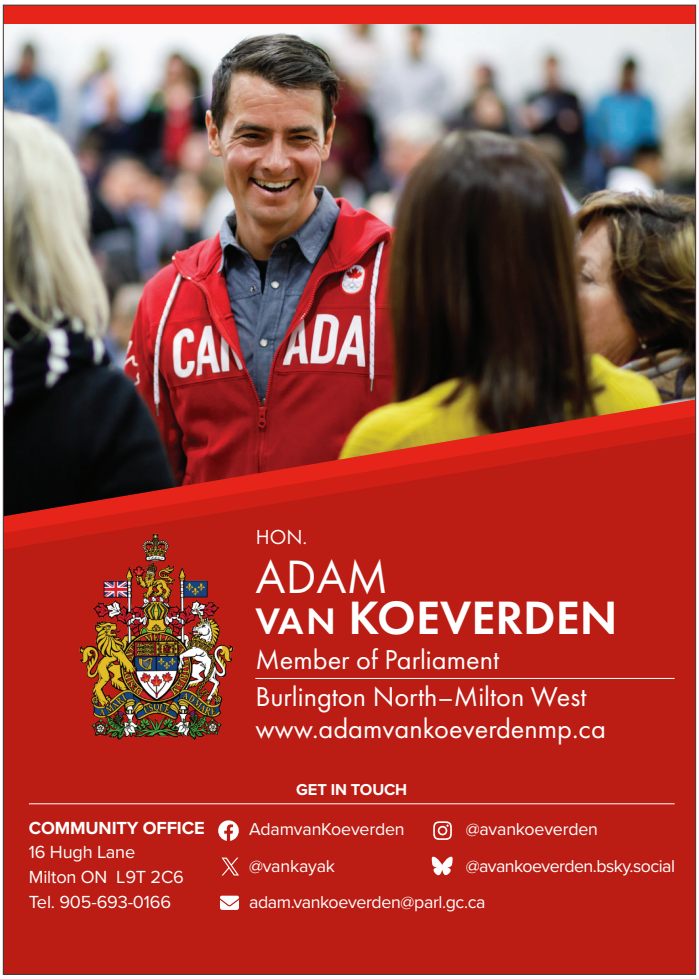

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MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

A strong business community is built not by any one organization, but by people who choose to connect, collaborate and contribute.

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of the Milton Chamber of Commerce during a year shaped by both uncertainty and opportunity. As a local business owner myself, I understand firsthand the commitment, risks and resilience it takes to build a business, support employees and contribute to our community. It is this perspective that makes the Chamber's role as the voice of business so important.

Our members continue to navigate economic pressures and changing market conditions. Through advocacy, education, member connections and resources, the Chamber remains focused on helping local businesses adapt, grow and thrive. We also celebrated the outstanding people and organizations that make Milton stronger through the Milton Excellence Awards.

As Milton enters a new chapter, I want to recognize Gord Krantz for his remarkable 46 years as Mayor and 61 years of service in Milton politics. His contribution to shaping our town is part of its history. I also extend a warm welcome and congratulations to Mayor George Minakakis. I look forward to building a strong, collaborative relationship in support of Milton's business community.

Thank you to our Board, volunteers, members and Chamber team for your dedication and trust. Ultimately, Milton's success is a shared responsibility, and our future is strongest when we build it together.



TANYA VAKIL FERNANDES
Chair, Milton Chamber of Commerce

Since joining the Milton Chamber at the end of October, I have had the privilege of meeting many of the business and community leaders who make Milton such a remarkable place to live, work, and invest. What has become clear to me is that our strength lies in our people, our relationships, and our shared commitment to supporting local business.

There is no question that this has been a year of transition. At a time when businesses are navigating economic uncertainty, rising costs, workforce challenges, and a rapidly changing landscape, Milton continues to be a community defined by resilience and optimism. While there are challenges ahead, there is also tremendous opportunity. As one of Canada's fastest-growing communities, Milton remains a place where businesses can innovate, invest, and grow.

Through this period of change, our priority has been simple: keep the wheels turning, continue delivering value for our members, and build a strong foundation for the future. I would like to recognize the incredible Chamber team: Amy, Krista, Meghan and Tanya. Whether you see them at an event, connect with them by phone, or receive support behind the scenes, these are the faces and names that carry the Chamber forward every day. I am also grateful to our Board of Directors for their leadership, guidance, and commitment to our members.

While we look forward to 2027, our focus remains on strengthening advocacy, deepening member engagement, and ensuring the Chamber remains a trusted partner for businesses of every size.

To our members, volunteers, sponsors, and community partners: thank you. Your support and engagement make everything we do possible. Together, we are building Milton's next chapter.



MELANIE FRAZER
Interim President & CEO, Milton Chamber of Commerce

BRINGING MILTON TOGETHER



MEMBER APPRECIATION

The Membership Appreciation Night celebrated Chamber members while providing an opportunity to connect and build relationships.



POWER PANEL

The Power Panel Breakfast aimed to foster networking connections and provide a platform for women to share their lived experiences in the business world.



MILTON FARMERS' MARKET

In 2026, the Milton Farmers' Market brought fresh produce and community engagement to Main Street, attracting an average of 2,500 shoppers each Saturday from May to October.



PRIDE

The Chamber mobilized the business community to foster inclusivity in Milton. With the backing of partners, the Chamber provided complimentary window signs to local businesses, signifying their warm welcome to all Milton residents.



GOLF TOURNAMENT

Golfers enjoyed the beautiful scenery and fabulous food at Granite Ridge Golf Club. The day was a great way to connect with new people and entertain clients.

BRINGING MILTON TOGETHER

MILTON EXCELLENCE AWARDS GALA

The Milton Excellence Awards Gala recognized outstanding businesses and community members in Milton with a special dinner and awards presentation.



STATE OF THE ECONOMY

The State of the Economy featured expert insights to help members understand the current and future economic landscape.



LUNCH & LEARNS

Throughout the year, the Milton Chamber hosted five Lunch & Learn events, offering educational workshops for businesses at Landscape Ontario.



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT BREAKFAST

The Membership Development Breakfast provided an overview of Chamber membership and benefits for both new and existing Milton Chamber members, helping them maximize the value of their membership.



SWEAT SOCIALS

The Milton Chamber partnered with local members to host introductory sessions where Chamber members could try new workouts or activities while building connections.



VALUE IN EVERY CONNECTION

MILTON CHAMBER MEMBER BENEFITS

1

BOOST YOUR SEARCH ENGINE RANKINGS

Being listed on the Chamber's reputable website tells search engines like Google that your business is likely credible, improving search engine results.

2

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities to build your network with other business owners and decision makers through networking events, including monthly Business After Hours.

3

GET NOTICED ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Chamber members get featured in Instagram Reels and TikTok style videos showcasing their business, free of charge. Available from May through August.

4

COST-EFFECTIVE ADVERTISING

Cost-effective opportunities to advertise and promote your business using our expansive contact lists.

5

EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS

Save money with access to affordable health, dental & employee benefit plans with stable rates.

6

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Save money with member discounts on dozens of products and services, including low debit/credit merchant rates, Esso gas, and office supplies.

7

FREE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STAFF

Milton Chamber offers opportunities for you and your staff to learn important skills at our free seminars and workshops for members.

8

BUSINESS COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

We advocate on your behalf with all levels of government to help shape public policy.

9

PEER GROUP LEARNING

Members and their staff can join our business peer groups, including our Human Resources Roundtable and our Supply Chain Council to discuss emerging trends and challenges.

10

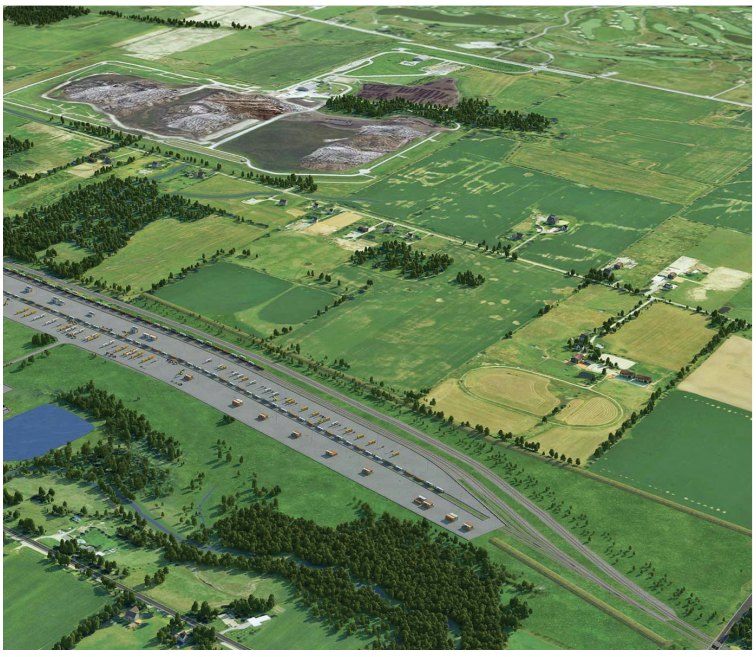
FREE ACCESS TO OUR BOARDROOM

Use the boardroom at the Chamber office at no cost to members. Subject to availability.









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ADVOCATING FOR A THRIVING MILTON

As one of Canada's fastest-growing communities, Milton's success depends on policies that support business investment, workforce development, infrastructure, trade, and economic competitiveness. Through local leadership and collaboration with provincial and national partners, the Milton Chamber serves as the voice of business on issues that matter most to our members and our community.



YOUR BUSINESS. YOUR VOICE.

Through the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and the Halton Peel Supply Chain Council, the Milton Chamber helps ensure local business perspectives are represented at Town Hall, Queen's Park, and Parliament Hill.

ACCESS TO CAPITAL FOR GROWING BUSINESSES

Access to growth capital remains one of the biggest challenges facing small and medium-sized enterprises.

OUR ACTION

The Milton Chamber of Commerce (MCC) co-sponsored an Ontario Chamber policy resolution supporting the creation of an Ontario Emerging Entrepreneurs Fund (O-EEF) pilot program. The proposal seeks to unlock new sources of private investment for Ontario-based SMEs, helping entrepreneurs scale their businesses, improve productivity, create jobs, and strengthen Ontario's economy.

WHY IT MATTERS

Growing businesses need access to investment capital to expand, innovate, and compete. Stronger pathways to funding support business growth, local job creation, and long-term economic prosperity.

STRENGTHENING MILTON'S FUTURE

OUR ACTION

The Milton Chamber launched a non-partisan municipal election video series exploring economic growth, commercial development, housing, transportation, infrastructure and workforce attraction, helping ensure business priorities remained part of the public conversation.

IMPACT

A stronger business voice in local decision making.

TRADE & SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE

Global trade uncertainty, tariffs, and supply chain disruptions continued to challenge businesses throughout the year.

OUR ACTION

Through our leadership and participation in the Halton Peel Supply Chain Council, the MCC brought together business leaders, manufacturers, logistics experts, economic development partners and supply chain professionals to discuss trade competitiveness, workforce needs, transportation challenges and supply chain resilience.

The Milton Chamber also maintained a Tariff Resource Hub, providing businesses with timely information, government resources, and practical tools to navigate changing trade conditions.

WHY IT MATTERS

As a strategic logistics and distribution hub, Milton depends on efficient supply chains, reliable infrastructure and competitive trade policies to support business success.

TALENT & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

OUR ACTION

The MCC supported advocacy efforts through the Ontario Chamber network calling for increased investment in post-secondary education, workforce development, innovation and economic resilience.

IMPACT

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ADDRESSING BUSINESS CHALLENGES

The Milton Chamber of Commerce is actively addressing business challenges through our peer-to-peer groups. Members interested in joining the groups below can contact Melanie Frazer to gain access for free.

HUMAN RESOURCES ROUNDTABLE

The Chamber's HR Roundtable is a peer-to-peer resource group for senior HR professionals of Milton's top employers. Roundtable members discuss workplace trends and emerging topics of HR.

HALTON PEEL SUPPLY CHAIN COUNCIL

The Halton Peel Supply Chain Council (HPSCC) is dedicated to the advancement of regional supply chains. The Milton Chamber administers the HPSCC quarterly meetings to discuss supply chain industry issues and, where applicable, determine actions needed to resolve or assist.




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ABOUT THE MILTON CHAMBER

The Milton Chamber is a not-for-profit, membership-based organization representing over 700 member businesses that employ over 26,000 people in our community. The Chamber acts as a partner to member businesses by fostering connection and addressing collective problems. The Chamber offers countless opportunities for members and their staff to save on business services, health and dental benefits, as well as staff training at our free seminars and workshops.

CHAMBER TEAM



MELANIE FRAZER
Interim President & CEO



BIANCA CARAMENTO
President & CEO (parental leave)



TANYA COUCH
Operations & Accounts Specialist



AMY MACLACHLAN
Member Support Coordinator



KRISTA LENARDON TRULL
Marketing & Communications Coordinator



MEGHAN SEYMOUR
Partnership & Events Specialist







BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2026

The Board of Directors is elected from the membership to represent the interests of the business community across all sectors. Chamber volunteers and staff are guided in their day-to-day activities by the Chamber's statement of Mission and Goals. Our Board of Directors and Executive Committee are charged with overall responsibility for the Chamber's strategic direction and policy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

TANYA VAKIL FERNANDES
CHAIR
Keystone Realty Advisors

ROBERT DUVALL
PAST CHAIR
RDC Networks

BRANDON PARKES
VICE CHAIR
IG Wealth Management

ANDREW AVGOUSTI
TREASURER
ROCKWOOL

DIRECTORS

GARNER BECKETT
Conservation Halton Foundation

ERIN RENNIE-AUBUCHON
RBC Royal Bank

JASON COOLMAN
Wilfrid Laurier University

SANDEEP SAMBHI
Sandbox Media

SUKI LEGHA
Chudleigh's Ltd.

JOHN STEVENS
Ontario Veterinary Medical Association







OUR PARTNERS

Thank you to our many 2026 partners!
To become a partner, contact Meghan Seymour.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION - HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2026

- Co-sponsored an Ontario Chamber resolution supporting improved access to capital for SMEs
- Convened business and industry leaders through the Halton Peel Supply Chain Council
- Supported provincial advocacy for workforce development and post-secondary education
- Maintained a Tariff Resource Hub to help businesses navigate trade uncertainty
- Elevated business priorities through municipal election engagement
- Represented Milton businesses through provincial and national chamber advocacy networks

"When businesses join the Milton Chamber, they gain more than networking opportunities. They gain a collective voice advocating for the policies, investments and decisions that help businesses and communities thrive."





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Stable rates

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Not-for-profit program

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*Minimum 3 people for guaranteed coverage in Quebec.

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Chambers Plan includes all employee benefits you expect from health to disability and dental to critical illness. But additionally, your employees gain access to Teladoc Medical Experts, and you get access to resources and telephone advice for HR, legal, and financial decisions.

For more information, or to request a quote, please visit ChamberPlan.ca.

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