

Tilson welcomes Caledon Chamber of Commerce to Ottawa

Dufferin — Caledon MP David Tilson recently welcomed representatives of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce to Ottawa.

Chamber President and CEO Kelly Darnley and Chamber Chair Kim Seipt were in Gatineau, Quebec, for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Annual General Meeting, which ran from Sept. 24 to 27, wrapping up with a gala.

Tilson joined Darnley and Seipt at the gala, where he learned about the various

policy discussions covered during the four-day conference and what the outcomes of these discussions mean for local businesses in Dufferin — Caledon.

"It's most fortunate the Canadian Chamber hosted this event here this year, to allow me the opportunity to welcome and join the Chamber this evening," he said. "I commend the Chamber on the tremendous work and dedication it continually demonstrates on behalf of the local business

community in Caledon." "We have always enjoyed a close working relationship with Mr. Tilson and his office," Darnley remarked. "I am very grate-

ful for his interest in the work of our local Chamber and the efforts of the Canadian Chamber."

Lingard on EDAC board

Caledon's Manager of Economic Development Norm Lingard has been elected to the board of directors of the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC).

Lingard will serve a two year term (2011 and 2012) with 15 other voting board members.

Since 1968, EDAC has been Canada's national organization of economic developers pursuing excellence in the field. EDAC promotes ethics in economic development and strives to profile the economic development of provinces, territories, regions, cities, towns and areas with a view to improve the economic well-being of Canadians.

The board of directors facilitates the exchange of ideas and information which become a part of the economic development profession's continuous improvement.

Two teens charged after stealing MP3

Two Caledon teens are facing theft charges after another youth had his MP3 player stolen in Bolton.

Caledon OPP reports the victim was riding his bike in the area of Allan Drive Sept. 22 at about 6:10 p.m. when he was stopped by two boys who verbally threatened and intimidated him into handing over his machine.

As a result of the subsequent investigation, the teenagers have been charged with robbery with theft.

Police are encouraging parents to speak with their children about the dangers of possessing and openly displaying various forms of electronic and communication devices. Doing so, in the presence of the wrong person, could result in the item being stolen. Police advise to put personal safety above the value of the item, which can be replaced if stolen. Simply turn it over and call police to report the incident.



Canadian Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Perrin Beatty is seen here with Kelly Darnley; Elyse Allan, chair of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce; Kim Seipt; and Dufferin — Caledon MP David Tilson at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, where the Canadian Chamber Gala was held Sept. 27.

Submitted photo

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"Silent Seniors - A Voice for the Elderly" By Becky Walker



The media and major newspapers have been spending a lot of time lately focusing on the "long term care crisis".

Put simply: what are nursing homes doing to cut costs, to cope with overwhelming numbers of high-need

residents and to ensure that seniors are being treated respectfully and with dignity. But, even more important, how is the Ontario government preparing for the all-impending doom of the baby boom?

As the Transitional Care and Respite Services Coordinator for CCS, I have an extremely rewarding job. Despite the rewards, there are questions that keep me awake at night: What about the vulnerable and often frail seniors who are not aging in a long term care setting? What are their living conditions? What happens when they fall and injure themselves? Who cares for them? Who will ensure they have fresh groceries, medication and proper hygiene?

I was recently reminded of the answers to these questions when contacted by a local financial advisor. She inquired about respite services for one of her clients, an elderly man who lived alone on a large farm with no known family to help him.

During her telephone conversation with him, she learned that he had fallen recently. Walking, making meals and grocery shopping were all difficult. She was very concerned for his well-being and offered to bring him groceries and stop by to make sure he was okay. As is often the case, he resisted, saying that he didn't want to burden her. However, this guardian angel was successful in getting her client's permission to contact CCS.

CCS's mental health caseworker was at his farmhouse the next day, ensuring that he had the necessities and care needed for the upcoming weekend. She made contact with his family to ensure they were aware of their father's state; she was able to secure 24-hour care for him at CCS's Transitional Care Centre immediately. Our caseworker learned that the man's general practitioner had recently passed away and that he did not have a family doctor.

I spoke to this man's family and arranged for in-home respite care on a permanent basis; I assisted him in arranging for CCS's transportation services to drive him to his medical appointments; I was even able to access funding for an escort to accompany him on his medical appointments. CCS provided him with the names of local general practitioners accepting new patients; we liaised with the coordinator of the rural geriatric program for the Community Care Access Centre and they are now planning a full assessment of his needs. All of these services within CCS and other agencies are supported by our Central West Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) with whom we work very closely.

The menu of supports that this kind and isolated man now has in place are the result of one person who recognized a need and intervened. Because this financial advisor went above and beyond her job description, an elderly man's independence and pride have been restored. He will continue to age at home, in the same home in which he lived with his wife and family.

So in answer to those pressing questions about our seniors who are not in long term care facilities, it's apparent what is very important. We all need to rely on our community to lend a hand, and a voice, to those whose are not always easily heard.

How Do You See It?

Tell us how you see it.
 You can reach, Becky Walker, Respite Coordinator at 905.584.2300 ext 663
 or bwalker@ccs4u.org

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