

The Dufferin Board of Trade

Monthly Newsletter

JULY 2025

Local Business *News & Updates*



2025 Play Local Golf Tournament

[Learn More](#) | [Register](#) | [Sponsor](#)

Level Up Training:

[Canva - Foundations](#) | [Canva - Advanced](#)

[Inclusivity - Foundations](#) | [See Calendar](#)

New Episode: Good Business Dufferin Podcast

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NEWSLETTER
INTRO

DUFFERIN BOARD
OF TRADE

CHAIR



DOUG HARKNESS
CHAIR, DBOT

Greetings, Friends in the County,

Happy Canada Day! The trade war with our southern partners has caused many of us some level of distress, but one of the positives that has come about because of it is a discernible rise in patriotism. It's too bad that we only have 1 day a year to celebrate the opportunity to live in what is undoubtedly the greatest country in the world!

Congratulations to all of the winners of the recent Business Excellence Awards as well as all of the nominees. It is without a doubt my favourite DBOT event and I was sorry to miss it as I recovered from hip replacement surgery. Thanks as always to our DBOT event staff and all of the volunteers who pulled off such a successful event. The many smiling faces from the photos shared on social media and the folks I've spoken to since then all attest to how well done it was.

It's also a great segway in that event planning is one of the many things that the BizHub can help your company with. In these uncertain economic times there are many administrative services that the BizHub can help you scale up with without taking the risk of hiring new staff until you are sure that you are ready. The BizHub can handle small scale photography and videography, help with HR, and marketing among other services. Office rentals are busy but we will do what we can to accommodate.

Planning is well underway for a couple more of our DBOT marquee events. The Play Local golf tournament will take place on Thursday, August 21st at Shelburne Golf Club. It is always one of the most fun tournaments on the local not for profit golf tournament circuit! We could use a few more committee members to help get this one to the finish line. We have an excellent template so it isn't tons of work. We are as always looking for prizes, golfers and sponsors. [You can sign up here!](#)

Work is also well underway along with our partners for the Dream Career event on Oct. 15th. This event exposes 1200 local grade 8 and high school students to skilled trades and a host of other careers with hands on displays and a panel discussion. The students have very little idle time as they move from station to station. While it isn't our mandate to turn a profit on every one of our events we do have some fairly significant associated costs with this one so could use some sponsor dollars for this as well. You can find more information here: [Learn More](#)

I hope that everyone remains busy during the quiet time without any elections. Hopefully the rumours of a pending trade deal with the US are accurate. We could all use a little more economic certainty.

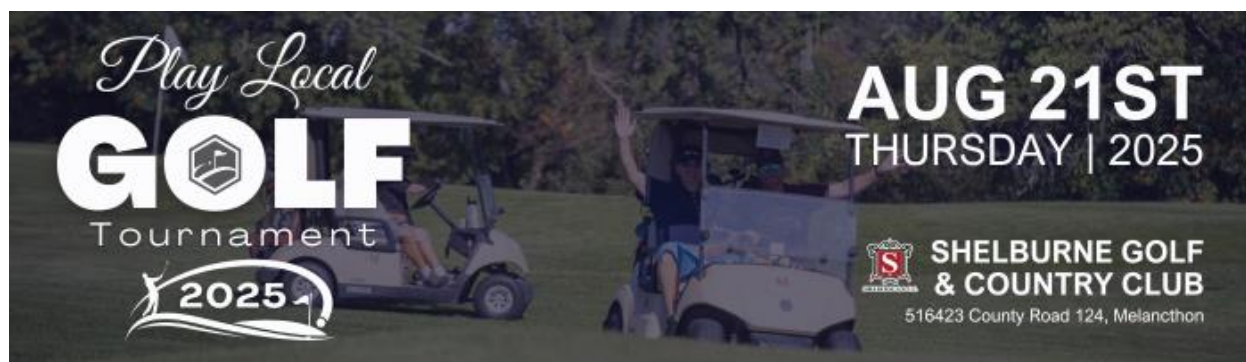
Please keep enjoying doing business in the county!

Doug Harkness

Chair, Dufferin Board of Trade



Our Events



2025 Play Local Golf Tournament

August 21st, 2025

2025 Play Local Golf Tournament - Hosted by the Dufferin Board of Trade

Thursday, August 21, 2025 | Shelburne Golf & Country Club | 516423 County Road 124, Melancthon, ON

Join us on the green for one of Dufferin's most anticipated summer events! The Play Local Golf Tournament is a fun-filled day of golf, networking, and community celebration — bringing together local business leaders, entrepreneurs, and supporters for friendly competition and meaningful connection.

This annual tournament is more than just a game. With on-course contests, exciting prizes, and a relaxed “Appy Hour” to wrap up the day, there’s something for everyone to enjoy — whether you’re golfing, sponsoring, or cheering from the sidelines.

Event Schedule:

- 10:45 AM – Registration Opens
- 11:00 AM – Boxed Lunches Available
- 11:45 AM – Load into Carts
- 12:00 PM – Shotgun Start
- 4:30–6:00 PM – Appy Hour & Awards

Why Sponsor?

Sponsoring the Play Local Golf Tournament is a fantastic way to:

- Showcase your business to a wide audience
- Build meaningful local connections
- Support the small businesses that drive our economy

Your support helps us deliver a memorable experience and reinforces the importance of shopping, supporting, and playing local in Dufferin.

Interested in Sponsoring? Contact us at office@dufferinbot.ca to learn more and get involved!

We can't wait to see you on the course!

[Register Here](#)

[See Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



2025 Dream Career

Join us for the 4th Annual Dream Career event—an exciting partnership between the Career Education Council (CEC) and the Dufferin Board of Trade (DBOT). Now in its third year of collaboration, Dream Career merges two impactful initiatives: DBOT's Dream Dufferin Skilled Trades event and CEC's Career Pathways Dufferin event.

Event Details:

October 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM | OAS Event Centre - 247090 Side Rd 5, Mono

Schedule:

Student Group 1 (approx. 600 students): 9:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Exhibitor Networking Lunch: 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM

Student Group 2 (approx. 600 students): 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM

Together, these programs have a proven track record of inspiring youth and connecting them with the most in-demand career fields in our region. Dream Career showcases a wide range of rewarding local career pathways—whether through skilled trades, post-secondary education, volunteering, co-operative education, or apprenticeships.

We invite you to participate in this high-profile community event as an exhibitor or as a sponsor.

Dream Career engages Grade 8 and high school students from the Upper Grand District School Board, Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board, and local private schools, helping them explore future careers and plan their educational journey.

As an exhibitor, you'll have the opportunity to share valuable insights, provide interactive experiences, and help students connect their interests and skills with opportunities right here in their own community.

[Register Here](#)

[See Sponsorship Opportunities](#)



LEVEL UP: LEARN HOW TO USE CANVA

HANDS-ON DESIGN WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESSES & NONPROFITS

Level Up: Canva – Foundations

Hands-On Design Workshop for Businesses and Nonprofits

Ready to sharpen your design skills and start creating professional-quality graphics for your business or nonprofit? Join us for the first session in our Level Up: Canva Series, focused on building practical, essential skills in a supportive small-group setting.

Workshop Details:

Date: July 22nd, 2025

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am | **Duration:** 90 minutes

Location: Biz Hub Office (in person)

Cost:

\$30 – Non-Members

\$20 – DBOT Members

Capacity: Limit of 10 participants – reserve your spot early!

What You'll Learn:

- How to navigate Canva
- Customize designs from templates

- How to use Brand Kits for consistency
- Practical, time-saving design tips tailored for small businesses
- Q & A session at the end with 1-on-1 help

[Register Here](#)

Level Up: Canva – Advanced

Hands-On Design Workshop for Businesses and Nonprofits

Already comfortable with Canva and ready to expand your skills? Join us for the second session in our Level Up: Canva Series, designed for those who want to unlock Canva's full potential and create even more dynamic, eye-catching content.

Workshop Details:

Date: July 29th, 2025

Time: 9:30 am - 11:00 am | Duration: 90 minutes

Location: Biz Hub Office (in person)

Cost:

\$30 – Non-Members

\$20 – DBOT Members

(Discount available if you attend the Foundations session)

Capacity: Limit of 10 participants – reserve your spot early!

Overview of what you'll learn:

- Master advanced Canva tools and features

- Use layers, effects, and advanced editing to polish your visuals
- Create scroll-stopping content that's consistent with your brand
- Collaborate with team members and manage projects more efficiently
- Q & A session at the end with 1-on-1 help

[Register Here](#)



Level Up: Inclusivity – Foundations

Hands-On Inclusivity Workshop for Businesses & Nonprofits

Want to make your business or organization a more welcoming, inclusive, and accessible place for everyone? Join us for Level Up: Inclusivity – Foundations, part of our Level Up Training Series, designed to give you practical tools and real-world insights in a supportive small-group setting.

Workshop Details:

Date: July 29th, 2025

Time: 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Duration: 90 minutes

Location: Biz Hub Office (in person)

Cost:

\$30 – Non-Members

\$20 – DBOT Members

Capacity: Limited to 10 participants

What You'll Learn:

This interactive session covers core principles of creating LGBTQ+ Safe Spaces, improving Accessibility (including AODA compliance), and building more inclusive workplaces. You'll walk away with:

- A guided start on creating your own Inclusivity Statement
- Unconscious bias exercises to identify hidden assumptions
- A clear breakdown of myths vs. facts in diversity and inclusion
- Tools and inclusive language for more confident, respectful communication
- Real-life examples of local organizations that have "leveled up" their spaces

Participants who complete this session will receive:

- "Level Up Status" and be listed in our LGBTQ+ Safe Space and Accessible Business Directories
- A Level Up decal (physical and digital) to display on-site and online

[Training Testimonial](#)

[Register Here](#)



Looking for more events? Click below!

[See Events](#)

Resources



Good Business Dufferin: Ep. 18 - Inside GEON Performance Solutions: 2025 Business of the Year Winner

In this special episode of the Good Business Dufferin Podcast, we're spotlighting our 2025 Business of the Year: GEON Performance Solutions – and welcoming Carmine Domanico to share the story behind their success.

GEON is a global leader in performance polymer solutions, and their Orangeville facility has become a shining example of innovation, sustainability, and community leadership. From workplace culture to manufacturing excellence, GEON continues to set the bar locally and beyond.

In this episode, we discuss:

- ✓ GEON's leadership values and operational success
- ✓ What it means to win Business of the Year
- ✓ Initiatives in safety, sustainability, and staff development
- ✓ How GEON engages with and supports the local Dufferin community
- ✓ Their vision for the future of manufacturing

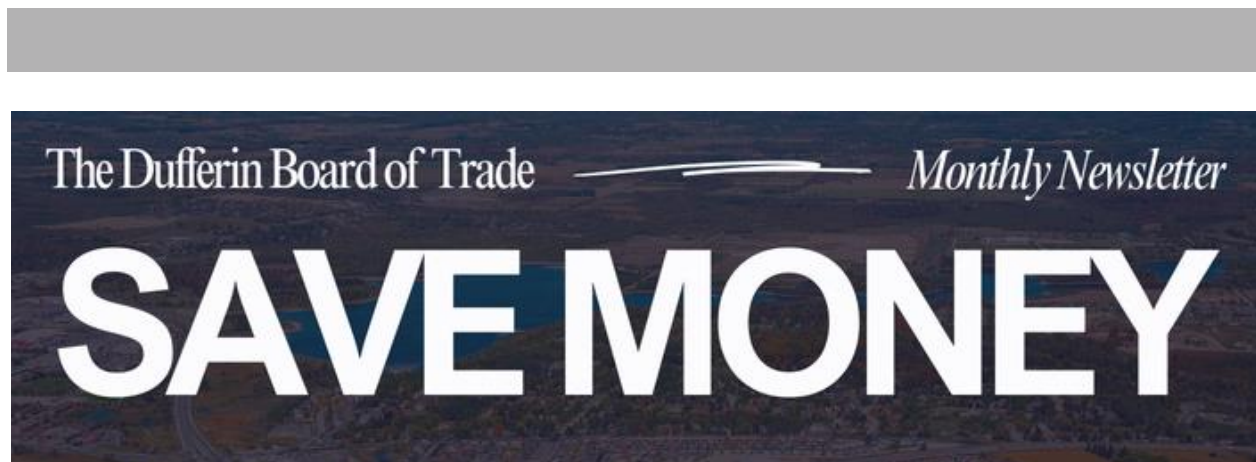
Whether you're passionate about leadership, innovation, or community building — this episode is full of insight and inspiration.

🔗 Learn more about GEON: www.geon.com

- ☐ Subscribe to hear more stories from our 2025 Business Excellence Award winners!

[Watch New Episode](#)

[Listen Now](#)



**Not-for-profit,
great for
business.**

Chambers Plan
Employee Benefits



Exclusive Group Benefits for Chamber Members! Get in touch with our Chamber Plan Rep, Jason McKittrick

[Learn More](#)

[Get a Quote](#)

Got a B2B deal to share? Click below!

[Add Your Deal](#)

The Dufferin Board of Trade

Monthly Newsletter

PROMOTE

Welcome New Members



[Gold Standard Exteriors](#)



[Pitter-Patter Marketing](#)



[eSafetyFirst Canada](#)

Thank You for Renewing - June 2025 Returning Members

Budget Blinds

City & Country Pest Control

DUCA Financial Services Credit Union Ltd

Elizabeth Walker Chartered Professional Accountant

GEON Performance Solutions Canada Inc.

Joel Wells Architect Inc.

Miedema's Motor Sales Ltd.

Slavens & Associates Real Estate Inc. Brokeage - in the hills

Smith & Smith Management

Ycyber IT Solutions Inc

ADVOCATE

Canadian Chamber of Commerce: Our Statement on Savvy Digital Service Tax (DST) Decision

Our Statement on Savvy Digital Service Tax (DST) Decision - The Canadian Chamber of Commerce commends the Government of Canada for eliminating Canada's DST. | June 30, 2025

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce commends the Government of Canada for eliminating Canada's Digital Services Tax (DST), while at the same time helping to secure the end of Section 899, the so-called U.S. "revenge tax." Both measures were counterproductive for business and trade negotiations.

As the Canadian Chamber of Commerce has argued since the beginning, the decision to eliminate the DST makes sense. This tax would have fallen on Canadian consumers, businesses, and investors in the form of higher costs and hurt our economy at a critical time. And removing it moves us one step closer to a renewed, reliable trade deal with the U.S. Administration that will help to secure and grow the already incredible \$3.6 billion of trade a day between our countries.

In the midst of complex, live negotiations, credit is due to Canada's team, including Prime Minister Carney, Minister Champagne, Minister LeBlanc, and Ambassador Hillman among so many others, for their leadership at a pivotal moment for our country.

Both sides must pave the road ahead with goodwill and incremental progress. The promise of a competitive, strong North American economic alliance is worth fighting for, and Canadian businesses are ready to do their part.

David Pierce, Vice President of Government Relations, Canadian Chamber of Commerce

[See Statement](#)

The Dufferin Board of Trade

Monthly Newsletter

NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Orangeville Rotary Ribfest!



DUNK DISPOSAL 5TH TIRE
RECYCLING DRIVE

Friday July 18 - 4 to 10 p.m.

Saturday July 19 - 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday July 20 - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Playing fields at the Alder St.
Community Centre, 275 Alder St.
Orangeville

[Learn More](#)

Thursday Jul 24, 2025 Friday Jul 25,
2025

Admission: FREE

[Learn More](#)



HEART & MIND

Psychotherapy • Education • Collaboration

BUILT BY SMALL BUSINESS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

[HTTPS://WWW.HEARTMINDHUB.CA](https://www.heartmindhub.ca) • [EWP@HEARTMINDHUB.CA](mailto:ewp@heartmindhub.ca) • 647-496-9563

Heart & Mind: Employee Wellness Program

Welcome to our Employee Wellness Program (EWP), designed with your well-being in mind.

We understand that life can be challenging and unpredictable. That's why our program is informed by the principles of trauma and violence awareness, ensuring a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for everyone.

[See Brochure](#)



Lennox Farm Presents: Field to Fork tickets are now on sale! You won't want to miss this year's lineup of amazing Dufferin County chefs.

[Learn More](#)



Charity Golf Tournament Presented by Local Home Finder & Frameworks Renovation in Support of the Alzheimer Society

Thursday Aug 28, 2025

Sponsorship Opportunities Available!

[Learn More](#)

Got something to share? Upload your events, job openings & discounts in your Member's Portal to be featured in our newsletter.

Stay Connected with Us!

Thank you for reading this month's newsletter. We're always here to support you and your business! Have questions or need assistance? Don't hesitate to reach out to our team:

Diana Morris, Executive Director

diana@dufferinbot.ca | 519-941-0490 x **202**

Jaemilyn Gavino, Communications Manager

jaemilyn@dufferinbot.ca | 519-941-0490 x **204**

Cindy Boston-Brown, Business Development Manager

cindy@dufferinbot.ca | 519-941-0490 x **209**

General Inquiries: office@dufferinbot.ca | 519-941-0490 x **800**

We look forward to connecting with you again next month. Until then, stay inspired and keep making great things happen in our community!

Warm regards,

The Dufferin Board of Trade Team

