

# OUTLOOK

Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce



MAKWA-CAHILL



HYDROGEN OPTIMIZED

## CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION

Take a closer look at two local companies who are at the forefront of generating reliable clean energy.

## RIVER DISTRICT INNOVATION

We love when a plan comes together. The Owen Sound River District receives well deserved recognition.

## COURTHOUSE REJUVENATION

Toronto-based FC entertainment and Hospitality Inc. plans to tastefully transform the old Courthouse.

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## JUST SAYING: INNOVATION

We're surrounded by innovation, we may not realize it but it's all around us. I'm pretty sure we never give it a second thought- but maybe we should.

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### Cover photos

L – Makwa-Cahill first pipeline delivery.

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## OUTLOOK

Outlook is a periodic publication of the Owen Sound & District Chamber of Commerce.

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# CLEAN ENERGY INNOVATION AT OUR DOORSTEP

Generating reliable clean energy at scale is essential to solving Canada's intersecting climate and economic development challenges. Two local companies, Hydrogen Optimized Inc. (HOI) and Makwa-Cahill LP (M-C) are at the forefront of doing just that. While the companies are distinctly different, their common denominator is the effective use of innovation to accelerate the clean energy transition.

Innovation describes the application of ideas, technologies or even organizational processes to improve goods and/or services or make their production more efficient. As the experience of the two companies illustrates, innovation can take many creative forms. Breakthrough technological innovation continues to be a core element of HOI's journey to produce green energy at scale. Both companies exemplify the adept use of partnerships to foster the development of innovative strategies, products and services. In fact, M-C itself is an innovative partnership focused on fabrication for the energy sector.

## HYDROGEN OPTIMIZED - GREEN ENERGY AT SCALE

Innovative technology and strategic collaboration are at the core of Owen Sound-based Hydrogen Optimized, which develops and commercializes large-scale green hydrogen production systems targeted to high-growth markets. Andrew Stuart, President and CEO, founded the company in 2017 with his son, Edward, VP Development. Under their leadership, HOI is rapidly advancing the commercialization of its patented RuggedCell™ large-scale water electrolyser technology to produce green hydrogen. When paired with carbon emission-free electricity sources, the cells produce "green" hydrogen that can be used to replace fossil fuels in energy-intensive industries such as steelmaking, ammonia production, e-methanol and other e-fuels. When hydrogen is used as a fuel, the beneficial byproduct is water, not harmful greenhouse gases that cause climate change.



ANDREW STUART  
Hydrogen Optimized

Hydrogen Optimized is one of three operating divisions of the Key DH Technologies group of companies (KEY), which develop and grow innovation-driven businesses in the deuterium and hydrogen industries, serving global markets. The other operating divisions are Isowater®, a world-leading supplier of deuterium oxide to

global customers, and deutraMed™, a breakthrough deuterium science and innovation company. All three operating companies are located locally, with Hydrogen Optimized in Owen Sound and the others in Collingwood.

The companies share a century-long foundation of ground-breaking innovation in hydrogen technologies spanning four generations of the Stuart family. The rich history extends from 1905 when Alexander T. Stuart first identified the huge potential for high-power water electrolysis; through the immense scientific and business accomplishments over several decades of his son Alexander K. Stuart; up to the present-day leadership of Andrew Stuart and the significant contributions of his wife Lisa, HOI's Vice President and Trusted Advisor, and their children, Edward and Samantha. The Stuart family's Southern Georgian Bay roots date from the mid 1960's.

On May 12th, KEY was recognized by Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC) as one of Canada's ten 'Sustainability Changemakers' for a second consecutive year. This accolade is one of a flurry of recent company milestones that augur well for its future, including:

- A long-term agreement to lease a large portion of the 300 thousand square foot former Tenneco plant in Owen Sound in early 2021.
- \$4.8 million awarded by SDTC in May 2021 toward a \$12 million project to advance, scale and commercialize HOI's large-scale green hydrogen production systems.
- An August 2022 agreement with Switzerland-based technology leader ABB, which includes an investment in KEY. HOI gained access to ABB's global footprint and technology leadership in high-power rectifiers (converting AC power to DC), distributed control systems and robotics for manufacturing automation, helping to accelerate the commercialization of RuggedCell™ technology.
- An agreement this year with Texas-based Flowserve Corporation to provide a sophisticated compressor for use by HOI with a demonstration RuggedCell™ system, further accelerating the path to commercialization.
- Also this year, an announcement by local MPP Rick Byers of \$500 thousand in Ontario government funding toward an overall \$4.6 million investment by HOI in its Owen Sound manufacturing operations, adding five new jobs to bring the local workforce over 50 skilled people.

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## CLEAN ENERGY - continued

Reflecting on HOI's stellar array of innovations, investments and collaborations, Andrew Stuart opined that "even after over a century of family leadership and our string of current successes, our journey is far from done. As we expand our RugedCell™ manufacturing capacity over time from 100 MW annually now to 500 MW, we will create more high-quality jobs here to meet the growing demand for large-scale green hydrogen. Through all of this growth, our Owen Sound facility will always be Plant Number One."

### MAKWA-CAHILL: MAAWANJI'IDIWAG

Makwa-Cahill is a fully qualified Indigenous company that has quickly earned a solid reputation for excellent, socially responsible construction and fabrication in Ontario's energy sector. It is an innovative partnership created in 2021 between the Cahill Group, one of Canada's largest multi-disciplinary construction and fabrication companies, and the Makwa Development Corporation (MDC), owned by Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation members Scott Lee and Shane Chegahno, both also M-C Board members.

In announcing the joint venture, Cahill Group CEO Fred Cahill observed, "we operate across Canada and now are very proud to 'come together' with Makwa to begin a new chapter in Ontario". His emphasis on partnership highlights one of M-C's greatest strengths – unlocking the benefits of innovative collaboration. The Ojibway term for this is Maawanjidiwag which, as Mr. Cahill referenced, means coming or working together. M-C does just that: it 'works together' to provide its large nuclear and energy clients and partners a socially balanced, local, qualified, cost-effective and technically superior fabrication and maintenance solution made in Ontario.



CNA 2023 SCOTT LEE PANEL DISCUSSION – MAKWA-CAHILL

In May 2022, M-C celebrated the opening of its state of the art Owen Sound fabrication facility. At full capacity, the 26,000 square foot building will employ more than 50 workers per shift. Situated within the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, the facility is the headquarters for all M-C operations, supporting construction, maintenance and fabrication across Ontario and providing valuable on-the-job training and development opportunities for skilled tradespeople.

Currently the building is fully engaged in the fabrication of sophisticated, high-quality pipes for the refurbishment of Bruce Power's water/ wastewater infrastructure. Bruce Power, a strong supporter and partner of M-C, signed a supplier agreement with them in September 2021. At the grand opening, Mike Rencheck, President & CEO of Bruce Power, praised the M-C joint venture for providing community members with excellent jobs and training, and giving Bruce Power access to the skill sets it needs to continue supplying reliable and cost-effective clean electricity.

As further testimony to M-C's credibility in the energy sector, last year TC Energy contracted M-C to review the inlet-outlet structures of a 1,000 MW pumped-storage power project proposed in Meaford to minimize environmental impacts on Georgian Bay. "Drawing from extensive offshore construction and fabrication experience from within Cahill, Makwa-Cahill is uniquely positioned to support the early design and planning of this important clean energy project," said John Kennedy, new M-C President and Board Director.

In his own release, Scott Lee emphasized the assignment's importance to M-C and MDC, whose employees and their families live around and use the Bay. "We are confident that this collaboration and design process will result in minimizing impacts to Georgian Bay's aquatic environment."

Lee's partner Shane Chegahno offers a long-term perspective. "This is just the beginning of a shared journey. I look forward to many more projects and collaborations that offer our customers and partners outstanding performance that reflects our shared values and dedication to sustainability while providing opportunities for local Indigenous Communities."

From this thoughtful perspective, the future of both HOI and M-C looks bright indeed!



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## EXPERT COLUMN SPENCER SAFETY SOLUTIONS



JANICE SPENCER

The other day I was driving to Collingwood. As I made my way through Thornbury, I saw a roofing crew on the roof of a small business. It was easy to notice that they were not wearing any fall protection. I told myself that if they were still working on my way home, I would stop in to talk to them.

Sure enough, as I made my way home a couple hours later, they were still on the roof. I pulled in and grabbed one off my business cards. As I got out of my car, a young man was walking around the side of the building and so I asked him where the boss was. He said the boss was on the roof and proceeded to climb the ladder to the roof. I hear the radio get turned off and then see someone coming down to see me.

I introduced myself and expressed my concern. He said they all had the proper training. As I stood there, I asked the young man how old he was. He was 17. My first thought was why is he not in school. My second thought was does he even know what he was doing and what is required of him.

Imagine you are that young man's father, brother, mother, sister, grandparent. Think about your reaction to getting a call that your son was injured on the job and would not be coming home.

Every week, I get email notifications about workplace fatalities across the country. They are still happening on an almost daily basis. This is why I do what I do. If I can ensure that every person on my site goes home at the end of the day, then I am doing my job.

As a safety professional there is only so much training I can conduct, policies I can write and enforce. It is ultimately up to a worker to make that final decision to do what is right.

Unfortunately, that worker is not the only one who will have to face the consequences if something goes wrong. The supervisor and employer are responsible for ensuring they are protecting everyone on the job and will potentially face legal liabilities. But is also the coworkers, family and friends who will live out the consequences for the rest of their lives.

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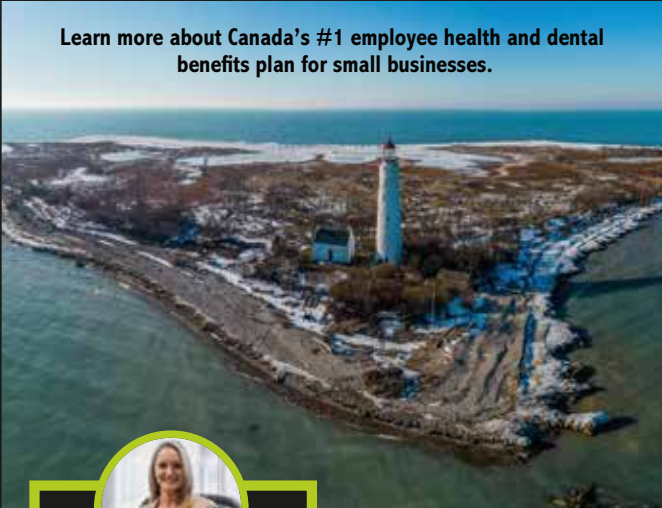

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# THE RIVER DISTRICT IS OPEN FOR INNOVATION

March 8, 2023, the Owen Sound River District wins the Festival and Events Ontario Innovation Award, a first for the City of Owen Sound's only Business Improvement Area.

The Owen Sound River District is in year two of a three-year River District Action Plan. Part of that plan is reinventing and creating innovative events under the new brand to encourage families to spend time in the River District.

In 2021 the Kiwanis Club of Owen Sound made the decision to change the annual Santa Claus Parade to the evening instead of the regular morning parade. Parade day has often run on the same day as the kick-off for the Festival of Northern Lights. This allowed the River District to harness the crowds and run an event simultaneously to encourage people to start their holiday shopping on a day that has been notoriously bad for business. Holiday Magic was born.

The idea was to activate the street to encourage people to come before the parade, eat, shop, and enjoy in a family-friendly environment and then partake in the Festival of Northern Lights activities. Holiday Magic activations include live music, picnic tables, contests, giveaways, fire tables and more. In the event's first year, the crowds were astronomical. Feedback from some business owners was that it brought in a different audience, one that hadn't refamiliarized themselves with the heart of the city. Because of the sheer amount of traffic, sales were significantly higher than on any other parade day. Not only that, but the retention of people in the River District was much longer than normal. People didn't leave immediately following the parade because the River District offered activations and shopping to fill the time between the parade and the Festival of Northern Lights. The three groups worked together for the first time to leverage everyone's strengths and pull power to provide an incredible family fun night. Holiday Magic was a success.

In 2023 Festival and Event Ontario introduced the Innovation Award category "to recognize the achievement of a festival/event that has introduced creative, effective solutions to strengthen events, appeal to a broader audience, or enhance the experience for patrons." Holiday Magic received this award and would like to thank the Kiwanis and the Festival of Northern Lights for their continued cooperation and willingness to innovate.



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# COURTHOUSE REJUVENATION: EVERYTHING OLD WILL BE NEW AGAIN

What a Community chooses to save is what a Community chooses to say about itself. Consider as a prime positive example the concerted efforts over many years by the City Council and many others across Owen Sound to save the former Grey County Courthouse, Jail, and Governor's Residence. Thanks to their vision and perseverance, its future looks much brighter. The 169-year-old judicial complex has been vacant since 2011 and demolition was a looming possibility. But gloom turned to hope in March 2022 when Toronto-based FC Entertainment and Hospitality Inc. (FCEH) acquired the property from the City and began a phased redevelopment process. Since then, the company has made steady progress in planning for the historical site's tasteful transformation into a multifaceted event and entertainment venue. Other compelling features will include fine dining, afternoon high tea for seniors, a jail-themed speak-easy, an interactive museum, an elegant garden, and shared workspace with access to business incubation advice and assistance.

"Our collaboration with the City of Owen Sound has been excellent and I'm looking forward to fulfilling our commitment to have shovels in the ground next year" said Nick Ainis, FCEH's CEO. Together, he and his wife and business partner and co-founder Jennyvi Infante, the company's COO, are

spearheading the challenging revitalization exercise. "Elevating these historic buildings into livable and code-approved conditions while respecting their heritage features requires a lot of hard work and imagination", added Nick. "But it's well worth it for all concerned. The result will be a *breathtaking* but fully functioning restored architectural treasure of fundamental historical significance."

Nick's enthusiastic observation underscores the pivotal role that the construction of its own Courthouse and County Jail had in the creation of Grey County. On April 15, 1852, the Provisional Council of Grey County held its inaugural meeting in the Town of Sydenham. The formation of the new County brought together municipalities which had formerly been part of the neighbouring counties of Simcoe and Wellington. This meeting marked Grey County's creation, but it was conditional. The new County of Grey would remain a part Wellington County until it had erected its own Courthouse and Jail. This requirement was met in 1854 with their construction in Owen Sound on the lots on Bay Street and Hill Street – now all designated as 3d Avenue East. A stately Governor's Residence was added in 1889.

*continued on page 17*





# BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 25+ EMPLOYEES



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## BUSINESS OF THE YEAR 1-24 EMPLOYEES



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# BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

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## SKILLED TRADE 1-5 EMPLOYEES



**Meg's Drywall** Meghan Robertson. Category Sponsor: GSS engineering Jeff Graham

## NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR



**Upwards Art Studio** Amelia Kraemer. Pictured Justin Kraemer  
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## SKILLED TRADE 6+ EMPLOYEES



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## EXPERT COLUMN EXECUTORS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF DELEGATING THE RIGHT PERSON



When it comes to estate planning, having the right executor is crucial. An Executor is responsible for carrying out the wishes outlined in your will after your death. They are responsible for managing your assets, paying off debts, and distributing your estate to your beneficiaries. It is a decision that should not be taken lightly, as choosing the wrong executor can lead to unnecessary stress, confusion, and conflict for your loved ones.

One of the main reasons why choosing the right executor is so important is that it can help ensure that your wishes are carried out exactly as you intended. This is particularly important if you have complex assets or specific instructions for how your assets should be distributed. For example, if you have a large collection of art or antiques, you may want to ensure that they are sold or donated to a specific museum or organization. Similarly, if you have minor children, you may want to ensure that their financial needs are met and that they are placed in the care of a particular family member or guardian.

Another reason why choosing the right executor is important is that it can help avoid conflicts and disputes among your beneficiaries. When there is no clear executor or when the wrong person is chosen, it can lead to disagreements, resentment, and legal battles. This can be especially true in cases where there are multiple beneficiaries with conflicting interests or when there is a lack of clarity around how assets should be distributed.

As Desmarais Financial Services, we understand the importance of choosing the right executor and getting your affairs in order. Our team of experienced professionals can help you navigate the

complex world of estate planning and ensure that your wishes are carried out exactly as you intended. We offer a range of services to help you get your affairs in order, including:


**Estate Planning:** Our team can help you create a comprehensive estate plan that meets your unique needs and circumstances. We can help you identify your assets; determine how they should be distributed and help you choose the right executor to carry out your wishes.

We can provide you with contact information for Executor Services

**Trust Services:** If you have complex assets or specific instructions for how your assets should be distributed, we can discuss how to set up a trust to ensure that your wishes are carried out exactly as you intended. We can help you choose the right trustee to manage your assets and ensure that your beneficiaries are taken care of.

**Office Services:** Our office services can help you manage your assets during your lifetime and ensure that your affairs are in order before your death. We can help you with everything from investment management to tax planning to philanthropic giving.

In conclusion, choosing the right executor is crucial when it comes to estate planning. It can help ensure that your wishes are carried out exactly as you intended, avoid conflicts and disputes among your beneficiaries, and provide peace of mind for yourself and your loved ones. At Desmarais Financial Services, we understand the importance of delegating the right person and getting your affairs in order. Contact us today to learn more about our estate planning services and how we can help you get your affairs in order.



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## COURTHOUSE REJUVENATION - continued

But time marched on and needs changed. In 1960 the Courthouse function moved and in 2011 the Jail and Governor's Residence were also vacated. Except for temporary use by artisans the buildings have remained empty ever since. The City which assumed ownership in 2011 declared them surplus in 2014. Deterioration set in and uncertainty prevailed. Now, at long last, things once again are in good hands.

FC Entertainment & Hospitality actively evaluates properties for their potential as an event venue, dining and entertainment operation. This involves cooperation with municipalities, landowners, neighbours, and partners. FCEH acquires and operates its properties, provides the vision, planning, design, development, approvals, and construction turn-key. From this perspective the Courthouse rejuvenation is the "opportunity of a lifetime" says Nick.

Nick Ainis has a Bachelor of Technology degree in Architectural Science and Project Management, from Ryerson University. He is the founder and CEO of Fusioncorp Developments Inc, a niche residential construction company with a solid record of timely completions and excellence in construction of

both low-rise and high-rise multi-unit residential projects. The company will bring these strengths to its role as the builder of what will be called *Royal Rose Court*. This designation honours Nick's mother, Rose Ramos, whose family developed and operated the Capitol Tea Room and Restaurant in Toronto in the 1930's which evolved into a flourishing event banquet business.

Jennyvi Infante is CEO of Jennyvi Events Inc. whose guiding credo, from weddings and parties to galas and fundraisers, is to *Make Dreams Come True*. Her background and affiliations include New York based Lindsay Landman Events, the Events Leadership Institute, The Trebis Institute, and Cornell University. Jennyvi's planning, design and production capabilities will be integral to the creation and success of *Royal Rose Court*.

Not only are Jennyvi and Nick bringing their energy and talents to this iconic project, but they are forging local roots personally as well. From a residence in Annan they intend to learn about and contribute to their new community. The Chamber of Commerce offers them a warm welcome. Thanks for such a promising beginning!



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A chamber membership helps to promote your business. Each chamber member is encouraged to host a workshop to help introduce what their businesses have to offer. "It's a perfect time to join the Chamber."



By: Savannah Dawson

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# ONTARIO'S LIFE SCIENCES COLLABORATIVE OUTLINES VISION FOR STRONGER, MORE RESILIENT LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR

Three years after Ontario's biomanufacturing capacity was put to the test during the pandemic, Ontario's Life Sciences Collaborative, consisting of representation from industry, health care and academia, is calling for continued investment throughout the life sciences ecosystem to build on the government of Ontario's critical commitments to the sector and strengthen Ontario's role as a global leader in life sciences.

The report, *Building Ontario's Resiliency: Empowering the Life Sciences Ecosystem*, highlights the need for strategic matching of federal dollars in biomanufacturing and life sciences. With the pandemic highlighting the importance of the life sciences sector, the Collaborative is looking to work with the Government of Ontario to continue to champion the sector and build a stronger, more self-sufficient Ontario for today and tomorrow.

Now, with a continued spotlight on life sciences, the province has the opportunity to position Ontario's innovators and innovations front-and-centre on the global stage. Building on efforts that had been accelerated during the pandemic, we must seize this moment to continue to fuel a sector that saves lives, drives economic development, and makes Ontario self-sufficient.

It is why the Life Sciences Collaborative has come together – to demonstrate our willing partnership in helping Ontario take life sciences to the next level.

Our report outlines how we can work together to create a future where the sector has the highly skilled talent and ground-breaking innovation it needs to drive solutions for the benefit of all Ontarians and ensure pandemic preparedness.

In order to build on this strategy, and the efforts made throughout the pandemic, as well as in the years leading up to it, the Life Sciences Collaborative is calling for:

1. Investment throughout the life sciences ecosystem, including in life sciences research and innovation, and support to expand enrolment in high-demand programs.
2. Strategic matching of federal dollars in biomanufacturing and life sciences to ensure Ontario does not fall behind what Quebec, British Columbia and Alberta are leveraging.
3. Continued collaboration and conversation through Ontario's new Life Sciences Council to ensure the reflection of a range of perspectives that are as diverse as the Collaborative's membership.

With the right ingredients, Ontario can continue to champion investments in life sciences and capitalize on opportunities to support our economic recovery, strengthen our pandemic preparedness, and build a stronger Ontario for today and tomorrow.

For more information, visit: <https://ontariosuniversities.ca/reports/building-ontarios-resiliency-empowering-the-life-sciences-ecosystem>


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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAMBER



*Diane Austin CEO*

### Chamber Trips

One of the many things the Chamber in collaboration with Owen Sound Travel does is host a trip annually. We were able to offer this again after a three-year shutdown for people going anywhere. The trip this year was in Tuscany. It was my first Chamber trip, and I do not have enough words to tell you what a wonderful and fun experience it was.

We got to explore and experience the beautiful Tuscan countryside and cities and villages, Florence, Sienna, Lucca, San Gimignano to name a few. There was a cruise along the Italian Riviera to visit Cinque Terra.

The food and wine experiences were phenomenal. We even learned how to make our own pasta, ragu and distinct types of bruschetta and taste them.

In past years, the annual trips were in Iceland, Croatia, China, Ireland, Africa. The travelers' enjoyed these trips so much we have some of our travelers that have gone every year.

As much as I enjoyed seeing Tuscany and learning of the strong history, culture and cuisine, my favorite part were my fellow travelers and making new friends.

Next year we are looking at going to Spain, (Madrid, Barcelona, Seville, Granada, Rock of Gibraltar.) Watch for our information night in the fall.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



*Jason Hemstock, Chair*

As I begin my term as your chair for the Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce, I am filled with excitement. Excitement over the opportunities that exist within our wonderful business community and the talented people we have here to help seize those opportunities.

Owen Sound has always had a special place in my heart for many reasons. The most important reason being the people that live here and the sense of community we all have. Time after

time, we have seen this population come together to help whenever and wherever needed. We have always been strong because of our ability to work together and support one another.

With the busy summer season upon us, I would like to encourage you to make a small commitment to yourself and this community. I would like to ask you to make time to get out to some local events. Go out and be a part of at least one of the events offered within our beautiful area this summer. You never know who you will meet! It is amazing how many ideas, opportunities and inspirations can come from getting out there and starting a conversation. The value in the conversations I have had since attending events again has had me inspired and energized even several weeks later. So please, get out and enjoy yourself. Start a conversation with someone new. Make a connection within this great community. I will look forward to seeing you there!

Jason Hemstock, Owen Sound & District Chamber Board Chair



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## WOODLEY CARE SERVICES: KEEPING LOVED ONES AT HOME AS LONG AS POSSIBLE



A wide variety of daily living challenges caused by aging, accidents or illness make remaining at home difficult for a growing number of people in Grey-Bruce. To stay safe and comfortable at home these individuals often need compassionate, specialized personal care where they live. But rapidly increasing demand for such services coupled with government cutbacks means too many people in need do not have access

to such necessary care. That's what prompted me to create Woodley Care Services in June, 2014. I wanted to help fill this local home care gap. And, nine years later, we've enabled many satisfied clients to flourish at home in the everyday life they already know and love – while getting a little help from us to stay independent and mobile.

Woodley Care Services provides a wide range of professional home care services, with an emphasis on making a positive difference in the lives of our clients and their families. Among our many services we:

- Help keep seniors at home as long as possible;
- Support special needs individuals;
- Assist with behavioural management;
- Help with daily living including personal care, meals, laundry, light cleaning, errands, and grocery purchases;

- Accompany our clients to community events and activities like movies, bowling, swimming, out of town road trips, Attack hockey games (even a Leafs game!); and
- Provide much-needed respite relief for caregivers.

Our Woodley Care Services team is made up of certified PSWs, like me, PSAs, professional nurses and a behavioural specialist. We all share a genuine passion for helping others. We help in people's homes, retirement homes, and long term care facilities. We usually deliver one on one care to meet our clients' needs but offer two on one support for special needs individuals. Centrally located in Owen Sound, we regularly serve clients and families all across Grey-Bruce.

Nine years after starting Woodley Care Services I'm most proud of the satisfaction expressed by our clients and their families. I know this best from the unsolicited testimonials we regularly receive from them. For example, one client recently told me that "It's been a treat having Jeremy attend my aging parents, thank you. Another said "My mom has been doing much better since hiring Woodley - the service has been fantastic".

If you or anyone you know needs reliable, specialized home care, contact me, Jeremy Woodley, by phone at 225-923-0624 or email [jerwood@wightman.ca](mailto:jerwood@wightman.ca)

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# NEW MEMBER PROFILES BY SAVANNAH DAWSON



## KRISTIN GOWAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Hi, I'm Kristin of Kristin Gowan Photography. The Boutique portrait experience focuses on creating wall art to tell your family's story. I have been active in the Grey -Bruce community since 2016 and looking forward to meeting my small business community and helping them tell their story.

Contact  
Kristin Gowan  
hello@kristingowanphotography.com  
kristingowanphotography.com

*Kristin Gowan*  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## SAFE N SOUND

Safe n Sound Homeless initiative is a not-for-profit charitable community based organization. We operate "The Space" (310 8th Street East Owen Sound)- a community within a community where the at risk of homelessness and the homeless can access basic needs as well as support, advocacy and referral. We operate an after-hours emergency housing program which provides emergency shelter in motels and breakfast, seven days a week. We also operate an emergency housing and support line where members of the community can receive support, help with tenancy issues, and referrals to other agencies.

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# JUST SAYING

## BY DAVE CARR



### The Innovators – They are us!

So, this story is a bit vague, but here goes: Owen Sound's Emily Doherty was a student at the OSCVI (remember it?) and friends with one Lisa D'Amato – in California, I think. As far as I can figure it out, the two were in a shopping mall along with Lisa's young infant, and the issue was feeding. There was a bib, there was a mess, and there was a comment/observation from Emily that there had to be a better way for this to happen.

The two brainstormed and next thing you know Lisa was appearing on ABC Television's "Shark Tank", the US version of "Dragon's Den". Their product? Dare-U-Go, a plastic, safe 3-compartment bib-food container contraption that did indeed land a Shark, and is now a popular item for mothers across the continent.

(By the way, the story goes that Emily could not appear on the TV show "because she's Canadian".....but that's another tale.)

#### Innovation.

The simple definition of "innovation" is "a new method, idea, product, etc." but I think that's a gross oversimplification. It gives no real substance to how a mind transforms a problem into a solution and the infinite amount of design testing, success and failure that makes it happen.

By the way, did you have a Timbit from Tim Horton's today? If you did, thank the late Vern Barber of Vern's Donut Villa in Owen Sound. He's the one who started making little round deep-fried delights from the leftover dough in his doughnuts, and that's what Tim Horton's co-founder Ron Joyce saw the day he stopped into Vern's in the early 70's.

They were Vern Bits. And the rest, as they say, is history.

#### Innovation.

We're surrounded by innovation, people coming up with new solutions to vexing problems. It might be with cardboard boxes, it might be with hydrogen; it might be in mine equipment or in the automotive market. It might be in a restaurant dish, but it's all around us, and when it's working, I'm pretty sure we never give it another thought – but maybe that's as it should be.

Now I think that as we watch new housing developments come to city hall for approval, we sense the population growth spurt we've waited decades for. The betting is that the jobs will follow the people, and if that's so, what "innovations" will become part of the Scenic City's proud energy?

I think I'm getting excited!



OWEN SOUND & DISTRICT CHAMBER

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