



Ontario Restaurant Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA) Launches new Simcoe County Board and Chapter in 2009

The **Ontario Restaurant, Hotel and Motel Association (ORHMA)** announces the launch of its new ORHMA Simcoe County Region board and chapter to represent the accommodation and foodservice sectors in the region. The Simcoe County chapter is the first new chapter established and supported by the ORHMA in a decade. Currently, the ORHMA has local chapters in London, Ottawa, Toronto and Windsor. “Expanding our regions is an approach that will bring the industry closer, benefitting not only the local climate, but building a stronger voice in Ontario,” said ORHMA President & CEO, **Tony Elenis**. “Simcoe County presents a quality hospitality product and developing a presence in this vibrant region will help foster a strong industry.”

An ORHMA board representing the interests of the accommodation and foodservice sectors regionally, with a voice provincially, is a tremendous opportunity for the local business community. “Given the current political and economic climate, there could not be a more appropriate time to mobilize a business community with a direct link to provincial affairs in the accommodations and foodservice sector,” said **John Cunningham**, a Georgian College faculty member and Founding Chair of the Simcoe County chapter.

Benefits of having a local ORHMA chapter include:

- Opening a new portal to Queen’s Park through the only provincial association with combined restaurant and hotel lobbying powers;
- Contributing to the defragmentation of the hospitality industry regionally;
- Providing greater connectivity on related local and regional issues;
- Increasing connectivity outside the Simcoe County region;
- Providing a stronger, more coordinated business community;
- Formalizing a provincially recognized board structure and committee bylaws;
- Providing access to outside expertise, experience and current industry information; and
- Providing a “one voice” approach to the accommodations and foodservice sectors in Simcoe County.

The new board consists of representatives from the accommodations and foodservice sectors in Simcoe County and includes:

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| Marcia Budd | Birchmere Retirement Residence | Orillia | Foodservice |
| Daniel Clements | Porterhouse Restaurants | Barrie | Foodservice |
| John Cunningham | Georgian Dining Room | Barrie | Foodservice |
| Juri Daniel | Downtowner Bar and Grill | Barrie | Foodservice |
| Terry McNaughton | Ossawippi Express Dining | Orillia | Foodservice |
| James Henry | Westin Trillium House | Collingwood | Accommodation |
| Brenda Lucas | Comfort Inn | Barrie | Accommodation |
| Michelle McNaney | Comfort Inn | Orillia | Accommodation |
| Maureen Way | Stonegate Inn | Orillia | Accommodation |
| Cheryl Lawson | Georgian Hospitality Programs | Barrie | Advisor |

Two hospitality students from Georgian College will also serve on the board.

The ORHMA is the largest provincial hospitality association in Canada representing more than 11,000 establishments in Ontario. For further details on the ORHMA, visit www.orhma.com.

For details on board nominations and representation, contact John Cunningham at 705-728-1968 ext. 1158 or jcunningham@georgianc.on.ca.