



Board of Trade inducts 2007 Council Diana Hills-Milligan named President

AJAX-PICKERING (For Immediate Release) -- The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade has inducted its 2007 governing Council, naming Diana Hills-Milligan as President.

Hills-Milligan, Veridian Corporation's Public Affairs Officer and Executive Assistant to the CEO, was recently sworn in by Pickering Mayor Dave Ryan, while Ajax Mayor Steve Parish had the honour of inducting the 14-member Council.

"I follow in great footsteps. Joan Wideman and Tracy Paterson have made significant contributions to the rebuilding of this Board of Trade," Hills-Milligan said, referring to the past and current chairs of the Board. "I intend to continue and maintain the growth that they have begun, and to bring more recognition to our Board."

The Board now represents 455 members of the local business community, and in 2006 was even able to retire a long-standing debt, added Paterson, Acting Executive Director of the Rouge Valley Health System Foundation, and 2007 Chair of the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade.

Hills-Milligan said the Board will continue to lobby for issues that are important to the local business community -- such as the need to develop employment lands along Highway 407, the widening of highways 7 and 401, and the expedited extension of Highway 407. The Board will also continue to promote the expansion of north-south access to the 407, Seaton lands, and potential Pickering airport lands, she added.

Other members of the 2007 Council include:

- o Don Terry, First Vice-President (Ontario Power Generation)
- o John G. Smith, Second Vice-President (WordSmith Media Inc.)
- o Tim Keller, Treasurer (Money Concepts-Pickering)
- o Janis Amzallag, Corporate Secretary (Conext Inc.)
- o Cameron Murkar, Legal Advisor (Polak, McKay, Hawkshaw)
- o Joan Wideman, Director (The Lenbrook Group of Companies)
- o John Copetti, Director (Copetti & Co.)
- o Craig Oldman, Director (Siemens Canada)
- o Cynthia Cusack, Director (Jay and Jay Delivery Service)
- o Elana Arthurs, Director (Hardiman Mount & Associates)
- o Donna McFarlane, Director (Durham College & UOIT)
- o Dave Johnson, Director (Northstar Promotions)
- o Lynn Winterstein, Advisor (The City of Pickering)
- o Luisa DaRocha, Advisor (The Town of Ajax)

"This will be an exciting year for the Board of Trade and its Council," said Executive Director Kathy McKay. "We encourage every member of the local business community to join us in our efforts, and to strengthen their businesses in the process."

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The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade is the voice of the local business community. Established in 1955, its 455 members represent an array of business sectors ranging from the service industry to manufacturers and distributors. The group's advocacy and policy initiatives focus on issues including economic development, healthcare, education, transportation issues, community and social development, environment, and energy.