

MINUTES (DRAFT pending approval at AGM 2027)

1. Call to Order & Welcome – Lisa Comerford

The 162nd Annual General Meeting of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce was called to order at 11:35 am.

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Approval of Agenda – Lisa Comerford

Motion - May I have a mover and seconder

That the Agenda for the 162nd AGM of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce be approved.

Moved by: Maxine Holland

Seconded by: Katrina MacDonald

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes from AGM 2025 – Lisa Comerford

Motion - That the Minutes of the 161st AGM of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce be approved.

Moved by: Dean Tindale

Seconded by: Mark Kirkpatrick

CARRIED

5. Presentation of 2025 Financial Statements - Heidi Nemish

Heidi confirmed the conclusion of the review engagement that the financial statements represent the Belleville Chamber's fairly and are in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

She then shared relevant details from the statements that identified key changes in revenue and expenses from the 2024 Statements, primarily related to the transition from coordinating City Events. The revenue related to delivering the Ontario Career Lab are identified as a Services Contract and with the GICs and current cash balance, the Chamber is in a healthy financial position.

Motion - That the 2025 Financial Statements are accepted as presented.

Moved by: Melissa Haig

Seconded by: Katrina MacDonald

CARRIED

6. Appointment of Auditors – Lisa Comerford

Motion - That Welch & Company be appointed as auditors for the Belleville Chamber of Commerce 2026 financial reports.

Moved by: Mary Alfredsson
Seconded by: Lorrie Ostroskie

Discussion –

Heidi Nemish noted that pursuant to the Board of Trade Act Part II, under which we are governed, and our bylaws maintained, we require the appointment of an auditor by member motion each year.

While the bylaw refers to an "audit," a *review engagement* remains standard practice for organizations of our size. The Chamber has submitted its financial reports for review annually since 2019, meeting accreditation requirements while maintaining independent oversight at a lower cost.

On the basis of our current financial status and adherence to consistent reporting practices, the Board recommends waiving the requirement for a full audit and appointing Welch LLP to conduct a review engagement for the 2026 statements.

Lisa Comerford:

Any further discussion?

Amended Motion presented

That Welch & Company be appointed to carry out a review engagement for the Belleville Chamber of Commerce 2026 financial reports.

Moved by: Mary Alfredsson
Seconded by: Dean Tindale
CARRIED

7. Annual Report – Jill Raycroft

The CEO provided a brief report, reflecting on activity as related to delivering on the objectives from the Strategic Plan (developed as part of the re-accreditation process completed in 2025)

- 1) Be the Voice of Business wherein the desired outcome is to be sought out for advice and perspective on issues affecting Belleville's economic climate and supporting policy & legislation at all three levels of government. She noted the successful adoption of three resolutions presented at the OCC Conference in Ottawa with approval ratings over 96%
 - a. **Standardization of the Ontario Building Code interpretation**
 - b. Elimination of Section 7 of Regulation 851, related to PSR (Pre-Safety Reviews) on the grounds it is a duplication of legislation and non-compliant with the Canadian Mutual Recognition Agreement passed in December 2025.
 - c. **Returning from Crisis to Care** which urges the Government of Ontario to restore health care and housing systems while continuing to support managing the crisis.

The debate also brought opportunities for the Belleville Chamber to actively support recommendations to **Oppose Excessive OMVIC Fee Increases and Strengthen Oversight to Protect Ontario Consumers and Dealers**

BCC also proposed a 5th recommendation to the resolution **"Supporting Ontario's Small Landlords to Strengthen the Rental Housing Market"** that calls for the "repeal of the Measures Respecting Premises with Illegal Drug Activity Act, 2025, as it relates to measures placing enforcement obligations on small landlords" which was approved after significant discussion and debate that weighed the urgency of the issue compared to the need for a separate resolution. This issue had been brought forward by the Quinte Region Landlords' Association after the deadline to submit resolutions had passed and response from the OCC during an initial consultation did not seem to warrant a resolution within the scope of their advocacy.

Jill noted the Belleville Chamber of Commerce was also recognized at the OCC AGM with a Certificate of Achievement – Honourable Mention for the "Hidden Costs of Community Safety" Advocacy Campaign.

The chamber has also submitted three Expressions of Interest for resolutions related to inclusion of processed meat products in canned foods, the recognition of the non-profit sector as an industry and extending Permanent Residency pathways to include hospitality and advanced manufacturing skills as relevant to the workforce.

Cabin Chats have been a new initiative bringing members in to meet with the MP & MPP; these discussions provide valuable insight to the CEO, especially as they relate to creating and supporting policy resolutions at the federal and provincial levels. We also look forward to the upcoming State of the City Address at the end of May.

- 2) Support the Membership with additional opportunities for engagement and support; the new website will build ways for members to participate with the Chamber and each other, replacing the M2M “discount” program with rewards for supporting each other through social media channels.
- 3) Model Sound Business Practices directs us to address risk management, planning and sustainability as an example of sound business practice. The transition from coordinating City Events and the implementation of the Ontario Career Lab as a new venture has assisted building new partnerships with the high schools, with the long-term goal of supporting youth retention by demonstrating the breadth and diversity of career opportunities in Belleville. Our financial position now is strong, but the discontinuance of the Visitor Services contract with the city does present financial pressure for the future and generating alternate revenue streams will be a focus of the Chamber through another year of transition as we detach from the formal operations of delivering visitor services – both online and in person.

Lisa Comerford:

Motion - May I have a mover and seconder
That the Annual Report be received as presented.

Moved by: Maxine Holland

Seconded by: Heather Wilson

CARRIED

8. Approval of Proposed Slate of Directors (Acclaimed) – Chris Auger

As outlined in our bylaws, the Chamber’s Board of Directors must include a minimum of eleven and a maximum of sixteen members.

Nominations for directors must be submitted to the Governance committee in advance and are not taken from the floor.

If nominations exceed available positions, an election is held in advance of the Annual General Meeting.

On the basis of submitted applications or election results, the Governance Committee is responsible for presenting a slate of candidates to the Board;

This year, we received 12 nominations, a sufficient number to fill the available positions without requiring an election. We have ten returning members and two new on the slate for approval by the members.

Proposed Slate of Directors:

Mary	Alfredsson	Templeman LLP
Jared	Bellemare	Whitley Newman Insurance
Lisa	Comerford	Central Lakes Association of Realtors
Chris	King	QEDC & QMA
Mark	Kirkpatrick	Loyalist College

Katrina	MacDonald	Kasama Marketing Inc.
Heidi	Nemish	Wilkinson LLP
Rakesh	Parmar	Linguine's/Export Grill
Sandi	Ramsay	Centre for Workforce Development
Canveet	Randhawa	Arabella Retirement Residence
Abhi	Surabhi	Zenula Health
Dean	Tindale	Bel-Con Design-Builders Ltd

Motion: that the slate of Directors, as presented by the Governance Committee, be elected by Ordinary Resolution for a one-year term beginning May 1, 2026 and ending April 30, 2027.

Moved by: Ishpreet Singh

Seconded by: Delilah Chartrand

CARRIED

This formally concludes Lisa Comerford's role as President and my tenure with the Board of Directors as Secretary.

The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will now each be elected by Ordinary Resolution. Only elected Directors may be nominated to the executive positions of the Board.

As there is no acting President, the CEO will proceed with nominations for the President from the elected slate of directors.

9. Election of President – Jill Raycroft

Nominations from the elected slate were opened

Nominee(s): Sandi Ramsay

No other nominations were presented and the position of President was Acclaimed

Jill offered Sandi congratulations on her election as the 162nd President of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce and directed her to assume the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

10. Election of Executive Officers – President (Sandi Ramsay)

Sandi proceeded with the elections of Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer by Ordinary Resolution from the newly elected directors, identifying that executives to the Board must be in good standing and served at least one year on the Board. In the case of multiple nominations, an election would take place where a majority in favour will carry each vote.

1. Vice-President

Call for Nominations

Nominee(s): Dean Tindale

Acclaimed

1. Secretary

Call for Nominations

Nominee(s): Lisa Comerford

Acclaimed

2. *Treasurer*

Call for Nominations

Nominee(s): Heidi Nemish

Acclaimed

11. **Board of Directors Oath – Mayor Officiates the Oath**

His Worship, Mayor Neil Ellis officiated the induction of directors through the reading of the Oath as follows:

I swear that I will faithfully and truly perform my duty as a Director of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce, and that I will, in all matters connected with the discharge of that duty, do all things, and only such things, as I truly and conscientiously believe to be adapted to promote the objects for which the board was constituted, according to the true intent and meaning of the same.

12. **Approval of New Members – Lisa Comerford**

As outlined in our bylaws, new member applications must be approved by a Special Resolution, requiring a two-thirds majority vote.

Motion

That the applications for membership, as presented, be approved by Special Resolution of the Members.

Moved by: Katrina MacDonald

Seconded by: Lorrie Ostroskie

CARRIED

13. **New Business – President**

Jill shared the new website – www.bellevillechamber.ca which went live this week. Updates to www.findlocalbelleville.ca – an interactive directory map, are coming soon and will be connected to the site.

Unveiling of the 2026 Partnership Banner representing multiple members who have invested in the opportunity to “Here In Spirit Every Time”. The new banner is much larger than the first, and the program has been successful.

14. **Adjournment – President**

Motion for adjournment

Moved by: Mark Kirkpatrick

The 162nd Annual General Meeting of the Belleville Chamber of Commerce was adjourned at 12:08 pm

Appendix: New Members for Ratification (In good standing as of April 29, 2026)

Company Name	Join Date
BCS Automation Ltd.	5/15/2025
ALL THE BUZZ	5/26/2025
BrandRelate Marketing	6/2/2025
Savour Italy Tours	6/2/2025
Secura Financial Group	6/2/2025
Press Play Cafe Ltd	6/6/2025
Pickleplex Social Club	6/24/2025
Bob Clute	7/16/2025
Insurance, Taxes & Retirement (ITR Group) Inc.	7/17/2025
Feàrna Mac	7/23/2025
County Balloons	8/19/2025
ProFleet Care Rust Control	9/15/2025
Lean Possibilities	10/8/2025
William Vanderlaan Mortgages Hewbrook Incorporated	10/23/2025
First Contact Sales	10/24/2025
Pearl Bubble Tea	11/6/2025
Signarama Quinte	11/24/2025
HockeyStickMan Warehouse	11/26/2025
Clean Shine	11/27/2025
JD Lawn Care and Maintenance	11/27/2025
IG Wealth Management	1/8/2026
MNP LLP	1/8/2026
Amtex Digital Corporation	1/16/2026
Lend A Helping Hand Transportation	1/19/2026
DMS Montessori Belleville	2/3/2026
Shorelines Casinos, Great Canadian Entertainment	2/3/2026
Z2 Transport Inc.	2/5/2026
Belleville Tirecraft	2/9/2026
Make Space Storage	2/19/2026
Telus	2/24/2026
Banek Contracting Ltd	2/26/2026
Nurse Next Door Belleville INC.	3/19/2026
Quinte Region Landlords Association	3/25/2026
The Wild Poppy Landscape Design Co.	3/27/2026
Richter's Market Co Inc.	4/13/2026