MEDIA RELEASE

**Vibrant, Diverse and Energetic New Board of Directors Elected for**

**Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce**

With a renewed vigour and vitality, the Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce is pleased and proud to present the new team of business and community leaders who will be taking the organization into new, exciting and productive directions for the foreseeable future.

At its Annual General Meeting (AGM), held on Wednesday, January 18, in the classroom at ProTech Transportation Training in Napanee, a new board of directors was elected, a new executive determined and a new business manager announced. The new board features representation from a number of different sectors, and also represents a true sea change in the leadership of the business community in Greater Napanee as 10 of the new directors are new to the chamber board.

The two returning members of the board are Jennifer Maloney of The Investors Group, who was elevated to the position of President, while Julie Sullivan of Career Edge will be the Vice-president. New board member Jim Barber, a communications and marketing consultant/writer is the chamber’s new Secretary. The position of Treasurer will be determined at the first meeting of the new board, which takes place on Wednesday, February 15, at the Napanee Business Centre.

The other board members-at-large are as follows:

Christina Bergeron – House of Vernucci

Leanne Boomhour - RBC Royal Bank

Claire Courneya – BMO Bank of Montreal

Geoff Courneya – Distinguished Life

Tom Derreck – Napanee District Community Foundation

Laurie Deslauriers – Kingston Literacy & Skills/Napanee

Geordan Saunders – Napanee Beer Company

Lindsay Wilbraham – Exit Realty Acceleration

Rebecca Wilkinson – MyFM 88.7

As well, Arthur Dolan of Succession Transition will remain in an ex-officio capacity as Past President.

“The 2017 AGM of the NDCC made me very proud of our business community. I was overwhelmed by the response to the commitment of ensuring that the Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce is an organization that will truly be the ‘voice of business.’  I am further inspired by the wealth of talented young professionals that have stepped up to support the business community by taking on roles on the board of directors,” said incoming President Maloney.

Another big announcement was the hiring of Megan Smith as the Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce’s new business manager. Smith, a Napanee native, has a wealth of experience working in both municipal government and the non-profit sector. Well known to many in her hometown, she worked in the recreation department for the Town of Greater Napanee for a number of years, as well as fulfilling similar responsibilities

with Loyalist Township. More recently, she worked for the United Way of KFL&A.

“We are so pleased to welcome Megan Smith to the role of Business Manager. I believe that Megan’s experience with the municipality, county and charitable sector gives her a unique understanding of the business community’s needs and the importance of the Chamber of Commerce to act as a resource and advocate for area businesses. Her innovative ideas and skills will truly help to drive the NDCC forward and ensure that Napanee and area businesses are heard. A strong Chamber of Commerce will ensure a strong business community and Megan is the right person to support the board and the broader membership,” said Maloney.

For her part, Smith said she was excited and thrilled to be able to work in her hometown once again, and to be able to make a contribution to both the town’s economic and community development.

“The region’s business community has a lot to offer. Being a Napanee native and working previously for local organizations such as the Town of Greater Napanee, I knew the Business Manager role for the Napanee & District Chamber of Commerce was going to be a great fit with my experience and skills. Through this role, I hope to enhance the Chamber's image and to work hard in delivering a wide variety of opportunities to the many amazing members and businesses in Greater Napanee and the surrounding area. I look forward to working with a team of highly skilled and experienced individuals that make up the 2017 Board of Directors. The Board will provide the leadership and direction needed to help serve our members and strengthen the Chamber and the business community as a whole,” said Smith.

Smith begins her duties on Wednesday, January 25.

Members of the chamber, including the new board and executive, want to extend our warmest thanks and best wishes to outgoing board members Jack Green and Jeanne Collins for their years of dedicated service.

For local and regional media, Megan Smith and members of the executive are available for interviews. Please contact the Chamber at napaneechamber@bellnet.ca, or 613-354-6601.