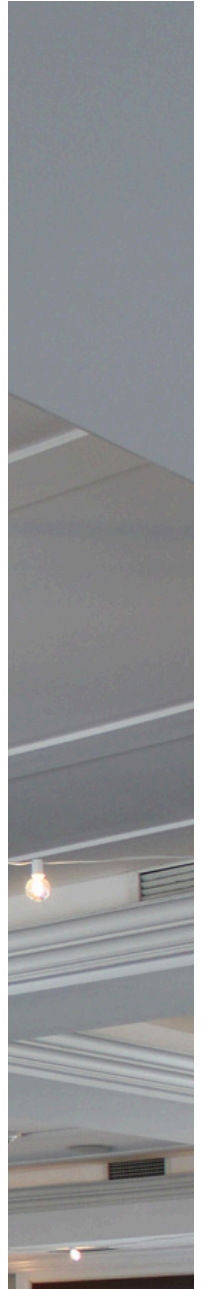




STRATHROY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2025 - 2026

Joel Cann, Past President

Kate Hamze, President

Amanda Barth, Vice President

Linda Lamont, Secretary

Brad Richards

Brandon Clarke

Deborah Rankin

Lori Wernham

Meagan McGill

Tyler Jenner

Vera Dokter

INFLUENCE

**BUILD CREDIBILITY
& TRUST**



WHO WE ARE

The Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce is an independent, membership funded, non-profit organization that represents Strathroy and area businesses from the grassroots level.

Our Mission

The Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce is the voice of business, dedicated to anticipating and serving the needs of our members and the community.

Our Vision

To foster an environment for business and investment within the District through networking, training and education, advocacy and providing valued services to our members.

REPORT FROM BOARD PRESIDENT **Kate Hamze**

Dear Members,

As I reflect on this past year with the Strathroy & District Chamber of Commerce, I'm inspired by the commitment of the people who make this organization what it is. From our dedicated Board who continue to show up and volunteer, to our incredible Executive Director and Executive Assistant, to our members, sponsors, and regional partners. I am grateful for the energy, ideas, and support each of you brings to our Chamber.

Throughout the year, I've been reminded time and again of what can happen when people come together with a shared purpose and a genuine commitment to their community.

Some of my favourite moments have been watching what happens when people connect. You can see it in the minutes as an event gets underway: someone walks in a little unsure, spots a familiar face, gets introduced to someone new, and before long the room is buzzing. Those moments capture what makes this work so rewarding. Seeing people share ideas, build relationships, and start conversations is a powerful reminder of the value of bringing our business network together.

Another part of our role as a Chamber is creating opportunities for local businesses to share their voice and be part of meaningful conversations. This year, we continued to strengthen the relationship between our business community and municipal leaders through initiatives like our Leadership Lunch. These conversations create space for open dialogue, shared ideas, and a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges facing local businesses. I am proud of the role our Chamber plays in bringing people together and fostering those essential connections between business and our municipality.



As a business owner myself, I understand the importance of connection. Building relationships, creating trust, and finding your place in the business landscape takes time and energy. The Chamber has given me the opportunity to meet likeminded people, learn from fellow entrepreneurs, and be part of a network that supports one another.

If this year reminded me of anything it's that our community is at its best when we champion one another. Every time we support a local business, attend a Chamber event, mentor a new entrepreneur or make an introduction, we strengthen the fabric of our business network and build the kind of environment we all want to be a part of.

As we look ahead, I'm excited for what's possible. Together, we will continue creating opportunities, elevating local voices and shaping a business community that is resilient, collaborative and ready for the future. I'm grateful for the momentum we've built and I look forward to continuing to be part of the work that strengthens and grows our business community.

Sincerely,

Kate Hamze
President

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Donna Pammer**

Dear Members, Partners, and Community Stakeholders,

As I reflect on the past year at the Strathroy and District Chamber of Commerce, I am filled with pride at what we have accomplished together and encouraged by the steady momentum building across our region. Our local business community continues to demonstrate remarkable strength, adaptability, and vision, and it remains a privilege to advocate for your ongoing success.

Following up on the resolution passed at last year's AGM, I am pleased to share an important milestone in our evolution. We have been officially notified by the Office of the Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry that our submission to formally change our name to the Middlesex Chamber of Commerce and expand our district to cover all of Middlesex County - excluding London - will go to committee for approval this fall. We anticipate a smooth process as we prepare for a planned rollout in early 2027. This transition reflects the natural scope of our regional economy and ensures every business across the county gains a strong, unified advocate.

At the same time, our local engagement has reached exciting new heights. Attendance across our events continues to grow, reinforcing the genuine value of face-to-face connection and peer collaboration. To better support this growth and elevate your membership experience, we transitioned to GrowthZone, a specialized Chamber CRM platform. This system helped to streamline our operations, enhance communication, and provide you with seamless access to your member profile, directory listings, and event registrations, ensuring we can serve you more efficiently than ever.



Our impact is strongest when it is shaped directly by the people we represent. We remain deeply open and eager to hear from you - whether you have ideas on how the Chamber can better serve your day-to-day business needs, or you are looking for new ways to get involved in our committees, events, and initiatives. Your feedback guides our priorities and keeps our work grounded in what matters most to your bottom line.

None of this progress would be possible without your trust, the leadership of our Board of Directors, and the steadfast support of our community partners. Thank you for your continued investment in our growing business ecosystem. I look forward to working alongside each of you as we build a vibrant, connected economic future across Middlesex County.

Sincerely,

Donna Pammer
Executive Director



YEAR AT A GLANCE

168 MEMBERS | 43 NEW | 83% RETENTION

48 events

- 13 x Workshops & Misc.
- 10 x Biz After Biz
- 6 x Women in Business
- 6 x Welcome Coffee Chat
- 5 x Young Professionals
- 4 x Members' Meetings
- 2 x Golf Tournaments
- 1 x Leadership Lunch
- 1 x Men's Breakfast

Highlights

- Increased social media presence
- New membership & billing software
- New website & member-only Info Hub
- Monthly newsletter & Member Moment E-blasts
- Membership survey (x2) & State of Business Report
- Board of Trade application - name & district change
- Middlesex Workforce Development Committee
- Ontario Chamber of Commerce AGM
- Local First Partnership

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Prepared by Melo LLP

STRATHROY & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Statement of Revenues and Expenditures

Year Ended June 30, 2026

	2026	2025
TRADE SALES		
Membership fees	\$ 47,187	\$ 40,392
Event revenue	48,917	33,949
Corporate seal of papers	1,980	960
Commissions	806	-
	<u>98,890</u>	<u>75,301</u>
COST OF SALES		
Direct wages	61,363	28,307
Event expenses	11,837	12,049
Benefits for direct wages	4,106	1,933
	<u>77,306</u>	<u>42,289</u>
GROSS PROFIT (21.83%; 2025 - 43.84%)	<u>21,584</u>	<u>33,012</u>
EXPENSES (Schedule 1)	<u>43,327</u>	<u>27,520</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF TRADE SALES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS	<u>(21,743)</u>	<u>5,492</u>
OTHER INCOME		
Insurance recoveries	16,123	14,478
Subsidies and grants	500	-
Interest income	290	485
	<u>16,913</u>	<u>14,963</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF TRADE SALES OVER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (4,830)</u>	<u>\$ 20,455</u>

See accompanying notes to the unaudited financial statements

