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The Paris Star

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Brant businesses saluted at annual event

By Cate Breaugh
Paris Star Staff
Wednesday October 17, 2007



Bob Wyatt of the Sanderson Centre board, Mayor Ron Eddy, Joan Marie Crawford-Wehrstein of Sun Life Financial, Deborah Sleeth of Brant County Power and (back row) Bud Field of Brant Aero, Walter Blyleven of Walter's Greenhouse and county Manager of Economic Development and Tourism Eric Rowen all attended the annual county Salute to Brant Business held Thursday at Paris Grand Golf and Country Club. The event is an opportunity for local business owners to network together and meet with county representatives in an informal atmosphere.

Photo by Cate Breaugh

About 200 members of the county's business community got the chance to network with each other and keep up with trends in employment law at the sixth annual Salute to Brant Business held at the Paris Golf Club.

Thursday night's event also offered an opportunity for business people to meet with county staff and council in an informal atmosphere and to learn about government programs and services that could help their businesses succeed.

Mayor Ron Eddy said that the popular county-run event is an important one.

"We want industry. We're spread out in the county and this is an opportunity to tell independent business owners that we appreciate them and welcome them in our locale," he said.

"We want people to come out, have fun, network and hopefully walk away with something for their business," explained Eric Rowen who is in charge of the county's economic development and tourism department. The goal of the event was not only to provide a venue for business people to share best practices but also to provide education so that they can walk away with useful and tangible information that will support their ventures, Rowen told The Paris Star.

And why is the county such a good place for business?

"Location. Location. Location," Rowen said. Brant is perfectly situated on major transportation corridors and is easily accessed. The tax rate is competitive and the area has a solid labour base for industry and business. And the county is focused on helping business succeed he said. All major pluses if anyone is looking for a good place to set up shop.

Employment law specialist Elizabeth M. Traynor was on hand to give business owners an overview on current employment law do's and don'ts in a presentation that included an outline of employee/employer rights and obligations. Traynor practices management-side labour and employment law at Siskinds law firm.

Brantford/Brant Business Enterprise Centre, Brantford/Brant Employment Services, Blueprint IT Works, Canada Trust and Brant County Power were all sponsors of Thursday's event.

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