



CANADIAN · CROATIAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

14th
Annual

Business Excellence

Awards Gala

Recognizing Excellence in the
Croatian-Canadian Community

May 6, 2016

Bell



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Celebrating leaders in the business community.

At CIBC, we're committed to building strong and vibrant communities across Canada. That's why we're proud to sponsor the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce's 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala that recognizes leadership, innovation, and excellence.

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Welcome

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards.

This year, we are overjoyed that Croatia is celebrating a very significant milestone as just 25 years ago Croatia declared its independence and shed its restraints in exchange for liberty and an opportunity to prosper and grow. This freedom was most certainly hard earned by the Croatian people. The entire diaspora and more so we in Canada can be proud of the help provided especially in the beginning when it was needed most.

In that vein, fellow Canadian Tihomir Orešković is now leading the current Croatian government as its Premier. His North American education and international professional career can only be of benefit to successful and growing trade between our two countries. Our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes go out to him.

We continue to work ever so closely with the Canadian and Croatian governments as well as businesses and organizations such as our sister organization in Croatia, the Canadian Croatian Business Network. Both countries are facing a great opportunity to further enhance an already healthy relationship through the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the European Union. We look forward to facilitating more “matchmaking” opportunities for Canadian and Croatian businesses in the coming year.

On the home front, our Chamber membership continues to grow and do what we do best, provide great networking opportunities, learning experiences, recognizing excellence and of course working with our youth by providing mentoring, scholarships and bursaries. The strength of our organization is a direct result of the steadfast efforts of our board, committees and even more importantly the involvement and participation of our membership. Thank you!

With such a strong and diverse membership, I urge all of you to seek one another out when in need of products, services or perhaps referrals, answers and such. If you are looking for young people to work through co-operative or regular placement, let us know as the Chamber actively promotes learning opportunities for our youth. Working together will only help make our membership and community prosper and grow.

Tonight we honour the vision, innovation, creativity and courage that our award winners possess and that allowed them to reach their achievements thus far.

We wish you all a most splendid evening!

Warmest regards,

John Marion
President and Director



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

May 6, 2016



Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone attending the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Gala of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

For more than 20 years, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce has advanced the interests of its members by promoting trade between our two countries and organizing valuable networking opportunities.

Tonight's ceremony shines a spotlight on the experiences of several remarkable entrepreneurs. I am delighted to offer my congratulations to all those receiving awards this evening for their outstanding business achievements. I would also like to commend the members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for celebrating leadership, innovation and excellence in business.

On behalf of the Government of Canada, I offer you my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P.J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



Embassy of Canada



Ambassade du Canada

April 19, 2016

Prilaz Gjure Deželića 4
10000 Zagreb

Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce
630 The East Mall, Etobicoke, ON M9B 4B1

Dear Friends,

I am delighted to convey the warm greetings of the Embassy of Canada in Zagreb, on the occasion of the 14th annual business excellence awards. Sincere congratulations to this year's winners.

The Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce is an indispensable partner for me in advancing relations between Canada and Croatia. Before departing Canada, I was fortunate to meet with the CCCC executive and receive excellent advice that has helped me greatly. During the first months of my mandate, close cooperation with the CCCC and with the Croatian-Canadian community here has both enriched my experience of Croatia and helped to deliver concrete results. Most recently, I was proud to visit Lovinac, Gospić, Udbine and Otocac in the county of Lika, joined by Croatian-Canadian entrepreneurs, with the aim of building new connections between Canada and that part of Croatia.

I am looking forward to a deepening of our relations with Croatia, which are already excellent, over the course of my mandate. It is a unique opportunity to have a Croatian Prime Minister with such strong ties to Canada, alongside President Grabar-Kitarović who has a special connection with our country, and so many other Croatian leaders with personal links to Canada. As we look forward to the new opportunities these ties will create, I will be relying heavily on the CCCC to fully realize the potential benefits for both Canada and Croatia. In addition, the new Croatian government has made important commitments to improve the business climate, encourage growth while reducing debt, and support entrepreneurship and innovation. As these policies are implemented, there will be additional concrete opportunities for bilateral trade and investment. I am counting on the CCCC, together with the Canadian-Croatian Business Network, to identify and pursue those opportunities.

Over the past year, there have been significant announcements in sectors including shipbuilding and energy, as well as a new direct flight between Toronto and Zagreb. I congratulate the Canadian and Croatian companies whose partnerships make both countries more prosperous and strengthen our overall relations with an important NATO Ally and EU member state. I am looking forward to many more successes over the years to come. There has also been substantial progress with regard to the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) between Canada and the EU. The text of the agreement has now been finalized and the legal review has been completed. The Embassy, together with partners in Croatia, is working actively to ensure that Croatian decision-makers and companies are familiar with the agreement and are prepared to seize opportunities. I would encourage all members of the CCCC to also learn more about the agreement and consider how it could enable stronger business ties with Croatia or other EU states.

In closing, I would like to reiterate the Embassy's commitment to be a partner for the CCCC and a support for all of its members. I look forward to engaging further with you, across Canada and across Croatia.

Sincerely,

Daniel Maksymiuk
Ambassador

Canada

QLGR 0003



Premier of Ontario - Première ministre de l'Ontario

May 6, 2016

A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER

On behalf of the Government of the Ontario, I am delighted to extend warm greetings to everyone attending the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening, organized by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce (CCCC).

As Premier, I am grateful for our province's tremendous diversity — it makes us stronger and is a rich source of ideas and perspectives. Most of all, it connects us to all corners of the world and allows us to seize valuable global opportunities. The Croatian Canadian community has contributed immensely to our multicultural success story, and has done much to strengthen our cultural fabric and our economy.

I offer my hearty congratulations to all the award recipients being honoured for their leadership, innovations, community spirit and professional achievements. I want to commend the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for recognizing these individuals and for its commitment to promoting the success of Croatian Canadian entrepreneurs, innovators and community builders.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your business community's valued contributions. Through your enterprise and skills, you have helped create jobs, strengthen our workforce and invigorate our economy.

Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable evening and much continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Wynne". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kathleen Wynne
Premier



Republic of Croatia
President

**A Letter from the President of the Republic of Croatia
for the Program Book on the occasion of the
14th Annual Business Excellence Award Evening of the
Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce
May 6th, 2016**

Dear Mr. Marion,
Distinguished members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce,
Distinguished high-ranking guests, dear friends,

It is a great honor and pleasure for me to address you through this letter on the occasion of the 14th Annual Business Excellence Award Evening of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

From the outset, annual gatherings of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber have been recognized as an unavoidable place of gathering for members of the Croatian-Canadian business community and their distinguished guests and as a place for presenting new business achievements and trends in the economy. They are recognizable as a place for exchange of ideas and experiences of participants, as well as for mingling of different generations of Croatian Canadians, confirming thereby all the beauty of Canadian multicultural society.

This year's gathering at which you will present excellent business people is an opportunity to draw attention to the importance of promoting their achievements, as well as the role of excellent entrepreneurs in the development of the Canadian economy and Canadian society as a whole.

This evening also offers an opportunity to exchange views on new developments in the economy and current topics that concern the influence of the economy on the life of each individual. Because members of the business community have a great importance, but also a responsibility, in creating new values, development of society and the creation of a better perspective for new generations.

As President of the Republic of Croatia and a person who spent a brief but exceptionally beautiful period of my life in Canada, where I lived and worked, I am delighted that I can express my support to the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce and its President, Mr.



John Marion. Your work opens new opportunities by encouraging business people to be excellent in business, contribute to the development of the Canadian economy and to the rise of Croatian-Canadian relations. On behalf of the Croatian people and in my personal capacity, I especially thank you for this.

I am delighted that through this letter I can congratulate the recipients of the Business Excellence Award. To the recipients, as well as to everyone in attendance, I extend best wishes for you to remain the moving force of Canadian society, a strong bond with your Homeland of Croatia, and to continue to embody professionalism, perseverance and respect as the fundamental values of the way of work and business.

Dear friends,

I congratulate you on your successful work thus far and wish you a lot of success in overcoming all future business challenges. I wish you that you continue to contribute to the development of the economy and successfully respond to contemporary global challenges, to foster Croatian-Canadian relations and continue to contribute to the stronger development of economic and amicable relations between our countries.

Sincerely yours,

Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Zagreb, April 4, 2016



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
PRIME MINISTER



Zagreb, 10 April 2016

Dear Mr. Marion,

It is with my great personal pleasure that I take this opportunity to extend my sincere greetings to you and to all the members and supporters of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening.

Canada and Croatia have a good bilateral relationship but there is always room for improvement especially when it comes to economic cooperation and that is where your role is indispensable.

We welcome investors from Canada as your companies registered in Croatia can testify, however my intention is to improve the business climate even more. I would like to see Canada choose Croatia as its main partner in the SEE region.

I also believe that the announced new seasonal direct flights from Montreal and Toronto to Zagreb, starting this June, will contribute to tourism as well as further strengthening of business and cultural ties between Croatia and Canada.

Croatia, as a member state of the EU, supports the signing of Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement, and we are very pleased that the legal review has been completed. This, we are confident, will enable the signing in 2016. We strongly believe that both of our countries will benefit greatly from this.

Finally, allow me to congratulate the award recipients for their accomplishments in the hope that their leadership and excellence shall have a positive impact on economic development in Canada and on relations between our two countries.


Tibomir Orešković



*Veleposlanik Republike Hrvatske u Kanadi
Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia to Canada
Ambassadeur de la République de Croatie au Canada*

*Dear Mr. Marion,
Dear Members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce,*

On behalf of the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia and myself, I would like to congratulate to Mr. President Marion and to all members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards.

This annual event is a great opportunity to recognize and reward outstanding performances of business excellence, while continuing to encourage the entrepreneurial spirit which this community is known for.

I extend my congratulations to this year's award recipients and wish you success in your future endeavors.

Since its establishment Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce has made great efforts to fulfil its tasks of representing the business community, promoting trade and investment between Croatia and Canada. The Government of the Republic of Croatia as well as the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to Canada appreciate and praise such efforts and activities of the Chamber.

Croatian legislation, harmonized with the postulates of the European Union, ensures business activities of the highest standard and opens the possibility for expanding trade and investment between Croatia and Canada.

As a member of the European Union Croatia is very pleased that the legal review of the Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) has been completed recently.

We are confident that CETA will be signed in 2016 and enter into force in 2017 so that individuals and businesses, both large and small, are able to benefit from the opportunities offered by this gold standard agreement.

Dear members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, the Embassy of the Republic of Croatia to Canada is standing on your disposal for all necessary help in doing business in Croatia, so don't hesitate to contact us whenever you have questions to be answered, dilemmas to be solved or you need to know who your contact point in Croatia is.

Wish you all a great success.

Sincerely,


*Marica Matković
Ambassador*



*Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia
Consulat Général de la République de Croatie
Mississauga*



April 14, 2016

Dear Friends,

It is my great honour and pleasure to be able to congratulate all the members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Board of Directors and Mr. Marion himself on all the achievements of the Chamber since its establishment in 1995.

Its constantly growing number of members, their achievements in the vibrant Canadian society, as well as the strong bond that they have established with the Republic of Croatia, make Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce an indispensable part of the bilateral relations between Croatia and Canada.

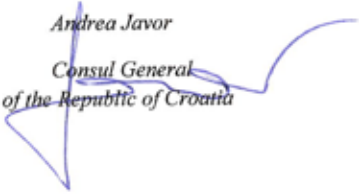
Tonight's 14th Annual Awards Gala Dinner provides a wonderful chance to pay tribute to those committed to excellence on their path to success. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the award recipients on receiving this honour.

At the same time I would like to thank the Chamber for its cooperation and continuous support it has been providing to the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia. On behalf of the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia in Mississauga, I wish the Chamber and all its members further success in their future business endeavours.

Please accept my sincere best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable celebration.

Sincerely yours,

*Andrea Javor
Consul General
of the Republic of Croatia*





Message from the Mayor

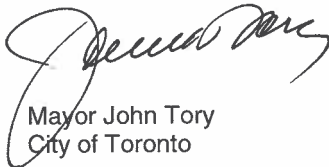
It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the 14th annual Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce (CCCC).

The CCCC is a non-profit organization that provides networking opportunities to its members and sponsors various cultural and educational initiatives within our community.

I wish to congratulate tonight award recipients on your achievements and your contribution to the growth and success of our city.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for an informative and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,



Mayor John Tory
City of Toronto



April 2016



Personal Message from Mayor Bonnie Crombie

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the City of Mississauga and Members of Council, I would like to acknowledge the members, volunteers and leadership of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on organizing the *14th Annual Business Excellence Awards*.

This award ceremony celebrates the accomplishments of Canadian-Croatian entrepreneurs – men and women with the vision, knowledge, and determination that transformed ideas into successful businesses.

The nominees and award recipients have helped create employment opportunities. Their talents continue to make positive, important and lasting contributions to the economies of communities like Mississauga. Congratulations to all the winners being celebrated this evening; they have rightly earned their recognition.

In closing, I offer my sincerest best wishes to the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce on hosting another successful event to celebrate the accomplishments of local entrepreneurs and thriving businesses.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bonnie Crombie'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bonnie Crombie, MBA, ICD.D
Mayor, City of Mississauga



CITY OF KITCHENER
Office of Mayor and Council
200 King Street West, P.O. Box 1118
Kitchener, ON N2G 4G7
Phone: 519.741.2300 Fax: 519.741.2800

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Dobro došli. Welcome to everyone attending The Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce's (CCCC) 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening on Friday, May 6, 2016.

On behalf of Kitchener City Council I would like to congratulate all of this evening's winners, your leadership, excellence and innovation has not gone unnoticed by those in the Croatian-Canadian business community. It is my great pleasure to be able to celebrate with you this evening.

Organizations such as the CCCC are vital to our communities, providing professional development support, fostering entrepreneurship, and building cultural and educational ties between many different groups in our communities. Thank you to The Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for providing the support these entrepreneurs need to build successful businesses.

Naša zajednica je puno postigla kroz zadnjih nekoliko godina. Kroz zajedničku suradnju, naš narod i naša poduzeća mogu postignuti još više u budućnosti.

I trust in the coming years the CCCC will see many more successes and will continue to grow, supporting many new Canadian-Croatian professionals along the way.

Once again, congratulations as you celebrate the 14th anniversary of your dinner gala.

Uz srdačan pozdrav/Sincerely,

Berry Vrbanovic
~Mayor~
City of Kitchener





Mayor Rick Goldring
City of Burlington

City Hall, 426 Brant Street
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Z6

Tel.: 905-335-7607
Fax: 905-335-7708
mayor@burlington.ca
www.burlington.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



May 6, 2016

Greetings from Mayor Rick Goldring

On behalf of the city of Burlington and all members of City Council, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the award recipients, guests, members and volunteers who are here this evening for the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards Evening hosted by the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

My sincere congratulations go to all the award recipients – both individuals and organizations – who are being recognized tonight for their leadership, innovation and excellence, and community achievement within the Croatian-Canadian business community. It is citizens and organizations like these who continue to grow our community into what it is today – a great place to live, work, and play.

I would also like to offer my thanks to all members of the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce for your ongoing efforts to promote and to develop Croatian-Canadian business and relationships between our two countries through your many cultural and educational networking opportunities and events.

Najbolje želje za sve vas.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Goldring".

Rick Goldring
Mayor, City of Burlington



THE OFFICE OF
MAYOR FRED
EISENBERGER
CITY OF HAMILTON



Along with my Council Colleagues and the City of Hamilton, it is my pleasure to welcome you the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce, 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards evening on Friday May 26th 2016.

Tonight's event recognizes leadership, innovation and excellence within the Croatian-Canadian business community.

In addition to providing networking opportunities to its members, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce plays an integral role in the development of bilateral trade relations between Canada and Croatia, as well as being proud community supporters.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of the organizers and volunteers who play a vital role to ensure an enjoyable evening.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable event.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Eisenberger".

Fred Eisenberger
Mayor





Canadian Croatian Chamber of Commerce

Croatia since declaring independence in 1991 has transformed itself into a truly democratic and independent country that aspires to be a reliable economic partner at the global level. This process of change and development has not occurred over night and continues to occur as Croatia matures and develops. In order to create strong foundations this process of change needs to be provided the required time and support to establish itself and guarantee long term and reliable results.

Relations between Croatia and Canada have never been stronger. At the moment Croatia is Canada's most important trade partner in the region and politically as partners in NATO the two countries share many common objectives for increased future economic development and political alignment. With the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement between Canada and the European Union coming into effect the opportunity to increase and further develop these relations will be more and more relevant with an opportunity for both economies to take advantage of new trade and economic development exceeding 20 trillion dollars. Both Canada and Croatia can play key roles in maximizing this opportunity and efforts need to be made to take advantage of the benefits the CETA agreement will provide in the future.

The Canadian Croatian Business Network and the Croatian Canadian Chamber of Commerce have important roles in supporting the opportunities that will develop from the implementation of this agreement. Education and promotion of the CETA agreement among members is a priority to generate interest and lead by example. We must seize the moment and find ways to use the CETA agreement to the advantage of Canadian and Croatian companies creating new and valuable growth opportunities for businesses in Canada and Croatia.

As President of the Canadian Croatian Business Network I can confirm that we believe in the synergies between Canada and Croatia and that like no other time since 1991 is investment and economic development in Croatia for Canadians been better positioned for strong future growth. With the current Croatian government being lead by a fellow Canadian – Croatian Premier Tihomir Orešković Croatia will better establish itself and meet expectations of Canadian investors and officials. His expertise and know how will provide him the understanding and required commitment to make required reforms and stimulate future long-term economic growth.

The Annual CCCC Awards Dinner is a great example of how the Croatian Canadian Business Community is committed to supporting stronger ties between Canada and Croatia and only confirms the need to continue being active participants in creating a better economic future for both Canada and Croatia.

Sincerely,

Joe Bašić

President of the Canadian-Croatian Business Network (CCBN)



[@tributetolibert](#) [tributetoliberty.ca](#) [facebook.com/communismmemorial](#)

The Memorial to the Victims of Communism - Canada, a Land of Refuge will serve as a public reminder of the millions of victims of Communism, and will bring the suffering of such victims into the public's consciousness. In Canada, over 8 million people trace their roots to countries that suffered under Communism. As part of the international current of commemorating victims of Communism, various community leaders, government officials and foreign diplomats in Canada, suggested building a memorial in Ottawa that would commemorate these victims, and the contribution Canada has made in coming to their aid. Tribute to Liberty (TTL), a registered Canadian charity, was established to play a leadership role and to take on the work necessary to complete the project. The Memorial construction budget has been set at \$3 million, with one-half to be funded by the Government of Canada and the other by the affected communities. Tribute to Liberty has to date raised \$1.1 million (\$1.4 million including pledges). We are seeking your help to honour the victims and survivors and to ensure they have a permanent place in our nation's consciousness and memory. To do this we need your personal stories and your financial support to build the Memorial to the Victims of Communism.



L-R: Ivan Grbesic, TTL director and director of Croatian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the Honourable Mélanie Jolie, Minister of Canadian Heritage, Ludwik Klimkowski, TTL Chair, Paul Grod, TTL director and president of Ukrainian Canadian Congress after the round table discussions with key stakeholders of the Memorial to the Victims of Communism, held in Ottawa



On April 28, 2016 the National Capital Commission (NCC) approved the Garden of Provinces and Territories as site for the Memorial to the Victims of Communism - located steps from the Parliament of Canada in Ottawa. A consultation process and new design competition for the Memorial will be launched soon and it is the objective to complete the Memorial by 2018.

Share Your Story and Have A Name Forever Memorialized on The Wall of Remembrance

Donors of \$1000 or more will be invited to submit a name for the Memorial site that will be placed with a scannable QR code linked to an online story. Donations under \$1000 are offered a space online for their story, which will be accessible anywhere in the world.

You can donate by filling out online donation form at
<http://www.tributetoliberty.ca/contribute>
or by contacting Ludwik Klimkowski, Chair Tribute to Liberty:

email: ludwik@tributetoliberty.ca
phone: +1 (613) 841-2772

Tribute to Liberty is a registered charity. Charitable Number: 814999660RR0001
Donations over \$20 will receive tax deduction



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We Make It Our Business To Make Our Communities Stronger

Living and working in your community, MNP recognizes the importance of organizations like the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce in celebrating leadership, innovation and excellence within the Croatian-Canadian community locally and nationally. We congratulate the recipients of this year's Business Excellence Awards and applaud your contribution.

At MNP, we believe in protecting what's important to our clients and communities—our children, our families and the enterprises that support them. Leveraging our experience working with diverse organizations across the country, MNP delivers a full suite of solutions tailored to help you achieve your unique business goals.

Contact Joe Draganjac at 905.270.9154 or joe.draganjac@mnp.ca

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About the Chamber

Founded in 1995, the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce is a not-for-profit network of Croatian-Canadian individuals, professionals, businesses and organizations that has emerged as the voice of Croatian-Canadian business in Canada.

The Chamber brings together a vibrant and dynamic group of individuals, professionals, businesses and organizations who have developed strategic relationships in both Canadian and Croatian economic, commercial, political, and cultural worlds and is able to draw on these relationships to the benefit of its members.

The Chamber's objectives include:

- Providing networking opportunities both in a social and business setting
- Sponsoring and promoting cultural events, educational lectures, seminars, exhibitions, and conferences on relevant and timely topics
- Acting as a source of information and counsel to government bodies and the public in matters affecting Canada-Croatia business and trade and the Croatian-Canadian community in Canada in general
- Promoting the development of bilateral business relations, trade, and investment opportunities between Canada and Croatia and working with the Canadian-Croatian Business Network, the Croatian Chamber of Economy and other organizations on opportunities that advance our common goals and interests

Beyond the wide variety of benefits that the Chamber offers to its members (including business connections, access to government, professional development), membership increases your business' visibility and exposure in the community.

Your investment represents a commitment to the future growth and development of our whole community.

Together, we make success!



The Chamber's recent achievements include:

Business Opportunities

- Providing networking opportunities through business, community and social events
- Connecting members with members to facilitate significant trade and commerce
- Organizing various educational and business related seminars including co-organizing (in affiliation with the Canadian-Croatian Business Network which is based in Croatia) recent Croatian trade missions to Canada hosted in Toronto

Youth Involvement

- Supporting our youth through a scholarship and bursary fund
- Establishing a mentorship program for Croatian-Canadian post-secondary students and recent graduates
- Placing co-op students with Chamber members

Community Involvement

- Working with and supporting local Croatian organizations and endeavours, including, among others, the Croatian-Canadian Library, various folklore groups, the Croatian Embassy (Ottawa) and the Croatian Consulate (Mississauga), to preserve our common heritage
- Promoting community events and news through our community web portal at www.croat.ca
- Recognizing excellence and leadership in the Croatian-Canadian community through the annual Business Excellence Awards Evening
- Supporting and promoting Croatian-Canadian artists and authors
- Financially contributing to Croatian demining program

Advocacy and Lobbying

- Educating Canadians on our history in Canada through support of historical research and representation at relevant Canadian organizations
- Building ties with Croatia by receiving and hosting Croatian representatives visiting Canada, attending meetings with contacts in Croatia, and presenting at business seminars in Croatia

Looking back at some activities over the last year

May 2015



13th Annual Business Excellence Awards



2015 BEA Award Recipients

September 2015



13th Annual Taste of Croatia Golf Tournament

October 2015



Seminar with Karolina Vidović-Krišto

December 2015



Community Celebration – “Hrvatski Božić” / Croatian Christmas

March 2016



Croatian Authors Book Presentation and Signing Event



Agenda for the Evening

- 6:00 PM Cocktail Reception
Opening Bids for Silent Auction
- 7:00 PM Welcome Address, Ivan Grbešić
National Anthems, Canadian Croatian Choral Society
Blessing
- 7:20 PM Keynote Address, His Worship Berry Vrbanović
Mayor, City of Kitchener
- 7:40 PM Scholarship and Bursary Awards Presentation
- 8:30 PM Performance, Canadian Croatian Choral Society
- 9:00 PM Awards Ceremony
- 9:30 PM Performance, Canadian Croatian Choral Society
- 10:30 PM Raffle and *Red Label* Silent Auction Closes
- 10:45 PM *Blue Label* Silent Auction Closes

Featured Performers

Canadian Croatian Choral Society

Established in January of 2013, under the artistic direction of musician and educator Edward Joseph Mavrinac, the Canadian Croatian Choral Society (CCCS) is comprised of over fifty enthusiastic choristers drawn together by a love of Croatia's rich musical heritage. The choristers range in age from twenty-nine to eighty-one and travel from the Niagara Peninsula and the greater Toronto area to attend weekly rehearsals in Etobicoke. The choir has mastered over forty pieces of music and sings in seven different languages. In a very short period of time, the CCCS has given over 20 concerts, entertained our seniors at eight nursing homes and performed a 12 day concert tour of Croatia receiving TV, radio and social media coverage. Having established a Merit Award given to worthy students studying music at a post-secondary institute, CCCS prides itself in supporting budding musicians within the community. Young musicians (fifteen instrumentalists in total) who participate in the annual concert series are also given honouraria to assist in their music education. The love of music and the desire to preserve our cultural music heritage has been the driving force to the success of this choir. With a focussed effort, mutual respect and integrity the CCCS brings a fresh new dimension to our Croatian-Canadian community.



Blessing

History of the Prayer "Dobar Večer Gospodo"

In the region of Prigorje, specifically the villages of Gračani and Markuševac, it is customary at a wedding reception for the guests to sing grace rather than the parish priest reciting a spoken blessing. In this sung grace, Jesus is invoked to be present and to bless the guests and the food. The prayer ends with the words, "Dine my guests, my noble people." (Večerajte Gospodo, plemenita osobo)

Dobar večer gospodo
Obečal se Isus knam

Prva zapopjevala
Zdravo budi Marijo

Obečal se Isus knam
Da bu z nama večeral

Druga zapopjevala
Milosti si ti puna

K Njemu su doletjele
Tri ptičice malene

Treća zapopjevala
Gospodin je Bog s nama

Tri ptičice malene
Tri su pjesme pjevale

Večerajte Gospodo
Plemenita osobo



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STIKEMAN ELLIOTT



Keynote Speaker

His Worship Berry Vrbanović

Mayor, City of Kitchener

Kitchener Mayor Berry Vrbanovic was born in Zagreb, Croatia, and immigrated to Canada in 1969 with his parents. His family's first few months were in Winnipeg before moving to Hamilton in late 1969 and eventually to the city he has called home since 1977, Kitchener. With a career that has taken him into both the public and private sectors, he understands the challenges of immigrant families and the issues facing the thousands of Canadians making Kitchener their new home. Berry attended St. Jerome's High School and is a graduate of Wilfrid Laurier University with a BA in political science and a diploma in business administration.

Berry's outgoing and personable style has contributed to his election to serve as a councillor for six consecutive terms of council, from 1994-2014. During this time, Berry's commitment to his constituents resulted in many new initiatives throughout the city and in his ward including adoption of the city's Pedestrian Charter, construction of the Stanley Park Community Centre and the Grand River Stanley Park community library in partnership with Grand River Collegiate Institute and being a champion of the city's Economic Development Investment Strategy in 2004. He also co-founded the Chicopee Outreach Program (COPS), a unique mentoring program linking at-risk youth with police, fire and community mentors that has been running since 1998 and today operates out of 3 different community centres.

Over the years Berry has also done significant work through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the National Democratic Institute in Washington, and the Canadian Urban Institute focused on strengthening local government in post-war Tuzla, Bosnia and Hercegovina in 2004 and in Sri Lanka and Indonesia following the tsunami of 2004 as well as democratization and local government work in the Gulf co-operation countries including Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Prior to becoming a city councillor, Berry worked in the city's clerk's office and the information technology division, and has also been an instructor at Wilfrid Laurier University, worked in retail, operated two small businesses, and even served as a student sales rep with Labatt's – a popular position during his university years.

In 2014, Berry ran for the elected office of mayor and with an outpouring of support from all sectors of the community, was successfully elected. He is committed to building strong neighbourhoods, a growing economy and a better Kitchener and Region of Waterloo.

In addition to serving on all regular standing committees of Kitchener city council, Berry is also an appointee and active participant on many boards and committees throughout the community, including the Mayor's Advisory Council for Kitchener Seniors (MACKS), Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro Inc. Board of Directors, University of Waterloo Board of Governors, Kitchener Housing Inc. Board of Directors, Centre in the Square Board of Management, Grand River Hospital Board of Directors and Downtown Kitchener BIA Board of Directors.

Outside of Kitchener, Berry is also very active in the national and international local government movement, presently serving as Treasurer of United Cities & Local Governments UCLG, the global association of local governments and sits on Canada's FCM Big City Mayor's Caucus, and organization he also served as President in 2011-12. Through his UCLG role, Berry regularly represents the world's cities in various forums at the United Nations, including the Global Partnership on Effective Development Co-operation.

CROATIAN RHAPSODY

ART Installation, 1999

36 paintings, 40x40x10cm (and 5cm)
Mixed media (acrylic and collage), on canvas.

Collection of the Croatian Embassy,
Ottawa, Canada

Art, in its widest relevancy represents an unrepeatable process of change... just like the very life itself.

Most artists work in two manners: creating artwork from personal inspiration or to actualize a commission. Each has its merits and challenges. Personally I have worked on a number of commissions from portraying the Canadian Judge Louise Arbour, for an interesting television production, The Canadian author Katherine Mary Govier, to images of individual significance.

Immediately after the Homeland War (Domovinski rat) the new Republic of Croatia established its Embassy in Ottawa (1999) which was also helped with funds secured by the Croatian-Canadian community. The Ambassador at that time, His Excellency Andrija Jakovčević, wanted to permanently acknowledge this significant and important event with an enduring and befitting monument. For me, as a Croatian-Canadian Artist, it was a great honour to be contacted to conceptualize such a tribute. The Ambassador had a clear vision of what such a memorial should communicate to future generations. After a number of consultations we agreed on the theme which was to incorporate the country's historical past, the significance of the achieved independence and the future prospects of the new Republic of Croatia. I had not only understood the importance of this commission, but was also excited by the presented challenge.

The next step was a number of sketches, each carrying some of the suggested subject matter. Ultimately, the artwork was (born) composed as a mosaic of thirty six separate paintings each representing a specific impression of our native land of our Hrvatska domovina. The images stylistically depict Croatia's varied landscape, the blue Adriatic, the picturesque mountains, sprawling wheat fields, historical towers, castles, distinguished coat of arms and the vitality of Croatia's people. But above all, each vista expresses Croatians persevering love for the country of their forefathers. I was very pleased when His Excellency Andrija Jakovčević christened this work The Croatian Rhapsody and his then advisor/consultant, Ms. Kolinda Grabart-Kitarović, today's President of the Republic of Croatia, wrote a poignant essay on the artworks significance.



Today the Croatian Rhapsody is featured as a famous "backdrop" on almost all the "souvenir" photographs taken by the Embassy.

Recognizing the importance of the Croatian Rhapsody and its lasting message the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors chose this work to be presented at the Chamber's first Gala Award Dinner to recognize successful and worthy members of the Croatian-Canadian society. I am exceedingly proud that my Croatian Rhapsody as a high quality reproduction enhances a number of Croatian private and business establishments.

Nada Sesar Raffay, Canadian Croatian Contemporary Artist, www.nadasesarraffay.com, nsrart@gmail.com, (416) 533-4249

Nada Sesar Raffay

Nada Sesar Raffay is a Croatian-Canadian contemporary painter living and working in Toronto, Canada.

She received her Bachelor and MFA Degree in Painting and Drawing from the Academy of Fine Arts at the University of Zagreb in 1976. Ms. Raffay has been a member of the Croatian Association of Artists (HDLU) in Zagreb since 1977.

Beginning in 1988, she and her family have resided in Toronto where her practice flourished. Her paintings are part of numerous private and corporate collections internationally and in Canada, including the Croatian Embassy in Ottawa.

Ms. Raffay's paintings consist mainly of oil and acrylic on canvas; abstract forms and energetic strokes are a signature of her work. The mastery of impasto technique is magnified by her unique taste for colour and dynamic compositions. She has exhibited extensively in group and solo shows via the Edward Day Gallery in Toronto and the Buschlen Mowatt Gallery in Vancouver, British Columbia. She has been primarily represented by the Edward Day Gallery since 1997.

Ms. Raffay has participated in a number of jury committees. She has also been a programming broadcaster for Sounds of Croatia, Chin Radio (2005-2006). She is a member of the Canadian Croatian Chamber of Commerce, Toronto and an active Member (Vice President) of AMCA Toronto Board of Directors (Association of Alumni and Friends of Croatian Universities) since 2004.

For a better look at her Fine Art studio in Toronto visit her website.

www.nadasesarraffay.com



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Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce **Youth Mentoring Program**

At the Chamber, we take pride in our ability and commitment to help students of Croatian descent pave their path in life by offering our Youth Mentoring Program to assist in planning for their future.

The Youth Mentoring Program was established to offer post-secondary students with an opportunity to communicate with professionals and entrepreneurs in order to discuss career aspirations, work initiatives, and other career related matters. The program has been extremely well received and has benefited both the students and the Mentor volunteers. Matches are established based on the students' career aspirations, interests, location, and other factors.

Mentors participating in the Youth Mentoring Program are carefully selected individuals who have proven themselves successful in their careers and/or businesses, and who support the endeavours of the program to provide a service of high standards and quality, and are prepared to make time available to assist our youth in making career related decisions.

Should you feel you fit the profile of a Mentor and you would like to get involved in the program, please e-mail the following details to contactus@croat.ca. (name and surname, telephone number, email address, business address, and area of expertise) and we will contact you in due course.



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Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund



The Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund is a joint program developed and administered by the Croatian-Canadian Library and the Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce.

We take great pride in our ability and commitment to help further the education of full-time post-secondary students in Canada.

Scholarship and bursaries will be awarded to students enrolled in a full-time post-secondary program at a university or college in Canada.

For details about the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund,
please visit www.croat.ca

The application submission deadline for the 2016/2017 school year
is February 1, 2017.

Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund: Scholarship and Bursary Award Recipients (2015/2016)

We are pleased to announce that the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund has awarded two (2) scholarships and two (2) bursaries for the 2015/2016 school year. The funds have been awarded in order to help further the education of full-time post-secondary students in Canada. Congratulations to each of the recipients.



Ryan Bačić

\$2,000 Scholarship Award Recipient

Ryan attends Ryerson University, studying International Economics. He is the Deputy of Events for the International Economic and Finance Union, a member of Ryerson's mentoring program and a course builder for a first year basic math course. Ryan is also a member of Ryerson's track and field team and was the National runner up for the Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.



Lauren Vrbanić

\$2,000 Scholarship Award Recipient

Lauren, a student at McGill University is pursuing a degree in Biological and Biomedical Life Sciences. She is a musician trained on the Saxophone and a member of the Croatian National Home Folklore Group. Lauren is a recipient of the "Lifer Award" and her ultimate goal is to be a neurosurgeon.



Melisa Okanović

\$1,500 Bursary Award Recipient

Melisa is currently a student at York University enrolled in the Schulich School of Business. She is majoring in Accounting with a minor in International Business. Melisa has planned and organized several fundraisers for charities, she is a mentor and a volunteer at local shelters and homeless hubs. Melisa is experienced in planning professional development events in Toronto and is president of the York Rotary Club.



Filip Trstenjak

\$1,500 Bursary Award Recipient

Filip attends Niagara College studying Computer Science. He is an Honours standing student and an active member of the United Nations Association. Filip is fluent in English, Croatian and German and he stays active by participating in volleyball, swimming and tennis.

Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund

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KING TOMISLAV (\$100,000+) - King Tomislav was a ruler of Croatia in the Middle Ages. He reigned from 910 until 928, first as Duke of Dalmatian Croatia from 910 until 925, and then he became the first King of the Croatian Kingdom in 925 and reigned until 928. He is celebrated as the founder of the first Croatian state, uniting the Croats of Dalmatia and the Slavs of Pannonia into a single Kingdom. He ruled over the territory of today's Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, rounding off his state from the Adriatic Sea to the Drava River, and from the Raša River in Istria to the Drina River.



QUEEN JELENA (\$50,000-\$99,999) - Jelena of Zadar was the queen consort of the Kingdom of Croatia, as the wife of King Michael Krešimir II, from 946 to 969, a period which was allegedly marked by "peace, order and expeditious growth". She became the queen of Croatia after her husband died and reigned until her death in 976. Also known as "mother of orphans and protectress of widows", she was revered by her subjects and most adored for her charity and known for bringing peace to the Kingdom.



KING PETAR KREŠIMIR IV (\$25,000-\$49,999) - Petar Krešimir IV was a notably energetic King of Croatia from 1059 until his death in 1075. He was the last great ruler of the Krešimirović branch of the House of Trpimirović. Under his rule the Croatian realm reached its peak territorially, expanding Croatia along the Adriatic coastland and in the mainland eastwards and bringing Slavonia into the Croatian fold. This expansion earned him the sobriquet "the Great".



KING DMITAR ZVONIMIR (\$10,000-\$24,999) - Dmtar Zvonimir was King of Croatia from 1076 until his death. He also ruled as Ban of Slavonia (1064 to 1074), and was named Duke of Croatia in around 1075. His native name was Zvonimir, while the name Dmtar was adopted at his coronation. He took a hard line against the Byzantine Empire. He was the last native king who exerted any real power over the entire Croatian state, which he inherited at its height and ruled it from the city of Knin.



PRINCE BRANIMIR (\$5000-\$9,999) - Branimir was a ruler of Dalmatian Croatia who reigned as Knez from 879 to 892. He was recognized by Pope John VIII as the Duke of the Croats. During his reign, Croatia retained its sovereignty from both Frankish and Byzantine rule, and became a fully recognized state.



NIKOLA ŠUBIĆ ZRINSKI (\$2500-\$4999) - Nikola Šubić Zrinski was a Croatian nobleman and general in service of the Habsburg Monarchy, Ban of Croatia from 1542 to 1556, and member of the Zrinski noble family. He was known across Europe for his involvement with the Battle of Szigetvár and is today seen as a hero by both Hungarians and Croatians.



VICEROY JOSIP JELAČIĆ (\$1,000-\$2499) - Viceroy Josip Jelačić of Bužim was the Ban of Croatia from 1848 to 1859. He was a member of the House of Jelačić and a noted army general, remembered for his military campaigns during the Revolutions of 1848 and for his abolition of serfdom in Croatia. On April 19, 1848, he proclaimed the union of Croatian provinces, and the separation from the Kingdom of Hungary.



MARKO MARULIĆ (\$500-\$999) - Marko Marulić (1450-1524) was a Croatian moral philosopher and poet and Christian humanist, known as the Crown of the Croatian Medieval Age and the father of the Croatian Renaissance. He is one of the most important figures in Croatian literature. He was also the first to use the term "psychology" in his Latin treatise, *Psichologia de ratione animae humanae*.

Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund

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Kovač, Ryan A.
Kraljević, Michael and Rachael

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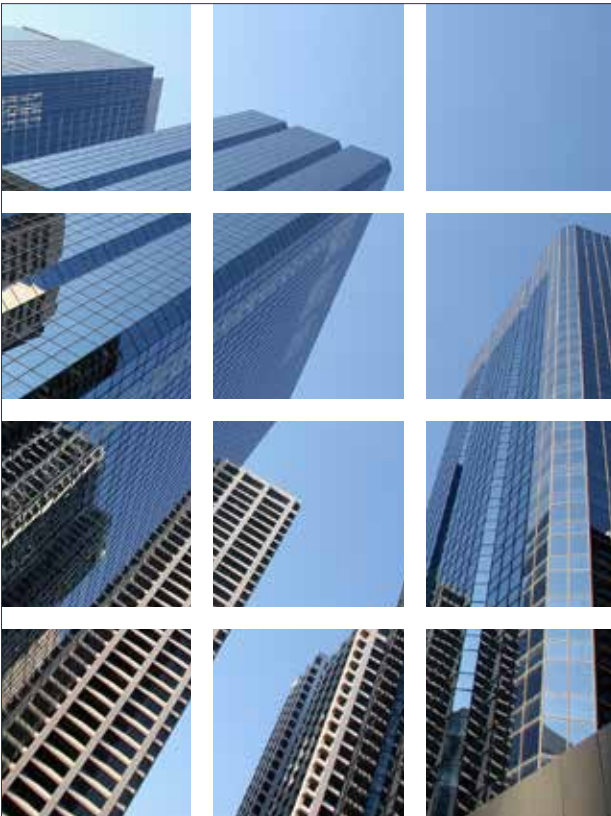
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Croatian-Canadian Art Exhibit

Thank you for visiting the Canadian-Croatian Art Exhibit at the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards. By purchasing any of the featured artwork, you will not only enrich your life with outstanding pieces, but you will also support and promote the Croatian-Canadian artists who contribute to the cultural values of our society.

Your purchase will also support the scholars and youth of the Croatian-Canadian community with 30% of the art sales being donated to the Croatian-Canadian Scholarship Fund.

"Art is not just a product, but also a start of a communication process to the emotions and beliefs of the viewer, inviting them to re-examine their perceptions with fresh eyes, redefine their reality and sometimes think "outside of the box"."

Tatjana Hutinec
Exhibit Coordinator

The participating artwork will be available for sale at the listed prices up to June 3, 2016 to those in attendance on May 6, 2016 at the 14th Annual Business Excellence Awards

DARINKA BLAGAJ



The Goddess of Bliss II, 2016

16" x 20"

Original oil, oil stick and oil pastel on canvas
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TATJANA HUTINEC



Innuendo , 2014

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Revelation

20" x 28"
Acrylic on Canvas
\$ 650

TVRTKO KLOBUČAR



Jesus Chooses Peter, 2015

9"x12"
Watercolour, ink and red
conté on cold press 140lbs
watercolour paper
\$ 1,300



**Jesus Calls Upon Simon
and Andrew, 2015**

9"x12"
Watercolour, ink and red
conté on cold press 140lbs
watercolour paper
\$ 1,300



**Jesus Leaves his Disciples,
2015**

9"x12"
Watercolour, ink and red
conté on cold press 140lbs
watercolour paper
\$ 1,300

MARIJA BARAČ JANDRIĆ



Dinara
24"x 36"
Oil on canvas
\$ 2,700

NADA SESAR RAFFAY



March Orange, 2015
20"x30"
Oil on Canvas
\$ 4,000



Swing #4, 2007
24"x24"
Oil on Canvas
\$ 4,000



Swing #6, 2007
24"x24"
Oil on Canvas
\$ 4,000

ANA ČOP



Reclining Nudes Here and Now, 2010
20"x30"
C-print (edition 1/19)
\$ 2,000



**From the series
"Reclining Nudes here and Now", 2010**
24"x36"
Archival print mounted on board (editon 19/19)
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MARTINA VRBANIĆ



The Courage, 2016
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Acrylic and oil on canvas
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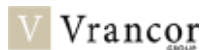
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Macro Slavonic Embroidery, 2014 by Tatjana Hutinec
Canadian-Croatian Chamber of Commerce



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The World Health Organization reports that healthcare and Medical & Wellness Tourism will be the world's largest industry by 2030 and will represent 22% of the world GDP.



From left: Mayor Ernest Svazic, Renata Matijevic - Zugic - Director of Medical Centre Veli Losinj - Croatia, Frank Vismeg - Managing Director of new COURTYARD Marriott Hotel - Burlington, Dr. Darlene Gustin - Owner of the Bronte Natural Health Clinic - Oakville

Medical Tourism and Wellness is one of the fastest growing global industries and Croatia has a lot to offer the world through high quality, affordable healthcare and wellness treatments. Croatia's top doctors, surgeons and dentists are already attracting international patients for affordable surgical and dental needs, as well as health spa experiences for prevention and treatment of chronic illness.

Croatian health resorts and hotel investors have formed international working partnerships with Canadian hotelier Mr. Frank Vismeg, Naturopathic doctor Dr. Darlene Gustin of the Bronte Natural Health Clinic, Oakville and other local health and wellness establishments including the Global Tourism & Wellness members.



From left: Frank Vismeg - Managing Director of new COURTYARD Marriott Hotel - Burlington, Anni Hood - Director of Wellness Tourism of Global Wellness Institute, Dr. Darlene Gustin - Owner of the Bronte Natural Health Clinic - Oakville

Mr. Vismeg and partners are currently developing the new upcoming 135 room COURTYARD Marriot Hotel, adjacent to the Burlington Convention Centre, opening fall of 2017 and will be collaborating by providing accommodating, restaurant and conference services.

Frank Vismeg is former president of Skål International Toronto North Club and current director of Skål International Hamilton Club.

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**For further information or to contribute
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Kick off summer 2016 with the Croatia Day 'BIG' Picnic!

SATURDAY, JUNE 18



Bocce Mixer during the day, Youth Team's Fundraising Stag & Doe at night!

SUNDAY, JUNE 12



UEFA EURO 2016: Croatia vs. Turkey, 9 a.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17



UEFA EURO 2016: Croatia vs. Czech Rep., 12 p.m.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21



UEFA EURO 2016: Croatia vs. Spain, 3 p.m.

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SATURDAY, AUG. 13



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SUNDAY, AUG. 28



Super Sunday Picnic, feat. House League Awards and the HamCro HotDog Contest!

SUNDAY, SEPT. 11



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Baka Gallery Cafe is a great place to relax, work or socialize, while enjoying a cup of Toronto's best coffee, specialty tea, or a cold, refreshing drink.

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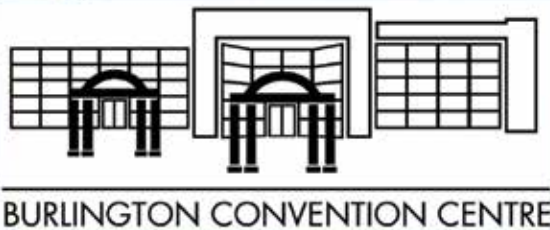
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