

# 2023 Economic Development Summit 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – What's Ahead Friday, November 17, 2023

8:30 am **Registration | Networking | Photo Booth**

9:00 am **Welcome / Greetings**

- Michael Barrett, MP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
- Steve Clark, MPP Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes
- Nancy Peckford, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville / Mayor, North Grenville

9:15 am **The Leclerc Products**

Last year Leclerc Foods, one of Canada's leading food manufacturers, announced an expansion of its North American operations into Brockville. The \$100-M expansion, over five years, has brought new jobs, and delicious cookies and snack bars to the Leeds Grenville region.

Learn how their challenges have been overcome, successes that have been achieved in their plant set-up, and the goodness ahead.

Presenters:

Guillaume Turgeon, Senior Director, Canadian Operations  
Abdullah Toseef, Brockville Plant Manager

10:00 am **BREAK | Networking | Photo Booth**

10:15 am **Bill Thake Memorial Economic Development Leadership Award**

Recipient: Joe Hudson, Burnbrae Farms  
Accepted by: Margaret Hudson, President, & Sue Hudson, Director,  
Communications & Digital Marketing – Burnbrae Farms

Introduction: Deanna Clark, Economic Development Officer

Presenters: Nancy Peckford, Warden, United Counties of Leeds and Grenville  
Marlene Thake

10:30 am **Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands**

Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands continues to be one of the top tourism and hospitality employers in the region, while generating significant funds annually to Gananoque and Leeds and the Thousand Islands, as host communities, through the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation.

From ownership changes in September 2021, to pandemic shutdowns and post-pandemic challenges, Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands continues to make positive economic and social impacts in Leeds Grenville and bolsters the region's tourism and entertainment industry.

Presenters:

Dale Deane, General Manager, Shorelines Casino Thousand Islands  
Chuck Keeling, Executive Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement,  
Community & Social Responsibility, Great Canadian Entertainment

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#### 11:15 am **Planning our Future Infrastructure**

Natural gas plays a significant role in the attraction and expansion of businesses in Leeds Grenville. ENBRIDGE GAS will provide an overview of their economic development services, the province's proposed Natural Gas Expansion Program – Phase 3 and the steps for increased capacity in Leeds Grenville.

Presenter:

Brian Lennie, Specialist, Economic Development  
ENBRIDGE GAS INC.

#### 11:45 **Preparing for our Aging Community**

The region's aging demographic is impacting our local health care system. Maple View Landings Project will be playing a leading role in long-term care solutions for the future.

Presenters:

Jen Powley, Administrator, Maple View Lodge | Director, Maple View Landings Redevelopment  
Doug Struthers, Chair, Maple View Landings Redevelopment Project Fundraising Committee

#### 12:00 pm **LUNCH | Networking | Photo Booth**

#### 1:00 pm **Keynote:**

Ontario's Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development will discuss the progress on the government's plan on building a stronger Ontario for all workers.

Presenter:

Hon. David Piccini, Minister of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development

#### 1:30 pm **1000 Islands Rideau Canal Waterways – Building an Appetite for Culinary Tourism**

To support the Tourism and Hospitality sector recovery, the 2022 Leeds Grenville Regional Tourism Destination Strategy was produced. The Food and Drink sector was identified as one of the region's top visitor interests. Businesses leading the way in culinary tourism will share their insights and what the potential is for the future.

Introduction: Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager

Moderator: Shelbi McFarlane, Business Development Officer  
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

Panel: Cynthia Peters, Maison Maitland Cooking School & Villas  
Erin Kergen, Pickle & Myrrh  
Matthew Shapton, Hall's Apple Market  
Martha Kudrinko, Rosie Yumski's Fine Foods

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2:15 pm **Leeds Grenville 15th Anniversary Summit Review & What's Ahead**  
**15th Anniversary Leeds Grenville Trivia - prizes**

A quick look back on where we started, what has been accomplished and where we are heading. When there's a vision and action, everyone achieves more.

Presenter:

Ann Weir, Economic Development Manager  
United Counties of Leeds and Grenville

2:45 pm **Closing Remarks | Networking**

