

**REGIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION 7  
ANNOUNCES BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**February 8, 2011** – The RTO7 Transition Team is pleased to announce the installation of the inaugural board of directors for the recently incorporated Regional Tourism Organization 7.

The first directors, who are drawn from businesses and organizations across Tourism Region 7 – Bruce, Grey and Simcoe – are:

Dave Barrett (Grey County)	Project Manager Saugeen Economic Development Corporation
Bruce Chappell (Simcoe County)	Owner/Operator Chappell Farms, Barrie
Ralph Cipolla (Simcoe County)	Owner Operator CC Bak 2 Basics, Orillia
Peter Cowley (Simcoe County)	General Manager and Executive Vice-President Horseshoe Resort
Paul Crysler (Bruce County)	Owner/Operator Nature's Millworks, Paisley
Catherine Durrant (Simcoe County)	Economic Development Officer Town of Collingwood
Douglas Freiburger (Bruce County)	Owner/Operator Groundhog Divers II, Port Elgin
Peter Majewsky (Bruce County)	Manager Holiday Park Resort, Southampton
Laura Nelson (Simcoe County)	Owner Fern Resort, Orillia
Bev Philp (Grey County)	Vice-President, Sales & Marketing Blue Mountain Resort
Bryan Plumstead (Grey County)	Tourism Manager & Economic Development Coordinator Grey County
Kathryn Stephenson (Simcoe County)	Tourism Manager Tourism Simcoe County
Val Stimpson (Grey County)	President & CEO Neustadt Springs Brewery, Neustadt
Jeff Stovold (Simcoe County)	President/Partner LeFroy Harbour Resorts, LeFroy
Philip Tarlo (Simcoe County)	Chef Instructor, Chef Instructor, Liaison College, Barrie Owner/Operator, Willow Trace B&B & Admirals Post Pub

The 15 directors were selected from 40 applicants who responded to an open call for nominations that was conducted between November 2010 and January 2011. The nomination and selection process was managed by an independent oversight committee and monitored by the Ministry of Tourism.

The structure of the board and the selection process were carefully designed to ensure that RTO7 would benefit from the direction of a volunteer, industry-led board drawn from private and non-private tourism businesses and organizations, and that reflects the interests of key Region 7 tourism sectors.

For more information about the new board, please visit the transition web site at [www.region7transition.ca](http://www.region7transition.ca).

### **Next Steps**

The board will convene for its first business meeting in late February. Its first major tasks are to approve plans for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2011 for submission to the Ministry of Tourism, and to begin putting resources in place as RTO7 as it prepares for its first year of operation.

The Transition Team is providing support and assistance to the board as it assumes responsibility for the affairs of the organization, including the 'priority project' planning and development initiatives currently underway, and to help ensure the Region 7 tourism industry remains informed in the coming months.

The Transition Team wishes the new board of directors every success and look forward to the contributions RTO7 will make to furthering the success of the tourism industry in Bruce, Grey and Simcoe.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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