

# Brief Timmins Chamber History 1949-Present

---

## → Mission Statement

The Timmins Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit volunteer organization which represents a wide range of business and community interests. We are committed to our community and encourage its growth by promoting business opportunities.

## → 1949

Porcupine Chamber formed. Group of local businessmen lead by Dr. JB McClinton  
1<sup>st</sup> Santa Parade

## → 1950

Chamber purchased future airport site for \$5000

## → 1952

Chambers active Agricultural Committee sponsored the Northern Ontario Agricultural and Livestock Fair

## → 1953

Sod turning ceremony at the new Airport. Chamber sells site to City for \$1.00

## → 1955

Opening of the Timmins Airport, Chamber lobbies for second runway

## → 1956

Chamber Licence Bureau publicized  
Winter Snow Road to Foleyet completed

## → 1957

Chamber has vault of 1<sup>st</sup> Porcupine District Mining Records office into a designated historic site

## → 1958

Chamber holds opening ceremonies at its new Tourism Information Booth located at the Pamour detour on hwy 101

## → 1959

Chamber urges investigation of the Unemployment Act for abuse of the system

## → 1960

Chamber opens larger Tourism Information Centre at same site

→ 1962

Chamber lobbies to bring psychiatric hospital to area

→ 1963

First Wildlife Dinner

→ 1964

Chamber opens new building on Hwy 101 in Schumacher (old site)

→ 1965

Chamber sponsors tourism seminars

→ 1969

Chamber active in encouraging Timmins District Hospital

→ 1970

Chamber presents to House of Commons for extension of the Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act, successful, program extended to 1973

→ 1972

Chamber asks for perimeter road north of the City

Chamber lobbies for highway 144- highway opens

Chamber hosts Arbour Day with MNR

→ 1973

Chamber Historical Committee asks for museum grant to erect the Timmins Museum, National Exhibition Centre

→ 1974

Chamber advocates removal and relocation of downtown railyards

→ 1975

Chamber in all-out effort to gain the Northern Science Centre on the site of the closed Hollinger Mine

→ 1978

Chamber fights increase in Air Canada air fares and appears in hearings in Ottawa

→ 1982

Chamber initiates proposal and works with City and BIA to form Joint Tourism Committee and the Timmins Economic Development Corporation

Chamber backs efforts to gain District Hospital

Chamber works with Mattagami Conservation Authority to rejuvenate Gilles Lake, a long term project of the Chamber Civic Affairs Committee

→ **1984**

Chamber Tourism Committee works with City to obtain government funding for the feasibility study for the Underground Gold Mine Tour

→ **1985**

Chamber surveys Airport personnel, general public and residents along Airport Road regarding the provision of City transit bus service to the area

→ **1986**

Resources Committee surveys area resource industry showing support for Free Trade Agreement

Chamber protests gas prices

Chamber and Prospectors & Developers Association do mailout survey on local economy benefit of Flow Through Share Program, \$75 million

→ **1987**

Chamber begins letter writing campaign in protest of the elimination of the Flow Through Share Program

Chamber forms Export Committee

→ **1988**

Began Junior Achievement Program in Timmins

Chamber request yield lane at hwy 101 and 144 to reduce hazard

Education Committee starts Business After Five Program

First Business Excellence Awards

→ **1989**

Chamber works on obtaining a Detox Centre in Timmins

Chamber commissions early bushplane exhibits for Timmins Airport

→ **1990**

New Chamber building opens

→ **1991**

Chamber promotes Timmins business community to points along the James and Hudson Bay. One flight of visitors from the local business community traveled up the Coast and a reciprocal flight was held in the Spring

Chamber takes over Commercial buildings Energy Management Program for the region

→ 1992

Chamber launches Quest 92/93 campaign to promote shopping, buying and selling locally

Hosted luncheon with TEDC and Aboriginal Groups to promote joint ventures between aboriginal and non-aboriginal business people

Chamber applies for designation of the City of Timmins under the Federal Community Futures Program

→ 1993

Tourism Committee publishes “101 Things to Do in Timmins”

→ 1994

Held Second All-Cities Energy Forum, aimed at helping businesses reduce energy usage and save money

Surveyed Chamber members on the “Underground Economy”

Hosted “Retail Revolution” session in anticipation of Walmart opening

→ 1995

Chamber goes to bat to obtain MRI for TDH

Chamber appears before Royal Commission on Workers Compensation

→ 1998

Chamber Resources Committee issues policy on Lands for Life, defeated at the Ontario Chamber to have enacted as lobby policy.

Chamber takes on Casino development issue, surveys members, supported.

→ 1999

Snowmobile Lanes on new bridge construction identified as an issue. Chamber successful in getting MTO and Timmins Snowmobile Club to the table to negotiate a snowmobile lane on the new bridge at the Porcupine River.

→ 2000

Re-introduce Junior Achievement to the Timmins Area.

Tourism Committee organizes Shania Time, celebrating the opening the Shania Twain Centre. More than 100 community flags, 3000 pins and 1000 static clings and posters are distributed as a revenue neutral project.

Chamber lobbies to have TEDC funding increased.

→ 2001

Chamber begins to lobby city to perform Core Services Review.

Chamber lobbies to have merchant licence fees reduced for out of town businesses in Kapuskasing. Cut in half from \$1500 to \$750.

→ 2002

Transportation Committee lobbies MTO re: repairs on 655

Chamber lobbies City for airport development (land ownership by tenants, reduced landing fees, luggage carts)  
Successful in some areas.

→ 2003

Timmins Chamber successful in resurrecting NOCC.

Governmental Affairs committee submits CCC policy on Environmental Assessment.

Chamber introduces Energuide for Residential Homes to area.