

canoe.ca



# The Observer

Careers  
Classifieds

Ob  
Au

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES

News Sports Special Sections Business Arts/Life Multimedia Features Contests Contact Us

## Local News

[Home](#) [News](#) [Local News](#) [Economic recovery better than anticipated](#)

**Surf & Talk Bundle**  
Residential Line, Call Display or Call Messaging Pack and Speed Pro High Speed Internet.  
**\$76.95** /month  
Offer available in Forest only. Some conditions apply.

# Economic recovery better than anticipated

Posted By **SHAWN JEFFORDS, THE OBSERVER**

Posted 2 days ago

Economic recovery will take time, but local businesses are weathering the current recession better than even they anticipated. **P**

So says Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce president Garry McDonald. He said members who were surveyed earlier this year about how the recession has impacted them seemed remarkably upbeat. Optimism and a sense of confidence is going to be key to the local recovery, McDonald told a small turn out at an economic forum held by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) Monday night.

"Generally, businesses are saying they're doing a bit better than expected," McDonald said. "But does that mean that everyone in the community is doing well, absolutely not."

McDonald was part of a four member panel asked to speak about the recession and what the local response should be. He was joined by Sarnia and District Labour Council president Ray Fillion, Sarnia city councillor Dave Boushy and Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey.

The chamber's survey data, compiled earlier this year, found that 37 per cent of member business had remained the stable. A further 25 per cent said business has been stronger, McDonald said. What's needed is a further boost to the morale of businesses and consumers to help break out of the recession, he said.

"We need to find ways to tell our good news stories," McDonald said.

But amongst those positives there are still many negatives to work on, said Sarnia and District Labour Council president Ray Fillion. Employment insurance, disability and social assistance claims are all up and labour finds itself

"under attack" from employers who are trying to use the recession as a way to take more from employees.

"Governments and employers are asking for concessions from employees," he said. "They then make less and spend less in the community."

He said that local consumers can help local workers by being a bit more protectionist. They need to spend locally.

Sarnia-Lambton MPP Bob Bailey told the gathering it may be a year and a half before the economy emerges from recession. In that time, cooperation from all levels of government, and forums like OPSEU's, would help the recovery.

"No one person, agency or government has all the answers," Bailey said. "We need to hear from people, like we are tonight."

Coun. Dave Boushy said governments need to ensure that stimulus money, which is being doled about by the billions, is spent wisely. He said decisions on stimulus spending need to be made by governments with an eye to what works for tax payers.


"We can't have cabinet ministers throw money around just to make themselves look good," he said.

OPSEU local 123 president and forum organizer Bev Quakenbush said the community needs to take ownership of a solution. OPSEU sponsored the event as part of a broader campaign called "Let's Talk Solutions" to influence public policy.

She said she was disappointed the event wasn't better attended. A dozen people came to see the speakers and were spread out in a cavernous ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Point Edward. "I work on the front lines and see people who are in trouble everyday," she said. "People like to gripe and complain about the economy and this was a chance for them to do something about it."

Article ID# 1635556

[Submit content](#)

Share 

Tools    

## Comments on this Article. You are currently not logged in.

### Local News Articles:

- [Housing project gets government funding](#)
- [See Video: Imagination comes alive at First Friday](#)
- [Thursday detours](#)
- [Sarnia Police process 105 calls for service on Canada Day](#)
- [A cause for celebration](#)
- [Vandalism investigation](#)
- [Upgrades announcement](#)
- [Dad busted for plants](#)
- [What's up at First Friday](#)
- [Thief makes good after 15 years](#)

[More Local News »](#)



View photos of singles near you!

I am at:  Seeking:  Near Postal:

match.com

**[Obama Economic Recession](#)**

Here's Obama's REAL plan to turn the economy around.

[MoneyMorning.com/economic\\_recovery](http://MoneyMorning.com/economic_recovery)

**[Sexual Assault Law Firm](#)**

Consult a Toronto lawyer. You have choices you have power. We can help

[www.JellinekLaw.com](http://www.JellinekLaw.com)

**[What's My House Worth?](#)**

HouseValues' free service helps you determine the value of your home.

[Housevalues.ca](http://Housevalues.ca)

**[Economic Stimulus Blog](#)**

Valuable insight from experts on impact to states and industry.

[www.nationalstrategies.com](http://www.nationalstrategies.com)

Ads by Google

---

[News](#) | [Sports](#) | [Special Sections](#) | [Business](#) | [Arts/Life](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [Features](#) | [Contest](#)

© 2009 , [Sun Media](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Website Advertising](#) | [RSS](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Re](#)













