

ROBINSON TAKES THE HELM

On June 25, the Windsor & District Chamber of Commerce welcomed **Mike Robinson** as its 123rd Chairman of the Board serving for the 2001/02 term of office.

Mike has been an active member of our Board since 1992 and, in his new role, plans to make the Chamber a more policy-focused organization that clearly articulates the voice of business in Windsor & Essex County. He believes that the Chamber must become more critical at all levels of government and will undertake to make the organization more outspoken and involved on behalf of business.

Born in England in 1957, his family emigrated to Canada in 1960. He completed primary school in Northern Ontario, high school in Oakville and graduated from McMaster University in 1980 with an Honours B.A.



While in university, he joined the army reserve and attended infantry officer training, receiving two national leadership awards. From 1980 to 1985, he served full time as a Captain in command and in staff positions including Executive Staff Officer at the National Defense College. During this time, he traveled extensively through 28 countries. He still serves in Canada's army reserve holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and, for five years, was Commanding Officer of the Essex & Kent Scottish Regiment in Windsor and Chatham. He retired from this role in June, for a period of up to two years, in order to concentrate on Chamber issues and the challenges facing companies operating here.

Mike contends that some of these challenges include a crumbling transportation infrastructure which could stunt future growth, new taxation policies at all levels of government which place a greater burden on business and the decline of the natural environment in this area which makes it more difficult to lure new investors. He would like to encourage more businesses to join our membership, determine what specifically concerns them, then advocate on their behalf.

Mike is Managing Director of Blonde & Little Insurance Group – a financial services and insurance intermediary offering property-casualty insurance, life and disability products and employee benefits to commercial and personal clients. The group also operates a managing general agency (MGA) and a mutual fund dealership. The Blonde & Little Insurance Group currently has 110 employees with offices in Windsor, London and Ottawa.

He is also a member of the Windsor Club, Windsor Yacht Club and the Royal Canadian Military Institute in Toronto, is married to Martha and has four children ranging in age from six to 13.