



SAINT JOHN REGION

THE CHAMBER

CHAMPIONS FOR BUSINESS

Thomas Simms donates portrait of his grandfather, L.W. Simms, to the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce

SAINT JOHN NB, October 22, 2021 “We are honoured that Mr. Thomas Simms has chosen the Chamber to house this portrait that hung in the boardroom of Simms for decades. As we move forward it is important that we honour in a meaningful way the efforts of those that came before us. This is particularly relevant as we come to an end of Small Business Week”. said David Duplisea, CEO of the Chamber.

As a former Chair of the Saint John Board of Trade (1925-1928), Mr. L.W. Simms was a leader in the formation of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Simms traveled throughout Canada to solicit support to form the national organization. In addition to the portrait, Mr. Simms also donated the archives relating to the tour and the discussions that followed.

Statement from the Hon. Perrin Beatty:

“The history of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the business community of Saint John are forever linked. Saint John was the site of the Canadian Chamber’s first annual meeting in 1926 but our roots are tied to the perseverance of Lewis W. Simms, of Saint John, whose cross-Canada crusade to form a national chamber led to our formation.

We were pleased to have delegates from across Canada meeting in Saint John in 2019, during the Saint John Regional Chamber’s bicentennial year and at that time, we had the pleasure of Thomas Simms III helping to open our AGM.

Earlier this year, the Saint John Chamber returned to its roots, relocating to its original site on the corner Prince William and King Streets so it’s fitting, in 2021, that Tom has given the portrait of his grandfather L.W. Simms to add to the chamber’s story.

Twenty-sixth U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt said “The more you know about the past, the better prepared you are for the future”. It is with this in mind, that I believe the businesses of the Saint John region are in good hands.”

The Honourable Perrin Beatty, PC OC
President and CEO
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce.



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Left to right: Deb Tremblay-The Chamber, David Duplisea- CEO The Chamber, Mr. Thomas Simms, Dean Mullin-Chair of the Chamber

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The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and improved quality of life in the community. With more than 600 member businesses, representing the interests of 37,000 people, The Chamber is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.