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CIRCULATION 15,000

—JUNE 2009

## Waud takes charge

BY SAYWARD SPOONER

Really, who isn't glad to have last year behind us? As the economy begins to find its balance and businesses are slowly coming out of hiding, Charles Waud prepares to take office as the newest president of the Brampton Board of Trade. But even several months into a recession, you'd have to be pretty passionate about your city to want to take on that kind of responsibility. Passionate and loyal.

Waud has lived in Brampton since 1966, from the time he was four-years-old, and worked here his entire working life. In 1989 he founded his company WaudWare Incorporated, which has been providing IT solutions for its customers—mainly in the produce industry—for 20 years. In fact it will celebrate the landmark, which also happens to be the company's most profitable year ever, this summer. WaudWare has been a standout member of the community, being a generous supporter of charities and adult and youth sports teams for as long as it's been in business. August 13th will mark the second annual WaudWare Invitational Golf Tournament. The company became a member of the Brampton Board of Trade in 2000 and three



Charles Waud

years ago Waud decided that running for the presidency one day just seemed like a good idea. His year as president will be his sixth year on governing council.

"I really like networking, reaching out and helping people so this is a perfect way to do that right across the whole city," says Waud. Of course, he probably hadn't considered three years ago the possibility that the economy would be in a slump when he took office, but Waud is un-fazed. The entire Board of Trade has reason to be optimistic right now. Though revenue has been down because some businesses haven't been able to afford renewing their membership, according to

Waud, participation is at an all-time high. The board's most recent election saw 17 people run for the five free board positions, the largest number ever. On top of that, there were over 180 ballots cast, the largest return anyone can remember seeing. No one's sure exactly why participation has gone up. "Maybe it's because people are excited about seeing me coming in," reasons Waud. Apparently that's the sentiment floating around the office. In any case, people are eager for change.

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