



Derek Boucher

Job Developer -

Durham College Community Employment Services

Derek Boucher is a proud Clarington resident with over 15 years of experience in the Employment Services sector, including 11 years with Durham College Community Employment Services. As a Job Developer, he works closely with local employers to understand their workforce needs, develop creative hiring solutions, and connect businesses with skilled jobseekers from the community.

A graduate of Durham College's Social Service Worker program, Derek has also supported future professionals by serving as an Instructor and Field Placement Advisor. He is passionate about supporting local businesses, building strong community partnerships, and helping Clarington's workforce and economy continue to grow.



Laura Boyko

Owner - BeWell Therapy

Owner - Stable Works

Laura Boyko is a Registered Social Worker, Psychotherapist, and entrepreneur, leading both BeWell Therapy and Stable Works, an equine-assisted learning company. With a strong background in healthcare, education, and leadership, she has spent much of her career in leadership roles before returning to direct mental health service through private practice. She also serves as a professor in the Department of Social Work at Trent University.

Laura brings extensive governance experience, having served on several Boards including the Durham Community Health Centre, where she spent six years as a Board member and two years as Chair. She is passionate about supporting well-being and community growth, and is committed to contributing to a strong, connected, and thriving business community.



Jaituni Desai

Owner - Taunton Variety & Party Store

Founder - Candy Confusion

Jaituni Desai is the Owner of Taunton Variety & Party Store in Hampton and the Founder of Candy Confusion, an e-commerce business specializing in retro, novelty, and hard-to-find treats. She brings over 12 years of leadership experience in the long-term care and retirement sector, having served in roles such as Director of Operations and General Manager, with strengths in strategic planning, operations, and business development.

Jaituni is deeply committed to supporting small businesses and fostering inclusive economic growth. As a proud Canadian and woman of South Asian descent, she is passionate about promoting diversity, representation, and community connection. Her businesses actively support local initiatives and organizations, and she is eager to contribute her experience and perspective to strengthening the Clarington business community.



Chris Kellestine

Associate Vice President - GEMTEC Consulting
Engineers and Scientists Limited

Chris Kellestine is the Associate Vice President at GEMTEC Consulting Engineers and Scientists Limited, bringing more than 35 years of experience in the consulting engineering field. A practicing Applied Science Technologist (A.Sc.T.) and Project Management Professional (PMP), Chris has built his career within employee-owned, entrepreneurial organizations, progressing from field technologist to senior executive roles. His experience spans local, national, and international levels, with a strong focus on governance, risk management, and strategic growth.

Since joining GEMTEC in 2023, Chris has played a key role in expanding the company's presence across the GTA and southwestern Ontario, including the recent relocation of their Durham Region office to Bowmanville. A Clarington resident since 1994, he has been actively involved in minor sports and community initiatives over the years. Chris is passionate about supporting business growth and contributing his leadership experience to the Clarington Board of Trade.



Benito Suppa

Owner - Durham Escape Rooms

Benito Suppa is the Owner of Durham Escape Rooms, a locally established business that has been operating for over 10 years. With a 6,200 sq. ft. facility and 10 unique experiences, he has built a successful operation grounded in strong marketing, team development, and data-driven decision-making. His background in digital marketing and operational effectiveness has also led him to speak at international conferences on topics such as branding, SOP development, and navigating business challenges.

Within his industry, Benito's strengths include game design, revenue generation, and managing a complex operation, but his passion extends beyond his own business. He is committed to helping other entrepreneurs grow, encouraging collaboration over competition, and supporting a business community where shared success is the goal.



Stefanie Wood

Business Services Manager - IBW Surveyors

Stefanie Wood is proud to not only be a resident of Bowmanville, but to truly live in Clarington. Her life is deeply rooted in the community, where her professional career has flourished and where she has built a home for her family. With experience across both the public and private sectors, she brings a well-rounded perspective along with strengths in strategic planning, operational efficiency, and collaborative problem-solving.

Stefanie has been actively involved in the community, particularly through local sports associations, where she has connected with families, businesses, and community leaders. This involvement has given her a strong understanding of both the opportunities and challenges facing Clarington. She has long been impressed by the work of the Clarington Board of Trade and is eager to contribute to its continued impact and success.