



# PJ Mercanti

DIRECTOR, MERCANTI ENTERPRISES  
CEO, CARMEN'S GROUP

PJ is a proud Hamiltonian and passionate family man who serves as the Director of Mercanti Enterprises and CEO of Carmen's Group, one of Southern Ontario's most dynamic hospitality and entertainment companies. The company's impressive portfolio includes award-winning venues Carmen's Banquet Centre, Best Western Premier C Hotel, Baci Ristorante, The Lakeview and the Hamilton Convention Centre.

As a leader and influencer in the renaissance of Hamilton as an economic and hospitality powerhouse, PJ currently chairs Hamilton100, a community organization working towards bringing the 2030 Centennial Commonwealth Games back to Hamilton. He also chairs the Hamilton Cardinals, a semi-professional baseball team competing in the Intercounty Baseball League (IBL), and he led the charge to save the team back in 2018. As the chair of the Hamilton Tourism Development Investment Group, PJ assisted Tourism Hamilton in securing the funding required to host the 2019 Canadian Open and upcoming 2020 Canadian Country Music Awards in his hometown of Hamilton.

National media outlets including Maclean's, ET Canada, and Hello Canada Magazine have profiled charitable events that PJ has produced through Carmen's Group's "An Evening With" celebrity series featuring prolific entertainers and personalities that have included Al Pacino, Sylvester Stallone, Michael Douglas, Olivia Newton-John, Tony Bennett and Wayne Gretzky, among others. Coupled with his work as chair of the Charity of Hope annual gala for the past 10 years, these events have collectively raised over \$2.5 Million for local not-for-profit organizations.

Through Mercanti Enterprises, PJ produces much of his creative works and personal pursuits. He has written many published articles and short stories, is a keynote speaker for LeaderImpact Group and is an award-winning filmmaker. His critically acclaimed short documentary "Harley: Welcome to America" premiered at numerous film festivals around the world and in 2017 won the Best Documentary Award at the Plymouth Film Festival in London, England.

A cum laude business graduate from the University of Notre Dame, PJ started his career as an associate producer for "The Season: Notre Dame Football", an ESPN show produced by Intersport Productions. He was recognized as one of Canada's Top 45 Entrepreneurs by The Globe and Mail and as one of the 30 Most Influential People in Hamilton by Urbanicity Magazine in 2015.

His love for nostalgia is displayed through his enjoyment of classic movies, oldies music, and all things Route 66 and Walt Disney, while his love of sport becomes obvious whenever the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, New England Patriots, Hamilton Tiger-Cats and Hamilton Cardinals are playing. His ultimate love is his family, which includes his lovely wife Diana, energetic son Matthew and beautiful daughter Gloria, and he is often seen walking throughout Hamilton with his three loves.

## Media Inquiries

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