

*Quesnel & District Chamber of  
Commerce*

***Business Voice***

*"Serving the Business Community since 1910"*

*February 2008*

THE QUESNEL & DISTRICT  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## ***Celebrates Chamber of Commerce Week***

***On January 23rd, the 98th Chamber  
Board of Directors was sworn in. Let  
us all welcome the new board:***

**Executive:**

Keith Brookes  
Darlene Osborne  
Bruce McLean  
Michael Boreen  
Camae Lynn

Community Futures  
Cariboo Observer  
West Fraser Mills  
Service BC  
Info Book

President  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Treasurer  
Past President

**Directors:**

Charlene Bare  
Dave Forster  
Brian Harrison  
Betsy Ives  
Robert Moutray  
Gary Plamondon  
Geoff Ruffle  
Sky Smaill  
JoAnne Ward  
Heloise Dixon-Warren

Quesnel Driving School  
Cariboo Ford  
Scotia Bank  
College of New Caledonia  
Sandman Hotel  
Quesnel Vending  
Royal Bank  
ABC Communications  
Stepping Stones  
Moose Meadow Farms

PICTURED HERE IS THE NEWLY ELECTED PRESIDENT OF  
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- KEITH BROOKES OF  
COMMUNITY FUTURES.



Keith will be attending a lunch with the Premier and Cabinet put on by the BC Chamber of Commerce on February 29<sup>th</sup> to discuss transportation and issues affecting Northern Businesses.

## WHAT DOES A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DO IN THE COMMUNITY?

Generally, the Chamber of Commerce's main activities include the following:

1. Voice of Business

Through its extensive Chamber network across the province and the nation, for every level of government, the Chamber advocates public policy that fosters economic vitality and prosperity.

2. Member Benefits

Based on the strengths of its large membership across the nation, the Chamber is able to solicit member discounts on a wide variety of services. The result is an attractive benefits program that includes discounts on group insurance plans (incl. extended health care), merchant credit card systems, fuel discounts, wireless phone services et cetera.

3. Networking

Maintaining and expanding a network of contacts is important to business. Throughout the year, the Chamber hosts a number of events that enable its members to meet others, making new connections and refreshing existing ones.

4. Communication

The Chamber maintains good and well informed communication channels on issues that affect the business community. Through its newsletter, e-mails, informational events, as well as board and staff, it keeps its members as well as the public informed about what's important to our business community.

5. Projects

The Chamber may engage in specific projects it deems interesting or relevant to the business community. For example, over the last few years, the Chamber has been managing the local Visitor Information Centre for the community, based on a multi-year contract with the city.

## **PUBLIC POLICY INPUT**

On a board level, the Chamber examines public policy issues on a regular basis and provides input through the appropriate channels.

Local business generates the fundamental wealth that supports this community. It is business that generates the income for the employers and the employees and it is this business income that essentially forms the basis to support most forms of government income and programs.

In this regard, it is very important that the concerns of the business community be heard and heeded and the Chamber as spoken on issues like this at the appropriate time and place.

The Chamber has put forward a clear message to:

1. Grow the economy.
2. Lower the tax burden on business.
3. Strive for efficient and cost effective service delivery.
4. Contain spending.

It will remain very important for the community to continue to attract and keep entrepreneurial talent and encourage people that want to invest, work and live in our area.

As the voice of business, the Chamber does its part to stay on top of developments and address concerns of our members.

## **UPCOMING CHAMBER EVENTS**

We have included the 2008 list of events for you, our member. Our board meetings are highlighted in green. We encourage you to contact the office a week in advance if there are any items that you wish the Chamber board to review. In yellow is the information on task force meetings. Currently there are two task forces, one for Women in Business (WIB) and the second for the Business Excellence Awards (BEA). All members are encouraged to join a task force or a committee meeting. Committee's will be formed after the strategic planning session in March and we will forward that information to you. If you have any questions on the schedule or you have ideas you would like to bring forward, please call us at 747-0125.

As well, do not forget that the Chamber manages the Visitor Centre. One of the many value added privileges of being a Chamber member is free racking at the Visitor Centre. If you have an event you would like us to list, please call the Visitor Centre at 992-8716. The Visitor Centre assisted 17,522 visitors in 2007.

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Business Excellence Awards	February 8th	7:00-9:00pm	North Cariboo Community Campus	This is our opportunity to celebrate true excellence in our community.
Women's Business	Feb 12	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Women's Enterprise Centre is the guest speaker.
Chamber Board Meeting	Feb 20	12-1:30	Chamber	Set Strategic Planning Agenda
Chamber Luncheon	Feb 27	12-1	Legion	Chamber Update
HRSDC Wage Subsidy Applications	Feb 28			Summer student applications due.
Strategic Planning	March 5	9-4	TBA	Set Annual Goals and Objectives
WIB Planning	March 6	9:30-11	Chamber	Task force meeting
Women's Business	March 11	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Travel Tips for Women
Chamber Board Meeting	March 19	12-1:30	Chamber	Develop Budget
Chamber Lunch	March 26	12-1	Legion	RMV
WIB Planning	April 3	9:30-11	Chamber	Task force meeting

Women's Business	April 8	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Hearts at Work
Membership Renewals	April			Memberships renewal for April 1, 2008- March 31, 2009
Chamber Directory	April			Provide all membership and community data for directory.
Chamber Directors Meeting	April 16	Chamber	12-1:30	Budget needs to be passed.
Chamber Monthly Luncheon	April 23	12-1	Legion	Real Estate in our community.
Summer Student Recruitment	April 23-27		Chamber	Interview Summer Students
Summer Training	May 1-3	8:30-4:30	Chamber	Visitor Info Travel Certification
WIB Planning	May 1	9:30-11	Chamber	Task Force meeting
Women's Business	May 13	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Assertive Not Aggressive
Chamber Directors Meeting	May 21	12:-1:30	Chamber	Prepare for AGM.
Chamber AGM	May 28	12-1	Legion	Annual General Meeting with presentation of financials.
BC Chamber AGM	May 22-25		Whistler	BC Chamber of Commerce AGM

WIB	June 5	9:30-11	Chamber	Task Force meeting
Women's Business	June 10	TBA	TBA	Garden Tea Party
Chamber Directors Meeting	June 18	12-1:30	Chamber	Last directors meeting of summer
Chamber Lunch	June 25	12-1	Legion	Safety Council of BC
Quesnel Familiarization Tour	TBA	TBA		This event will enhance participants to be better community ambassadors.
Tourism Awareness Day	TBA	TBA		Invite community members to be travel counselors for an hour.
Chamber Celebration	TBA	TBA		Summer Board, Committee and Task Force get together.
WIB	July 3	9:30-11	Chamber	
Women's Business	July 8	TBA	Roberts Roost	Old Fashioned Picnic
WIB	August 7	9:30-11	Chamber	Task force meeting
Women's Business	August 12	TBA	Murphy's	Wine Tasting
Visitor Centre Marketing Plan	Sept			Determine and design ads for publications.
WIB	Sept 4	9:30-11	Chamber	Task force meeting

Women's Business	Sept 9	8:30- 9:30	Chamber	Balancing Family & Work
Chamber Directors Meeting	Sept 17	12-1:30	Chamber	Start advertising Small Business Week.
Chamber Monthly Luncheon	Sept 24	12-1	Legion	Invite all of the Educational provides for an engaged discussion.
BEA /WIB	Oct 2	9:30-11	Chamber	Determine theme and put nomination form together.
Women's Business	Oct 14	8:30-11	Best Western	Hobby to Business
Small Business Week	Oct 20-24			
Chamber Board Meeting	Oct 15	12-1:30	Chamber	Chamber to discuss participation in Career Leap.
Chamber Monthly Luncheon	Oct 22	12-1	Legion	We will be brining in a dynamic speaker.
BEA/ WIB	Nov 6	9:30-11	Chamber	Look at catering, budget, sponsorship and marketing plan.
Women's Business	Nov 18	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Entertaining for Business
Chamber Board Meeting	Nov 19	12-1:30	Chamber	Form nominations committee.

Chamber Luncheon	Nov 26	12-1	Legion	Forestry Update
Tourism BC Requirements	Dec			Update Community data and events calendar for the following year.
BEA/WIB	Dec 4	9:30-11	Chamber	Set up Nomination and Judging Committees.
Women's Business	Dec 9	8:30-9:30	Best Western	Christmas Party
Chamber Christmas Party	TBA			



2008 promises to be a strong economic year in British Columbia. Nonetheless, there are still people who are out of the workforce, ready to re-engage in employment. At JobWave, we'll help you connect with these talented, motivated people so you can grow your business!

#### HOW JOBWAVE BENEFITS EMPLOYERS

If you would like to be the next employer to hire qualified, job-ready candidates through JobWave, call us today at **1-888-JOBWAVE** and enjoy the following benefits:

- our team will tailor the hiring process to meet the needs of your business
- candidates will be pre-screened for skills and attitude, saving you valuable time
- you'll avoid screening fees, placement fees and costly newspaper ads with our free job postings and placement services
- ongoing support from field staff will be provided to ensure long-term success in the workplace

#### LOOKING FOR A FEW INTERVIEW TIPS?

Try these questions to get the answers you need!

1. Tell me a little about yourself
2. Why are you interested in this job?
3. What is your relevant experience?
4. What are your interests outside of work?
5. What are your greatest weaknesses?

6. What do you want to be doing five years from now?
9. Why should we hire you for this position?
10. Do you have any questions for me?

***JobWave is delivered by WCG International HR Solutions in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. WCG has helped clients attain over 66,000 job placements since 1995. Please contact us at:***

ESP Consulting 250-392-4446 1-866-392-4446 or Walter Marin, Employment Solutions Representative



## GREENING YOUR BUSINESS

*BECOMING ECO-EFFICIENT SAVES YOUR BUSINESS MONEY. HERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES:*

- Replacing one 60w incandescent bulb with one 15w CFL bulb that is used 8 hours per day, 6 days per week can save about \$11 per bulb per year. How many bulbs can you replace?
- Today's more efficient exit signs can offer lifetime savings of up to \$300 or more per sign.
- You can easily save \$30 per year on your electricity bill by replacing your old refrigerator with an energy efficient model. BC Hydro also has incentive programs for this which could net you another \$30.
- Water heating is the second biggest energy user after space heating. An energy efficient electric hot water heater may cost \$75 more to purchase but save over \$200 over the lifetime of the heater.

Another way to learn about savings and incentives specific to your business is to book a free consultation the Fraser Basin Council, taking place in February and March 2008.

Call Tracy Bond at 992-2295 for more information.

