



BC Chamber News

On May 21st-23rd, Coralee and Keith travelled to Prince Rupert to participate in the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting, and attended several interesting sessions. Coralee raised the question of doubling tourism by 2015, and was answered with concerns on border challenges. She also asked for the thoughts of the keynote speaker Scotty Greenwood, Executive Director for the Canadian-American Business Council, on the discussion by certain politicians to reopen Softwood Lumber. Greenwood replied that as far as she knows, they are happy with the current situation. Keith and Coralee heard discussions on several other topics such as Economic and Environmental Sustainability for Business, banning the use of single use t-shirt (plastic) bags, and bio-energy. Both found the AGM informative and enjoyable and are thankful for the opportunity to participate in the event.

The BC Chamber of Commerce was very pleased to see MLAs Naomi Yamamoto and Steve Thomson named to the Cabinet. Both are past Chairs and Governors of the BC Chamber and join Hon. Bill Bennett, a former First Vice Chair of the Chamber. This, in addition to the restructuring of the Ministry of Small Business, Technology, and Economic Development, has encouraged BC Chamber members that the cabinet will be part of the answer to BC's economic rebound. President and CEO John Winters is convinced that the answer is not in a Buy Canadian policy established in retaliation to the Buy American policy. Winters says that a boycott against American businesses would be futile. Winters, along with other members of the BC Chamber believe the answer lies in discussion and negotiation, not retaliation.

The BC Chamber is also partnering in the Industry Training Authority's "Now's the Time" program, encouraging the training of new apprentices in trades during the economic downturn. ITA is making the case that now is the time for business to hire and retain apprentices while encouraging these apprentices to catch up on technical in-class training while times are slower.

Heart & Stroke Foundation Big Bike

On June 4th, directors of the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce rode the Heart & Stroke Foundation Big Bike. The Kamloops Chamber of Commerce challenged them and participants rose to the occasion, the “Tortured” Chamber raising \$988 dollars for the foundation. Special mention goes to Reggie Ettinger, the thirteen year old who stepped in for Tony Cruickshank, and is already planning to ride with the Chamber again next year and raise even more money. Special mention also goes to director Colin Ketchum, who raised \$500 of the total. Thank to everyone else who rode as well: Rob Moutray, Charlene Bare, Jason Carter, Martin Ellefson, and Patty Morgan.

Membership Packages

Membership packages went out the first few weeks of June. Coralee and Kara, the Chamber of Commerce summer student, hand delivered many of the packages and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with members and hear their ideas, comments, and concerns. Membership packages contain 2009 Chamber directories, membership cards, membership decals and a letter of thanks. We would like to thank all our renewed members for their continued membership.

New Membership

The Chamber of Commerce has set a goal of signing up 33 new members by the end of the summer, and we ask for our current members' help in achieving this goal. If you know of any businesses that are not chamber members, maybe the business next door to yours, invite them to join; tell them about the benefits you enjoy as a chamber member and how being a member would benefit them as well. Direct them to contact the Chamber of Commerce at 250-747-0125 for more information.

Women's Business

Women's Business will be hosting a potluck picnic at Robert's Roost on July 13th, at 6pm. A great networking evening to get to know each other better before the August-September break. Bring a dish for dinner, picnic blanket, refreshments, and wear a hat to win a great prize. Dessert will be supplied, so come on out for a fun, relaxing evening.

Event: Potluck Picnic

When: June 13, 2009

6:00pm

Where: Robert's Roost Campsite

Cost: Free

2nd Annual Golf Tournament

The Chamber of Commerce held their 2nd annual golf tournament on June 18th at the Quesnel Golf Course. Twenty-two players came out for the Texas Scramble-style tournament, with Hole-In-One, Closest to the Pin (KP), and Longest Drive (LD) competition holes. The first place team scored four under par at 31 for the back nine holes and consisted of Harpal Aulakh, Dave Panasar, Keith Boichat, and Tejinder Jawandha. Unfortunately, no one won the \$10,000 Hole-In-One prize donated by Key Life Financial, but Joe Gentles of Gold City Fitness was within 18 inches. Ladies' LD went to Tracey Roberts, and men's went to Keith Boichat. KP was Wanda Harrison for ladies and Craig Delwisch for men. A big thank you goes out to Quesnel Golf Course for hosting the tournament and the fantastic BBQ dinner. Thank you to the many sponsors who donated prizes to the Tournament:

Staples
Richbar Basket Cottage
Sandman Hotel
Gold City Fitness
Scotia Bank
RBC
Denny's
Century Vallen
Sharks Club
Big Country Printers
OK Tire
Carvers
Greg Andrews Insurance
Rogers
JD Meats
Bebbies Bar & Bistro

Quesnel Observer
Quesnel Vending
Best Western Mission
Southbend RV & Mini Storage
Info Book
Quesnel Golf Club
Regency Chrysler
Fountain Tire
West Fraser Mills
Quesnel Honda
West Park Mall
Cariboo Water
Key Life Financial
ABC Communications
Quesnel Spirit Committee
Walmart



A fun time was had by all, especially directors Mike Boreen (left), Jason Carter (right) and Rob Moutray (center).



Wanda Harrison (top center) won KP for women's and Craig Delwisch (bottom center) won KP for men's.

June Chamber Luncheon

Twenty people attended the June Chamber Luncheon to participate in a networking activity with fellow business leaders. Each attendee developed a thirty second “elevator” spiel, outlining themselves, what their business can do for you, and what’s new with their business. Some of the topics that were heard included plans for Canada Day celebrations, new programs at CNC, and an overall positive economic outlook from the businesses. The luncheon series will break for July and August and resume on September 23, 2009.

WorldHost Training

Patty Morgan, Quesnel Event and Visitor Services Coordinator, has completed her WorldHost training and is now a certified WorldHost Trainer. She held her first session June 30th, offering the course to interested members of the community. WorldHost teaches the importance of excellent customer services skills to give your customers that WOW (**W**inning attitudes that **O**ptimize **W**onderful experiences). Patty will be hosting a second training session for the Miss Quesnel Candidates on June 9th.

Tourism Awareness Day

The Quesnel Visitor Centre will be hosting a Tourism Awareness Day on July 23rd. The event will showcase the tourism industry of Quesnel to both residents and visitors. Tourism operators, such as Big Canyon Rafting, have been invited to display their businesses, and Chamber members are asked to come down and serve as “honorary tourism counselors” for half hour periods. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Krystal Schuster at the Quesnel Visitor Center at 250-992-8716.

New Residents/ New Business Barbeque

The Quesnel Visitor Centre is hosting a New Resident/ New Business BBQ on August 20, 2009. This will be a great chance to meet and greet new residents who have moved to our beautiful city as well as the new businesses that have opened up over the past year. Join us in a Scavenger Hunt around the downtown area and have some fun. More details to come.

Recognition and Reconciliation Act

At the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM, one of the topics discussed was the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act. David D. Hull, Executive Director of the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce wrote the following letter and sent it to Premier Campbell, as well as to Ministers of the Cabinet and the Abbotsford MLA:

Dear Premier Campbell,

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution at their June board meeting to support a British Columbia Chamber of Commerce resolution passed at their annual general meeting in May 2009 requesting that the Provincial government conducts appropriate consultation with a broad range of individuals and organizations representing the interests of first nations, business, governments and others of the province before concluding the text of the proposed Recognition and Reconciliation Act bill.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce has kept apprised of this file as part of our close working relationship with our MLA Mike DeJong and his previous cabinet portfolio. This initiative was proposed with little, if virtually any, notice with extremely sparse specifics provided in a six page, including a map, briefing document.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce was very concerned about the potential consequences of this initiative, which the Minister de Jong described as “unprecedented” and leading to “change on a seismic scale”. Minister DeJong referred to some very dramatic changes contained in the proposed legislation including “shared decision-making” and the recognition by the government of aboriginal title throughout the province “without requirement of proof or strength of claim”.

We were pleased that the Government set aside this bill on March 14 citing “we need to take the time to make sure we get this right”; and that “it would take the time for consultation and further discussions before tabling this bill”; and further that “the Premier and Minister de Jong will continue to engage with the business community on this important initiative”.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce applauds the government’s decision not to rush this important legislation before the May 2009 election. The magnitude and complexity of the proposed legislation commands in-depth consultation and study.

The Abbotsford business community is concerned about the scope of this initiative and sincerely requests that the government proceed with extensive consultations, with all stakeholders, to determine how this initiative will be constructed and implemented.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce acknowledges, and is supportive of, the need to increase certainty for all parties. The Chamber recognizes that the status quo is not acceptable and that much work has to be done, and

changes will be necessary, to achieve reconciliation with the aboriginal peoples of British Columbia.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is encouraged that the government is exploring new approaches but remains concerned that all the implications be fully considered and understood before an initiative of this significance becomes law.

A critical issue for the Chamber is how this initiative will achieve improved certainty while not entrenching yet another layer of process that would undoubtedly create a hindrance to the goal of expedient and timely project advancement of private sector initiatives.

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce remains committed to working within our sphere of influence to affect positive change to ensure that British Columbia remains The Best Place on Earth.

Outdoor Stacation Photo Contest

Where is your favorite fishing spot in the Quesnel area? The Chamber wants to know, and to give you the opportunity to win some great prizes for sharing your experience. Send your photos to the Chamber of Commerce at chamberphotocontest@gmail.com and receive one entry in the draw for every different photo that you submit. Please include your name, phone number (to contact winners), and the location shown in the photo. Photos will be used in future publications, so any extra information about the fishing spot would be appreciated. Winners will be drawn every week, so keep submitting new photos.

Upcoming Events

- July 1st – Canada Day Celebrations
Lebourdais Park, 12:30 – 3:00pm
- July 13th – Women’s Business Potluck Picnic
Robert’s Roost Campsite, 6 pm
- July 23rd – Tourism Awareness Day
Quesnel Visitor Centre, all day
- August 20th – New Residents/ New Business BBQ
Quesnel Visitor Center

Member Spotlight

Big Canyon Rafting is ready to roll for another season in Quesnel. Qualified guides Emerson, Mike, and Andrew are ready to guide any and all trips from half day to multi-day. Difficulty ranges from appropriate for all ages to extreme whitewater. Lunch and snacks are provided for day trips, as well as shuttle service to and from the put-in and take-out. For more information or to book a rafting experience of a lifetime visit www.bcraft.bc.ca or call 250-992-RAFT (7238).

QUESNEL & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce Fishing Photo Contest

*Share in the
Beauty of the
North Cariboo*

Unlimited Entry
Weekly Prizes
No Cost

Send Entries to:

chamberphotocontest@gmail.com

For more information please contact
Kara Perdue, Project Manager
250-747-0125
chamberphotocontest@gmail.com



The Chamber of Commerce is hosting a photo contest for your favourite fishing spot in Quesnel. Lakes, streams, ponds or rivers, we are looking for any and all photos to showcase the great fishing available in the Quesnel area. Entries can be submitted by email to chamberphotocontest@gmail.com and should include your name, phone number (to contact winners), and the location shown in the photo. These photos may be used in future publications so any additional information you have on the location on the photo would be greatly appreciated. There is no limit to the number of entries you submit providing they are all different photos, and winners will be drawn every week.