



BUSINESS VOICE

June 2008

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Robert Stoldt of Meta Consulting Awarded A Lifetime Membership of the Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce

At the Chamber of Commerce 98th Annual General Meeting Robert Stoldt of Meta Consulting was awarded a Lifetime membership for his dedication to the Chamber Movement. Robert served on the Executive for many years from Treasurer to President for two and Past President for two years. In this time Robert helped define the "Voice of Business" and set forth many policies that were submitted to all levels of government.



The Chamber of Commerce / Visitor Centre Wins Best Ad for Our Tourism Region

At the recent Cariboo Chilcotin Coast Tourism Association AGM, the Chamber of Commerce/ Visitor Centre won the best Ad for our region. Our theme for the ad was a City of A Million Blooms with a picture of all the flowers in front of the Visitor Centre. Our graphic artist and designer was Bob Michek (pictured in photo) of South Hill Graphics. This was especially fitting considering we won the National Communities In Bloom competition. What do you think our theme should be for this year?

Next Chamber lunch is June 25th from 12:00-1:00 at the Legion.

WOMEN'S BUSINESS a networking club for women.

The Women's Business is a networking organization bringing women together for professional networking opportunities. Meetings will be held from 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Begbies Bar and Bistro at the Tower Inn / Best Western. There is no charge to attend.

The next meeting will take place on June 10th. The next speaker is VJ from Inter Link discussing how to be **Assertive Not Aggressive**.

We would like to thank our Sponsors the Quesnel Cariboo Observer, Best Western and many individuals who have contributed their time to make this a success.

Contact the Visitor Information Centre to Reserve your seat at:
Phone: 992-8716 or qvisitor@quesnelbc.com.

TIM HORTON'S CAMP DAY WEDNESDAY JUNE 4TH ALL COFFEE PROCEEDS GO TO SENDING KIDS TO CAMP!!!! PLEASE SUPPORT THIS GREAT PROGRAM!

Thank you from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Quesnel



Idle Free Ambassador – Quesnel

The Idle Free Ambassador program is part of the new Youth Climate Leadership Alliance, a Ministry of Environment initiative that will see young people between 17 and 28 working on a wide range of projects concerning climate change. Ministry of Environment is working in partnership with local groups and municipalities that will guide the ambassadors in what they want to see in their community. This summer, there are 10 Idle Free Ambassadors working around the province collecting information about vehicle idling and doing public education and outreach.

In Quesnel, partnered with the Baker Creek Enhancement Society, Jeannine McCormack will be our Idle Free Ambassador for the summer. She will be working on projects such as the Commuter



Ian Ferguson, CEO of WCG International HR Solutions, was named a *Fellow of The BC Chamber of Commerce* at this year's AGM in Whistler in honour of his exemplary service and contributions.



BC Chamber President John Winter and Ian Ferguson, CEO of WCG

"Ian Ferguson is a respected leader in the Chamber movement and well deserves this recognition," says John Winter, President of The BC Chamber. "WCG has worked hand-in-hand with The BC Chamber to change the lives of thousands of people and strengthen our local economies," adds Winter. Under Ferguson's leadership, WCG joined forces with The BC Chamber in 1995 and together they have successfully partnered with the provincial government to deliver the JobWave and Triumph employment

programs.

Since WCG's inception, Ian and his team have worked with over 65,000 businesses to meet their HR needs and to help income assistance recipients and people with disabilities achieve over 70,000 placements in the workforce. WCG currently partners with The BC Chamber of Commerce and 32 local Chambers and has provided over \$1,077,000 in Chamber contracts in the last 5 years.

"I am very proud to be associated with The BC Chamber and humbled to be named a Fellow of this great organization," says Ian Ferguson. "Together we have helped make a better British Columbia by strengthening small business and linking motivated people to employment opportunities throughout our province."

WCG International HR Solutions partners with 349 local service providers to deliver programs like JobWave and Triumph Vocational Services in over 250 B.C. communities. WCG was just named the 43rd Best Workplace in Canada by Canadian Business magazine.

Call 1-888-JOBWAVE or call:

ESP Consulting
250-392-4446
1-866-392-4446

Challenge, attending events (Farmer's Market, Billy Barker Days) to do public outreach, as well as identifying idling hotspots in Quesnel and looking into getting "No Idling" signage installed in various locations. Additionally, Jeannine will also be doing driver education workshops for employers or groups that would like them.

Commuter Challenge time is here again! Time to get your internal, non-combustion engines tuned up and ready to walk, bike, run, take transit, or carpool to work or school!

Last year, over 37,000 Canadians took part in the Challenge by walking, cycling, taking transit, carpooling or teleworking instead of driving alone to get to work or school. This resulted in the reduction of 1,161,291 kg of Green House Gas emissions! Get a head start on the competition - register now for the Commuter Challenge. The National Commuter Challenge runs from June 1st to June 7th.

Our results will be shown on the National database so Quesnel can compete against other cities and regions across Canada. In addition, on Clean Air Day, June 4th, we will have our own local commuter challenge. Great prizes for the schools and workplaces with the highest participation levels!

Is there a business you'd like to challenge? Call us and we can help you arrange it! It's going to be a great Commuter Challenge - so don't miss out. To register your business or school, or for more information, please contact: Jeannine McCormack Idle Free Ambassador Baker Creek Enhancement Society 992-5833

Fire Suppression Refresher

The next Fire Suppression and Fire Suppression Refresher course available at the College of New Caledonia, Quesnel Campus. If you require additional information please call Andrea at (250)991-7500.

212° Change

When it comes to the old adage, "The only constant is change," truer words were never spoken - especially in the business arena. To survive and prosper, organizations must respond quickly to changing conditions. Learn to deal with change effectively by reminding yourself that:

- Although the timing may stink, there's usually a good reason behind the changes you and others are required to make.
- Those requiring or dictating change (typically managers) rarely control the circumstances they must respond to...and if they don't respond, you lose.
- Change helps you battle your competition and poor economic conditions. No change equals no progress.
- Everything you now enjoy was a "change" at one time.
- The fact that you must make changes means you're still employed.
- Your job is to do whatever the organization needs done. If involves change, so be it! Now, turn up the heat...212

Carbon Tax Costly for BC Agriculture

by David Schmidt

British Columbia's new carbon tax will cost agriculture between \$9 and \$13 million in the first year alone, says the B.C. Agriculture Council.

The first tax of its kind in Canada, the new carbon tax will apply to natural gas and other fossil fuels. To begin July 1, the tax is initially set at \$10 per tonne of equivalent carbon dioxide emissions and will increase steadily to \$30 per tonne by 2012.

In a mid-May letter to Premier Gordon Campbell, BCAC president Garnet Etsell tells the premier B.C. farmers are in "an economic crisis" and cannot afford the extra cost the tax imposes on them.

"We fully support your long term climate action initiatives, but we'd like to draw your attention to the potential impacts that the carbon tax will have on agriculture in B.C. in the short term," Etsell writes.

"Our farmers can simply not absorb the additional costs under the current economic climate."

The carbon tax is supposed to be revenue neutral and government has reduced and promised to continue to reduce personal and business tax rates to offset the new tax. However, Etsell points out "many of our farmers don't have an income to report, so they will not benefit from lower income tax rates. Without an active carbon trading system in place for B.C., our farmers are blocked from the potential revenue of selling carbon offsets."

"This couldn't have come at a worse time," adds BCAC executive director Steve Thomson. "The greenhouse, cattle and hog sectors are already in a very difficult situation."

Hardest hit will be greenhouse growers. Already reeling from overproduction and declining prices, they will have to absorb over 50 per cent of the costs to agriculture. "We estimate the carbon tax will cost greenhouse operators \$7,500 a hectare a year in the first year," Thomson says.

While industry has been told there will be no exemptions, government has agreed to a joint task force to look at the impact of the carbon tax and find potential options. Thomson says B.C. Minister of Agriculture and Lands Pat Bell committed to having the task team "bring something back in 30 to 60 days."

While farmers could eventually recoup their costs through cap and trade or carbon offsets, those systems are not yet in place. They could be part of the Climate Action Initiative, a new two-year program funded under the provincial climate action plan.

"The CAI is looking at longer term options, what we're dealing with here is the short term," Thomson says.

