



## BUSINESS VOICE

May 2008

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### Rocky Mountaineer Vacation Update

On May 10<sup>th</sup> the first train of the RMV season will be arriving from Jasper (time on this train can be unpredictable). The first train from Whistler will be May 13<sup>th</sup> at approximately 6:30 p.m. We are encouraging the community to take this opportunity to go for a walk, enjoy the evening and welcome in our RMV guests to the community.

The train will be arriving in the community on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, May 10<sup>th</sup>-October 14<sup>th</sup>. The visitor centre will be coordinating those individuals and community groups interested in greeting the train - call 992-8716. Every time you come out to greet the train, your name goes in to a draw to win fabulous prizes, including the grand prize a pair of RMV Tickets to experience the train (thank you RMV).

### Did you know?

- Our local museum is one of the top 10 in British Columbia.
- The Visitor Centre has experienced travel counsellors who can assist you plan your summer vacation.
- 2008 Accommodation guides are now available to pick up. These and many more informative publications are available for free at the Visitor Centre, open 9-4 Tuesday through Saturday. After May 16<sup>th</sup> the Visitor Centre will be open seven days a week 9-6, with extended hours on train nights.

### Chamber to celebrate 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

On May 28th the Chamber will be holding our Annual General Meeting and will discuss new benefits of membership and the goals and objectives for the upcoming year. All members are invited. Meeting is from 12:00-1:00 at the Royal Canadian Legion. Cost for lunch is \$12. We encourage members to bring their brochures and business cards. Please contact Patty at the Visitor Centre to reserve your seat.

Three projects identified to pursue during the Strategic Planning Session include:

1. Business Succession Planning  
*Measurable by the development of a database that lists local businesses that are for sale.*
2. Enhance communication, expand, diversify and retain Chamber of Commerce members.  
*Measurable by 30 new members.*
3. Enhance the Chamber of Commerce Website.  
*Measurable by more traffic to the website.*

The committees and task forces set up to achieve the goals and objectives include:

#### *Business Retention and Expansion*

- Businesses for Sale Database

## **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 May 13<sup>th</sup>. The topic is **Keeping Customers for Life.**

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](mailto:qvisitor@quesnelbc.com).

### **Summer Student Staff Position Available**

The Chamber of Commerce is accepting resumes May 1-7 from students who will be returning back to school in the Fall, for the position of Project Coordinator / Administrative Assistant.

#### **Job Description:**

1. Assist in answering all telephone, written and oral inquiries.
2. Assist in the production of a monthly newsletter (writing articles, calendar of events and editing.
3. Choose a project that will assist in education: develop, produce and follow-up.

#### **Transferable Skills:**

- Administrative Skills (Word 2007, Excel and Access)
- Editorial and profile writing
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Database Development
- Customer Service
- Organizational Skills

### **Welcome New Members**

- BBQ for new residents
- Event for new businesses/members
- Communicate with our Aboriginal communities.
- Enhance communication with the Realtors in Quesnel.

#### *Government*

- New Agenda
- Investigate participation in the BC Chamber pilot of Best of the Best II
- Develop policy to be submitted to the BC Chamber
- Attend Council Meetings on a rotating schedule
- Continue support of the BC and Canadian Chambers of Commerce

#### *Infrastructure & Skills Building*

- Phase II of the College
- Truck Route
- Multi-Centre
- Promote "Self Advocates" working in the community
- Promote availability of Broadband Infrastructure
- Student/ Business mentorship
- Career Leap

#### *Membership*

- Grow membership by 30. Each board member will bring in 2 new members
- Board members will call or visit new members and businesses to the community. (List will be presented each month at the board meeting)
- Greeters and all Chamber functions
- Continue membership campaign and use this opportunity to ask members if there are any issues they wish us to pursue on their behalf
- Survey members to determine how we can

Cariboo Rivers Lodge

1613 West Fraser Rd.

1-866-992-6661 or 991-8114 mooring@uniserve.com

Cozy Country Corner

1660 2222 Maple Drive

747-2787 Pspicer88@hotmail.com

Interior Hormones and Heart Health

706 Destiny Drive

992-6003 Charlotte.g@shaw.ca www.charlottegibbs.net

Mountain Top Meats Ltd.

1509 Marsh Rd.

992-5905 wylie@coyoteacres.ca

Pine Meadows Guest Ranch

1509 Marsh Rd.

992-5905 wylie@coyoteacres.ca

Snap Dragon Landscaping & Gardening

249-5984

The Old Howe Place Farm

2587 Blackwater Rd

249-0145 4dkirk@quesnelbc.com

Triple L Trophies & Engraving

#4D 345 St Laurent Avenue

992-9317

## The High Cost of Gasoline

Recently, I was reviewing past articles that I have written for the Chamber of Commerce. I came across one that I wrote in July of 2000 from information provided by the Better Business Bureau and it was titled the High Cost of Gasoline. I thought I would share some of the recommendations from that article to improve gas mileage.

offer improved value to our members

### Visitors Information Centre

- Circulate stats to community
- Market that the Chamber does operate the Visitor Centre and that members can rack for free
- Present annual report to city

### Marketing and Promotion

- Revisit Chamber directory and determine what we need to include in order to provide relocation and recruitment information
- Research and gather better economic development material to promote area
- Develop our community asset list (For example the Soccer Complex)
- Chamber Chatter on the Radio
- Submit monthly articles to the Cariboo Observer and Cariboo Peace Business magazine. Look at including archival information as well as where we are going.
- Improve website
- Each board member will submit one press release each year on a topic relevant to their business but promotes Quesnel as a great place to invest
- Work with Greg Andrews to continue the success of the group insurance plan

### Green Committee

- Provide education to the business community on ways to reduce their environmental footprint

### Audit Committee

- Check and balance review

### Social Committee

- Organize summer BBQ for Board and Christmas party
- Organize fun activities for members

### TASK FORCES

### Women's Business:

- Choose the right octane for your car. Check the owner's manual to find out what octane your engine needs, then buy it. Resist the urge to buy a higher-octane gas for "premium" performance. Using a higher-octane gas than your owner's manual suggests offers absolutely no benefit.
- Properly inflated tires provide less road-resistance and can improve fuel efficiency.
- Keep your engine maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Make sure you change the oil and get tune-ups according to your owner's manual.
- Drive with the posted speed limits.

In this same newsletter was an article on oil prices and the tourism industry. Between January 1999 and June 2000, the price of crude oil rose from \$12.51 US to \$31.40 US a barrel. The article continued to discuss how this price increase has been passed on to the retail price of gasoline and other petroleum products. Statistics Canada reported that the retail price of regular unleaded gasoline in British Columbia rose approximately 40% between January 1999-May 2000.

Tourism BC was concerned that the tourism industry could be affected by increases in the price of oil in two ways:

- The increase in the price of oil could have economy-wide impacts, affecting growth GDP and income levels, which will affect discretionary income available to spend on travel.
- The rise in prices will increase the cost of traveling, which could have an impact on consumer travel behaviours

Right now I assure you that if we ever are so fortunate to see \$31.30 US a barrel I will not complain.

- Provide an avenue for women to network and share best practices monthly while bringing in dynamic speakers.

#### Business Excellence Awards:

- Provide an avenue for the community to celebrate excellence of individuals, businesses and community groups.



Brandi is a single mother who came to JobWave to get a fresh start in the employment market. JobWave first found her appropriate childcare for her two daughters then helped her begin to focus on upgrading her skills. Even in today's economy where jobs are plentiful, there are people who need a helping hand.

JobWave features a number of alternative employment options, including job shadowing, volunteerism and on-the-job training. We assist participants to gain valuable work experience and help the business community find great, motivated employees.

Brandi was enrolled in a number of advanced computer courses and plans to finish Grade 12 through continuing education. She's already completed courses in manual bookkeeping and simply accounting with A-grades. Brandi says her experience with JobWave has increased her self-esteem "ten fold!"

At JobWave we specialize in assisting individuals who face multiple barriers to employment by giving them the training and support they need to overcome every obstacle to success.

If you'd like to work with JobWave, we have participants who would love to work with you.

Call 1-888-JOBWAVE or call:

ESP Consulting

250-392-4446

1-866-392-4446

or

Walter Marin,

Employment Solutions Representative

1-888-562-9283

*JobWave is delivered by WCG International HR Solutions in partnership with the Ministry of Employment and Income Assistance. WCG has helped clients achieve over 69,000 job placements since 1995.*

