



## Small Business Month: October

October is Small Business Month, and the Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with other companies, is offering several conferences and video conferences to improve your business and provide you with information. Here is a quick glimpse of some of what will be offered:

Video Conferences: To register for a video conference, please contact Community Futures at 250-747-1212

- Buying a Business
- Getting Your Business Online
- Understanding Gen Y in the Workplace
- Measuring the Success of Your Website
- Legal Tips for Your Small Business
- Tax Tips from an Accountant
- Greening Your Small Business
- Cash Flow and Your Growing Business
- Writing for the Web

Conferences:

- QCEDC British Columbia Beautification Conference
- Minister of Small Business Hon. Ian Black guest speaking at the Chamber of Commerce Lunch
- Small Business Consultation with the Hon. Ian Black
- The Town That Tweets
- Chamber of Commerce Strategic Plan six month review

There will be much more happening during Small Business Month, and this is by no means an extensive list of all that is offered. For more information, please visit the [www.quesnelchamber.com](http://www.quesnelchamber.com) or contact the Chamber of Commerce, 250-747-0125.

## Chamber Photo Contest

The Chamber of Commerce would like to send a huge thank you out to everyone who participated in the photo contest. There were over 25 entries since June, with ten winners. The contest is now over, but the Chamber is still happy to receive photos at [chamberphotocontest@gmail.com](mailto:chamberphotocontest@gmail.com) to be used in future publications. Congratulations to Susie McNeney, Adam Perdue, Sonja Throssell, Terry Kennedy, Phil Megyesi, Sandi Walker, Don Manning, Christina Weir, Sherry Shaw, and Patti Partington for being the winners of the contest.

Here are some of the favorite entries in the contest:



Tzenzicut (Fish) Lake, submitted by Sherry Shaw



Fox on the Deep Creek Trail, submitted by Patti Partington



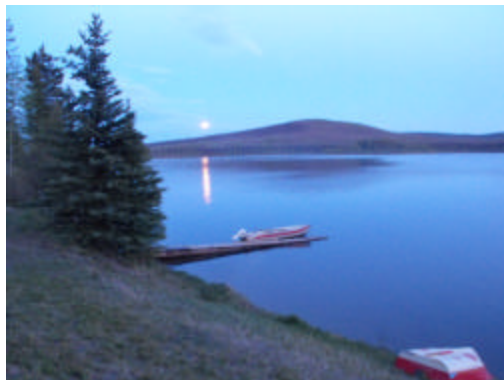
Sunset from the Dragon Lake Boat Launch, submitted by Sandi Walker



Fishing and kayaking, submitted by Terry Kennedy



Zoe the potted pussy cat, submitted by Cora Saunders



The boat on Tzenzicut (Fish) Lake, submitted by Kim Manning

## BC HRMA 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Symposium

The BC Human Resource Management Association is holding their 5<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Symposium titled "Winds of Change: HR Strategies in the New Economy" at the Prince George Civic Centre September 21&22, 2009. In these changing economic times, the BC HRMA Symposium is bringing together a line up of high quality presenters who will provide valuable insights, experiences, case studies, tools, and practical strategies in order to support HR practitioners to address challenges and be responsive in ever changing work environments. Knowledge and expertise will be shared through a Best Practice Roundtable. For more information or to register, visit [www.bchrma.org/content/events](http://www.bchrma.org/content/events).

## New Residents/ New Business BBQ

The Chamber of Commerce and Quesnel Visitor Centre held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Residents/ New Business BBQ August 20<sup>th</sup> in LeBourdais Park. Although the turnout was not as large as was hoped for, those who did attend were treated to delicious burgers, great company, as Mayor Sjostrom, Councilor Roodenburg, Chamber President Brookes, Chamber Manager Oakes, QCEDC staff, and other citizens and chamber members attended, and all attendees had their names entered into a draw for five fantastic prizes. Patricia Johnson won 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the draws, and Pam Crocker-Teed, Jeff Higgins, and Lee Dzielak also won. Unfortunately, the scavenger hunt did not happen, but we would like to thank all the businesses who had planned to participate: Integris Insurance Services, Travelodge, Provincial Government Building, Shell Station, Rocky Mountaineer Vacations, Billy Barker Casino Hotel, Quesnel Cariboo Observer, the Twin Arenas, Caryall Books, and the Quesnel Museum. A big thank you as well goes to JD Meats for the burgers and buns, everyone who donated prizes, the QCEDC for providing New Resident Bags, Darlene Higgins for helping with burgers, and especially to Karly Moore, Visitor Information Counselor for organizing the BBQ and putting so much hard work into making it a success.

## ContinYou

One of the extra worries that comes with losing a job is the loss of health and dental coverage with it. The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan is introducing the ContinYou conversion plan. It provides guaranteed health and dental benefits to employees previously covered under group plans through the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan. When an employee termination request is received from your office, the Group Plan will contact the employee directly, offering them the chance to purchase coverage within 60 days of the group coverage ending. No medical statements are required and coverage begins the first of the month following the day that group health and dental benefits end. For more information, contact your local advisor, Andrews Insurance Services.

## Canada Small Business Financing Program

Small businesses face unique challenges when they look for financing. The Canada Small Business Financing Program helps you with your financing needs. The Government of Canada makes it easier for small businesses to get loans from financial institutions by sharing the risk with lenders. The main objectives of the program are to help new businesses get started and established firms make improvements and expand, to improve access to loans that would not otherwise be available to small businesses, and to stimulate economic growth and create jobs for Canadians. Small businesses with gross annual revenues of \$5 million or less are eligible, excluding farming businesses (similar program, [www.agr.gc.ca](http://www.agr.gc.ca)), not-for-profit organizations, or charitable and religious organizations. A maximum of \$500,000 is available for any one business. For more information on applying for loans under the program or on the program itself, visit [www.ic.gc.ca/csbfa](http://www.ic.gc.ca/csbfa).

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Pow Wow

The Quesnel Tillicum Society is hosting the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Traditional Pow Wow Thanksgiving weekend, starting Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and ending Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. It is a free event open to all members of the community who wish to participate. There will be many activities occurring all weekend, including traditional dancing and drumming and a free dinner for all participants Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup>. This will be a full weekend of entertainment in a drug and alcohol free environment, and a great opportunity for people to experience the beauty of the Carrier culture expressed by local and out of town dancers and drummers.

The society is asking for donations or in-kind donations from local businesses to assist with the food cost and drummer fees. All donations will be publicly announced during the weekend to acknowledge the support we have received, and as the Pow Wow will be covered by local media, it would be a great opportunity to promote your business while providing support for a great community event. To donate or for more information please contact Michelle Irwin at [michelle.irwin@qnfc.bc.ca](mailto:michelle.irwin@qnfc.bc.ca).

## Business Excellence Awards

It's the time of year again to nominate businesses and business people for Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards. There are nine categories in the awards: Retailer of the Year, Tourism Excellence Award, Employee of the Year, Home Based Business of the Year, Customer Service Award, Community Spirit Award, Business Person of the Year, Go Green Award, and Young Entrepreneur Award. All nominations are to be submitted to the Quesnel Visitor Center, and nominations are due by November 20, 2009. Please find the nomination form attached to the newsletter.

## Women's Business

Women's Business monthly meetings resume in September, to be held the second Wednesday of every month at 8:15am at the Best Western Tower Inn. As always, this is a free opportunity for anyone who wishes to attend. It is a great opportunity to network and share ideas among likeminded businesswomen in the community.

September's meeting will feature Marilyn Allin of Green Tree Health & Wellness as guest speaker.

**When:** September 9, 2009

8:15am

**Where:** Best Western Tower Inn

**Cost:** Free

**Who:** Marilyn Allin of Green Tree Health & Wellness

## New Exhibit

The Quesnel & District Museum & Archives recently opened a new exhibit; the Booming Fifties. The exhibit features pictures detailing all aspects of life in Quesnel in the 1950's, a display of period dress, an existing exhibit of 1950's radio tied in, and of course, the fifties wouldn't be complete without the hula hoop. Several years ago, a donation of thousands of photograph negatives was received by the museum from the former newspaper the Quesnel Advertiser, which later became the Northern Pictorial. In addition to the photos displayed in the exhibit, a slide show of the remaining photos plays and residents are very likely to see someone they recognize, or maybe even see themselves.

The museum has been very lucky to install several new exhibits over the past few years, including the C.D. Hoy exhibit, featuring pictures taken by one of the first photographers in Quesnel, and the Footprints in Stone, detailing the history and lives of the First Nations bands that lived in what became the Quesnel Area. Of course, that's not to say the existing exhibits are any less spectacular. Mandy the Haunted Doll still lurks in the library, farm and mining equipment from times long past stand sturdy, and the village street walks you through life in early Quesnel. Visit the Quesnel Museum webpage, [www.quesnelmuseum.com](http://www.quesnelmuseum.com), or stop in and take a stroll through history at the museum itself.

## Chamber Luncheon

The Chamber Luncheon series begins again in September, every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 12-1pm at the Royal Canadian Legion unless otherwise stated. These luncheons are excellent networking opportunities and offer guest speakers relevant to the issues and interests of businesspeople in Quesnel.

The September luncheon will be held September 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the subject of Social Media: The Town That Tweets. As the world becomes more technologically advanced, and social media sites become more abundant, businesses should be looking to these advances as new marketing opportunities. Twitter especially is one such possibility that businesses should consider. Users have 140 characters to share news and updates with other “Tweeters”. This is a great opportunity for businesses to share promotions, sales, hours, and innovations from their business. At these meeting, as well as several times during Small Business Month in October, the Chamber Manager Coralee Oakes will be outlining the benefits of social media for business and the endless opportunities that exist within it.

**When:** September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12-1pm

**Where:** Royal Canadian Legion

**Cost:** \$12 members, \$15 non-members, free with Chamber Lunch Card

**Who:** Coralee Oakes, Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce Manager  
“Social Media: The Town That Tweets”

## Member Profile

“To improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing action.” This is the mission statement of United Way of Northern British Columbia, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting volunteer services in the community to ensure the community has needed and effective health and social service programs through the collection and investment of fundraising. They believe that donors have the right to know ask questions of the organization, have access to financial statements, know how funds are distributed, become a member of the organization, and be treated with consideration and respect by the organization. United Way NBC serves all communities in Northern BC and every year holds the United Way Campaign to raise funds for health and social service programs. For more information visit [www.unitedwaynbc.com](http://www.unitedwaynbc.com).

## Upcoming Events

September 8<sup>th</sup> – Quesnel Visitor Center Winter Hours start  
9:00am-4:30pm Tuesday-Saturday

September 9<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Business, 8:15am Best Western Tower Inn  
Featuring Marilyn Allin of Green Tree Health & Wellness

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Fun at the Farm at Australian Ranch

September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Chamber Luncheon, 12-1pm Royal Canadian Legion  
“Social Media: The Town That Tweets”

October – Small Business Month, Training & Conferences all month long

October 5<sup>th</sup> – THE TOWN THAT TWEETS  
Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses  
support on putting their business on Twitter

October 14<sup>th</sup> – Women’s Business, 8:15am Best Western Tower Inn  
Leaders in their Profession Guest Panel

October 14<sup>th</sup> – Chamber Luncheon, 12-1pm Royal Canadian Legion  
Minister of Small Business Ian Black Guest Speaking

October 19<sup>th</sup> - THE TOWN THAT TWEETS  
Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses

October 26<sup>th</sup> - THE TOWN THAT TWEETS  
Chamber of Commerce and QCEDC will sign up and provide businesses

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Business Excellence Awards Nominations Due**

**The Quesnel & District Chamber of Commerce  
16<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Excellence Awards**

**Don't miss your opportunity to nominate** in one or more of the below categories. Or, if you own a business that you feel has excelled in the past year let us know about it. The nominee must have been in business in Quesnel & Area for a minimum of one year (with the exception of Young Entrepreneur that may have started a business within the calendar year). The award is based on the calendar year from January 1 to December 31, 2009. Deadline for nominations is November 20, 2009.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Retailer of the Year:** This award acknowledges a business that markets and advertises effectively. The business is proactive to changing market trends, provides a variety of products it willingly stands behind and gives good value. Business you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Tourism Excellence Award:** This award acknowledges the efforts made by an individual, business or organization that promotes Quesnel & area as a tourism destination and to facilitate the enjoyment of visitors to our area. Business/individual or organization you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Employee of the Year:** This award is presented to an employee who has demonstrated initiative and enthusiasm for the job, performs exemplary customer service and creativity and has taken a leadership role and worked on team spirit within their place of business. Individual you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Home Based Business of the Year:** This award recognizes those individuals that have sought out innovative ways to provide quality product(s) and/or service(s) through a home based business. Business/Individual you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Customer Service Award:** This award recognizes a business's dedication to customer satisfaction through integrity and excellent service and/or development of an outstanding product, beyond customer expectation. It also provides staff with updated training to meet changing customer needs. Individual you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Community Spirit Award:** This award recognizes a community service group project, business or non-profit organization whose accomplishments have significantly benefited the community over the past year. Business/organization you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Business Person of the Year:** This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated personal strength while inspiring motivation and encouragement in others. Individual you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Go Green Award:** This award acknowledges the business that appreciated that the protection of the environment is a shared responsibility. It recognizes innovative businesses that are making a difference by encouraging physical activity, energy conservation, and producing environmental benefits. This business encourages others to strive for clean air, water and land. They also encourage sustainable use of renewable resources, protection of special spaces and species and the preservation of the Cariboo region. Business you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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**Young Entrepreneur Award:** An Entrepreneur, under the age of 30 years, who has demonstrated business excellence, innovation & leadership. Individual must have at least part ownership of business. Individual you would like to nominate and why or how you feel this nominee has excelled in the past year:

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Please send in nomination form to Quesnel Visitor Centre:

Fax: 250-992-2181 [qvisitor@quesnelbc.com](mailto:qvisitor@quesnelbc.com) or mail to:

703 Carson Avenue, Quesnel, BC V2J 2B6