



NELSON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Newsletter

October 2008 Volume 18, Issue 8

Gala Dinner and Auction

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is all set for our annual Gala Dinner & Auction. The Dinner and Auction takes place this weekend, Saturday November 1st at the Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre. This is our primary fundraiser each year and one of the year's premier social events. There are still a few tickets available for this year's dinner. If you would like to attend, please give us a call at 250 352-3433, or drop and email to info@discovernelson.com.

The night gets underway at 5:30 pm with Simone Varey and Cliff Maddix providing some light jazz. Enjoy a No Host Bar and Hors D'oeuvres while you view the auction items. Dinner gets underway at 7pm with Chef Cliff Schroeber providing another great buffet including Roast Pork Loin, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Basa Filet with Lobster Sauce, Vegetarian Pasta, plus a variety of salads, dinner rolls and dessert squares. The Live Auction portion of the evening will get underway at 8 pm featuring the antics of our MC/Auctioneer Reg Clarkson. Tickets are \$45 each or \$300 for a table of 8.

The Board of Directors would like to thank you all for your continued support of this event. The on going support of the business community is greatly appreciated. Nelson and area has always been very supportive of the Chamber Auction, and this year is no exception. The business community has come through with flying colours. Thanks to Chamber Auction Chair Karen Van Vogt and all the extra staff time that has been invested in the event.

Business after Business Networking Event

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce hosted a Business after Business social networking event at Touchstones Museum of Art and History October 23rd.

We would like to thank Executive Director Leah Best for co-hosting this Wine and Cheese get together. It was 2 years ago that Touchstones Museum of Art and History officially opened in Nelson and they have done a fantastic job. They truly celebrate the creativity, the history and vibe that is Nelson, that is Canada's Best Small Art Town. As a resident of Nelson and area, we can truly celebrate having a Museum art Gallery of this caliber. The continually changing exhibitions of local and regional art makes it something you can enjoy several times throughout the year. It is also a wonderful showpiece for our tourism industry. Visitors often marvel at the state of the art facility.

Next month we would like you to circle your calendar for **Thursday November 27th**. Our next Chamber Business after Business get together will be **at the Elephant Mountain Gallery, 527 Josephine Street**.

The Elephant Mountain Gallery is owned and operated by Melissa Welsh and Vince Hemsall, publishers of Kootenay Bride Magazine. Elephant Mountain Gallery is the only mountain lifestyle photo gallery in south central BC. The gallery features the work of many renowned local and regional photographers. You can find a great selection of posters, prints and postcards.

Meantime, The Kokanee Camera Company will be hosting a Grand Opening event on **Thursday October 30th** between 5pm and 7pm. Derek Bruce of Nelson Fine Art Printing has opened the new store front inside Elephant Mountain Gallery. Drop by for some Wine and Appetizers.

If you would like to be considered to be a business host of the Business after Business event, please contact the Chamber at 250 352-3433

Chamber of Commerce Shop Local Campaign Expands for 2008.

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce launched a shop local campaign last year with tremendous popularity. In 2007, there were very different economic times that prompted the directors to take action. This time last year, the Canadian dollar was soaring, hitting \$1.06 cents US. That was prompting many people to think again about cross border shopping. The world economic situation has changed dramatically in the past two or three months. The United States economy and the world markets have been extremely volatile. The Canadian dollar is now hovering in the .80 cent US territory, and there are fears of a continuing economic slowdown.

The Chamber allocated \$2500.00 towards a Shop Local campaign. When the Nelson and District Credit Union learned of the initiative, they stepped forward as a co sponsor of the initiative with an additional \$2500.00. Chamber of Commerce director and treasurer of the Nelson Business Association Elliot Carter has been busy canvassing local retailers to join in this campaign. Thanks to these partners;

Nelson Toyota
Remedy's RX
Shoe's for the Soul
RHC Insurance
Otter Books
Culinary Conspiracy
Lonnie's For Her and Him
Cottonwood Kitchens
Kootenai Moon Furniture
Silverfern Framing
Glass House Optical
Street Clothes Named Desire
Phoenix Computers
Touchstone's Gift Shop
Chahko-Mika Mall
Mountain Baby
Ripping Giraffe
Annie's Fashions
Valhalla Pure
McLaughlin's Printers and Stationers
The Craft Connection
Hipperson's Hardware

Pharmasave Nelson
Feelings with Flowers
R.O.A.M
Natural Way
Hall Printing
Save On Foods
Maglio's

This multi media campaign will be kicking off in mid November, and will run through the important Christmas retail season. If you would like to partner with the Chamber of Commerce, The Nelson and District Credit Union, The Nelson Business Association and many other community minded businesses. Special thanks to the Nelson and District Credit Union, for jumping on board to support this campaign. Also, thanks to Elliot Carter for making the rounds of the business community letting businesses know of this initiative, and getting partners to join the cause.

In the past five years, the small business sector has grown and is a major driving force in BC's economy. In 2007, 98 per cent of all business in the province were small businesses, providing employment for over one million people. That's 46 per cent of all employment in British Columbia generated by businesses with fewer than 50 employees. The retail and service industry sectors of the small business community play a vital role in the success of our economic climate in Nelson and area.

We are fortunate in our region to have a diversified economy with the ability to weather many of the economic storms that other small communities have a more difficult time overcoming. The Chamber of Commerce and the Credit Union believe that if there is a weakening of consumer confidence, and thus less retail spending we want to help ensure that the money that is spent stays circulating in our region. For every dollar spent locally, the money has a ripple effect on many other local businesses, whether they be direct suppliers, or simply having more money in local pockets to reciprocate at a local restaurant, or local merchant. As the Nelson and District Credit Union slogan says "Logically, Locally"

CP Rail Station Project On Track

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce continues to move forward towards the acquisition of the CP Rail Station at the foot of Baker Street. Through the past several months, the Chamber of Commerce has made some significant progress towards the finalization of the definitive agreement that will conclude negotiations with CP Rail, and allow the transfer of the property from CP Rail to the Chamber.

The Station project will fully restore one of the area's most treasured landmarks designated in 1992 as a "Class A" heritage structure due to its historical and architectural significance. Inside the building, a full service Regional Visitor Information Centre will complement an Interpretive Centre that showcases the area's character, businesses, investment opportunities, heritage and cultural diversity. The Centre will feature a "Made in the Kootenays" marketing showcase for high margin value added export business. Next door, new offices for the Chamber of Commerce, The Nelson Economic Development Partnership and a new Regional Destination marketing Organization will be housed.

One of the most significant moves to date for the Chamber negotiations occurred during recent talks with CP Rail officials in Nelson. The original Memorandum of Understanding had indicated that CP Rail would require occupancy of approximately 2,000 square feet of space inside the restored CP Rail Station, taking a significant piece of potential revenue generating real estate away from the Chamber. One of the key requirements the Chamber has put on the project viability is for the building to be self sustaining once it has been completed. During those talks CP Rail agreed they would give up their claim to the 2,000 square feet, and simply upgrade their existing offices. There are two main components of the project the Chamber is trying to determine. The first being the capital costs for the

renovation, which has been estimated at 4.2 million dollars, the second and equally important condition that must be achieved is developing a fiscally responsible business plan, to look after the day to day operation of the facility. It is quite conceivable that the Chamber of Commerce will have to finance a considerable portion of the renovation project, so any additional rent or lease income options make the business plan more palatable. With CP Rail agreeing to give up their 2,000 square feet of space demands, that allow for an additional



rental or leasable revenue source. The station's attractiveness to the tourist and local tourism operators, combined with the gateway redevelopment initiated by the City of Nelson over adjacent Cottonwood Creek and Highway 3A, will enhance Visitor Information traffic, and a resulting spinoff for all tourism businesses in the region. The centre can help focus emerging efforts for destination marketing activities throughout the region, and help facilitate the West Kootenays contribution to the Premier's goal of doubling provincial tourism revenues by 2015. We truly believe that by taking the lead on this project, the NDCC will revitalize a long neglected space in Nelson, stimulate the economy, provide employment opportunities and continue to build solid partnerships with municipal, regional and provincial governments. There is still a great deal of work to be completed before signing off on any final agreement, but rest assured, the project is continuing to move forward, with a great deal of due diligence being done to ensure a solid future for the development.

The BC Government announces immediate steps to help the Provincial economy

During a televised address last week, BC Premier Gordon Campbell outlined 10 key measures to help the economy;

1) Unlimited deposit insurance for deposits to credit unions:

The Province intends to provide unlimited deposit insurance protection on deposits to British Columbia's credit unions effective immediately. Deposits at credit unions were formerly insured up to a level of \$100,000. All credit unions in the province have deposit insurance through the Credit Union Deposit Insurance Corporation. The new protection will apply to deposits currently covered by this insurance. This brings B.C. in line with Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, PEI, and New Brunswick, which all also provide unlimited provincial deposit insurance protection. Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland cover \$250,000. Ontario provides \$100,000 per registered account.

2) A new pension opportunity:

The Province will create a new private sector pension opportunity for British Columbians who currently have no access to a pension plan. About 75 per cent of private sector workers in B.C. currently have no access to a group pension plan. Flowing from work done with the Joint Expert Panel on Pension Standards with Alberta, in the months ahead the government will spearhead the creation of a privately financed, defined contribution plan that will be available to employers, employees and self-employed people on a voluntary basis.

3) An accelerated, retroactive personal income tax cut: There will be a five per cent personal income tax reduction retroactive to January 1, 2008. This includes the two per cent tax cut that took effect July 1 of this year,

as well as the planned three per cent reduction that was to take effect January 1, 2009. Taxpayers will see the retroactive benefit on their 2008 tax return. It will put an additional \$144 Million in the pockets of British Columbians.

4) School Property Tax rebate for Industry:

50 per cent of all school property taxes will be rebated to light and heavy industry to help some of B.C.'s oldest and largest employers, particularly in rural British Columbia. It will save industry about \$115 million over the next three years and is on top of the approximately \$24 million in annual benefits to heavy industry announced in the 2008 budget. This builds on the plan to have the lowest corporate income tax rate in Canada by 2011.

5) Quicker Tax relief for small business:

Effective December 1, 2008 the small business income tax rate will be reduced to 2.5 per cent from the current 3.5 per cent. Small business income tax rates were already reduced from 4.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent on July 1, 2008 with a plan to reduce them to 2.5 per cent by 2011. This will accelerate that tax cut by two years, resulting in a 44 per cent tax cut for small business this year alone. The savings to small business will be \$146 million over three years.

6) Double commission paid to business for PST and HRT collection:

The Province will double the commission it pays business for collecting the provincial sales tax and hotel room tax. That will provide more than 100,000 businesses with approximately \$60 million over three years and add up to \$1,200 to a business's bottom line.

7) Accelerated public infrastructure:

The Province will accelerate public investments in capital infrastructure projects. Funding will focus on projects without a long lead time that will keep people employed in our construction sector.

8) 33 per cent reduction in Ferry fares for December and January:

The Province will fund a 33 per cent reduction of ferry fares on all routes for December and January. This is on top of the upcoming 50 per cent reduction in the fuel surcharge on ferry fees that will come into effect November 4. In addition, ferry service levels for all routes, including the Sunshine Coast will be restored. This will require a one-time, \$20-million investment.

9) Rein in avoidable government spending: The Province will re-evaluate spending priorities and focus on scaling back unbudgeted increases.

10) Recall the Legislature: As a number of these measures require legislative approval, the Legislature will be recalled on November 20.

These measures account for an additional accumulation of \$485 million in tax relief and support for businesses, families and individuals over the next three years

BC Chamber President pleased with the Provincial Plan

The BC Chamber of Commerce applauded Premier Gordon Campbell when he unveiled the 10 point economic plan that will help British Columbians deal with the current global economic crisis by enhancing our competitiveness.

“We are very pleased to see the government taking such a strong leadership role in these difficult times,” said John Winter, President & CEO of the BC Chamber of Commerce. “We are particularly pleased by the Premier’s recognition that allowing businesses to invest in their future by reducing their tax burden is the best long term invest-

ment in our economic prosperity. This is exactly the sort of response that every Canadian should be able to expect from government at all levels; we in British Columbia are fortunate that our government has stepped up to the challenge.”

Among the steps that Premier Campbell outlined in his live address this evening, the Chamber is most impressed by the government’s commitment to accelerating tax cuts in several areas, ensuring that BC will have the lowest personal, small business, and corporate tax rates in the country by 2011.

“The government is to be commended for having struck a balance between investing in our future and maintaining a commitment to fiscal responsibility – not a simple thing to do,” remarked Winter. “When combined with the government’s commitment to an ongoing dialogue with British Columbians on how we can enhance our competitiveness and productivity, the Chamber believes BC business, and small business in particular, will be well positioned to prosper despite the economic upheaval.”

Chamber to Co Host Forum November 12th

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce will present a Mayoral Election Forum Wednesday November 12th at the Hume Hotel. The Chamber will work in partnership with The Nelson Daily News and Mountain FM to give you another opportunity to hear from the four candidates on issues affecting you and your business.

Taking a page from the highly entertaining and informative Federal election All Candidates Forum, the evening will be co hosted by Nelson Daily News Managing Editor Bob Hall, and Mountain FM News Director Glenn Hicks. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from the Incumbent Mayor John Dooley, long time City Councilor Gord McAdams, David Aaron, as well as Phillip MacMillan, who put his name forward in the last municipal election in 2005. There are a number of forums taking place leading up to

November 15th elections. The first Nelson and area forum takes place **Thursday October 30th** at the Hume Hotel. **The West Kootenay Eco Society** in partnership The Nelson Daily News and Kootenay Co-op Radio will present a Mayoral and Council Candidates forum on the issue of Environment and the Economy. The Forum will take place from **7pm-9pm in the Hume Hotel Hume Room.**

The **Nelson District University Women** in partnership with **The Nelson Teachers Association**, Shaw Cable and the Nelson Daily News will be hosting an All Candidates Meeting and Open Forum **Monday November 10th at 7pm.**

This forum has been hosted by the Nelson District University Women and the Teachers Association for many years, and is an opportunity to meet and question all of the candidates for School Trustee, as well as Mayor and Council Candidates for the City of Nelson. The event takes place at **Central Education Centre Gym, 811 Stanley Street Monday November 10th at 7pm.**

These forums are a wonderful opportunity for candidates to state their position on the issues of the day, but more importantly an opportunity for us, the electorate, to determine who we want to be at the helm and steer the ship of our community for the next three years. Take the time to attend at least one of these forums, before heading to the polls on November 15th.

Prior to the election there will be an **advance poll** for Qualified Electors of the City of Nelson on Wednesday **November 5th** from 8am-8pm at the Lydia Room of the Hume Hotel.

On **General Voting Day, November 15th**, polls will take place Central Education Centre on Stanley Street between 8am-8pm. For more details on the municipal and regional elections, please refer to the City of Nelson, or the Regional District of Central Kootenay websites.

Community Futures Celebrates the Spirit and Innovation of Central Kootenay Entrepreneurs

Community Futures of Central Kootenay Client recognition awards were handed out last week at the Hume Hotel. Winners in 9 categories were selected from 60 nominees throughout the Community Futures catchment area. General Manager Paul Wiest feels it's important to celebrate with the clients and honor their successes.

Congratulations to all of the nominees. The award winners are as follows:

Youth in Business: The business owner must be under 29 years of age:

Sarah MacCrimmon Soul Gardens Landscape Design

Community Economic/ Employment Impact providing sustainable benefit to the community
Dan Nicholson and Jan McMurray Valley Voice, New Denver

Overcoming Barriers to Business
Randy Benke & Pat Gemmill of Picture Mug Canada, Kaslo

Internationally Recognized (sales) **Mark and Lori Loran** Pacific Sprinklers Slocan Valley

Innovation—innovative technology, product or services **David Russell**-Spoonbender Studios/The Factory, Nelson

New Business of the Year
Real Desserault- Dessuro Home Building, Nelson

Continuing Success Aariah Desilets— Aariah's Edible Creations, Nelson

The Centre for Innovative and Entrepreneurial Leadership (CIEL) also sponsored two awards:

The CIEL Community Entrepreneur:

An individual who displays the attributes of an entrepreneur in creating a better community, seeing opportunities where others do not, creating positive networks and helping to build a positive sustainable community-

Bruce Hardy, Nelson

Innovative Community Organization:

A not for profit that supports innovative community based approaches to assisting entrepreneurs or small business-

Oxygen Art Centre, Nelson

New Chamber Members

Cedar Woods Woollens

Jane I Armstrong
Ste 2A, Comp 8 RR#1 Winlaw, BC V0G 2J0
226-7044

janearm@columbiawireless.ca

Handmade Wool garments

CallBill Consulting

Bill Reid
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Workshops, System Reviews, HR Grant Writing

Kokanee Camera Company

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Retail Camera Store

Red Door Construction Management Consulting

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Cabin Rental

Crawford Creek Cabins

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Chamber Directors

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- Melanie Gettel, Express Newspaper
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