



NELSON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Newsletter

December 2015 Issue 24

## Chamber Business after Business

The newly restored Chamber of Commerce Regional Visitor Gateway at the foot of Baker Street hosted the December Business after Business last week. Thanks to the over 200 folks who showed up for the first public event in the new Chamber of Commerce in the heritage CP Station.



## Happy Holidays

Thank you to all of the community volunteers, and event organizers that work so hard for our community making it a better place to Live-Work and Play.

Wishing you personal health and happiness, and of course a prosperous 2016 for local business.

From the Board of Directors and Staff of the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce



NELSON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Thanks for thinking local first



*Incoming police chief Paul Burkart, Chamber Director Karen Bennett, Visitor Centre Manager Val Yowek.*



*Hume Hotel owner Ryan Martin (right) introduced his son Dawson to the Nelson community along with his wife Leandra and Save on Foods' operations manager Karen Solbrekken (centre) during December's Business after Business festivities.*

We look forward to many more special events in this new Chamber home in years to come. We envision the space being utilized for regular community events.

## **Mandala Homes advances to the Top 10 in Best Workplace**

The Small Business BC Awards are the most visible awards program in BC for small business owners and entrepreneurs. A key part of the Awards' mission is to celebrate the contributions new and existing businesses registered in BC, with fewer than 50 employees, make to their local communities and the global economy.



"Small Business BC takes great pride in celebrating entrepreneurs and helping them to become more successful says George Hunter, CEO at Small Business BC. "I am delighted to see Nelson's vibrant business community entering the Small Business BC Awards to be recognized for their achievements both locally and globally."

***Congratulations to Mandala Homes for reaching the Top 10 in the Best Workplace category.***

The Best Workplace Award, sponsored by Wellness-Fits, recognized the business that provides the best overall place to work. The business that receives this award provides a supportive, happy and healthy work environment for their staff. It's a leader in encouraging both mental and physical health in its employees through education, incentives and activities for all staff members.

Other nominees from Nelson included :  
***Finley's and Sage Tapas and Wine Bar and SkinBliss Medi Spa - Best Workplace Category***

## **Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism is looking for your support**

Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism wants to market to YOUR clients, but need your help to find out who exactly is visiting your business.

NKLT Executive Director Dianna Ducs says "there is a great opportunity over the holidays (starting this week if possible), to collect valuable data. We would love it if you could collect just customers' Postal Codes, keep it simple. It doesn't have to be every customer, but the more data the better." NKLT will retrieve the data from your business in January.

### **How to collect the Postal Codes - some ideas:**

- have a sheet of paper by your cash register and hand write in customers postal codes - see attached pdf
- have a sheet of paper that visitors add their postal codes to - see attached pdf
- enter customers postal codes into your POS system and export the data
- create an excel file that holds all the postal codes

Or better yet, have a draw box and if they enter their name, email and postal code they could win a prize from your store

NKLT notes, "The best way for us to market to your clients is for you to tell us who your clients are. Let's work together and focus our marketing dollars on the right visitors."

All businesses participating will be entered to win a "Kootenay Travel Package" of awesome items from around the region.

For details [info@nelsonkootenaylake.com](mailto:info@nelsonkootenaylake.com)

## Is your firm paying too much for Insurance

Looking for a cost effective way to purchase health and dental benefits for you or your employees? What makes the Chamber Insurance Plan different? Over 20,000 firms that we cover today each have custom coverage based on the types and amounts of insurance the owner selected. The Chambers Plan lets you control the cost, because you control the coverage you purchase and premiums are a deductible business expense.

The Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan® you can get the most sought-after group benefits; from extended health to dental and vision care.

The Plan offers a full range of employee benefits. Start with life insurance and, for firms with fewer than 5 employees, add either a disability benefit or health and dental. All other coverage is optional, each with a comprehensive list of alternatives so that the benefits you choose fit your company.

- Life Insurance/Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- Dependent Life
- Short Term Disability
- Long Term Disability
- Health Insurance
- Travel Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Orthodontics (for groups of 10+)
- Employee Assistance Counseling
- Vision Care

*Let's put the Chambers Plan to work for you!*  
**Now located on Front Street near SK Electronics**

## Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce 2015-2016 Board of Directors

### Executive

*President Ed Olthof Pacific West Builders*

*Vice President Michael Borch Baker Street Men's Wear*

*Secretary Treasurer Cal Renwick Nelson Toyota*

*Past President Justin Pelant Ted Allen's Jewellery*

### Directors

*Marni Beninger Mountain Water Spa*

*Karen Bennett Black Press( Nelson Star)*

*Tanya Finley Finley's Bar and Grill/Sage Tapas*

*Scott Grimshaw Terra Therma*

*John Hanneson CIBC*

*Randy Horswill Home Building Centre*

*Clive Jackson Jackson's Hole and Grill*

*Paul Wiest Cornerstone Group of Management Consultants*

### Staff

*Tom Thomson Executive Director*

*Val Yowek Visitor Centre Manager*

*Trina Walsh Visitor Services-Administrative Assistant*



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