

Chamber AGM and Business Excellence Awards

The Chamber AGM-Business after Business will take place Thursday March 26th. The event will feature our popular *Business Excellence Awards* that the Chamber expanded a few years ago, as well as the Election of Directors.

If you would like to become a Chamber Director, there is an opportunity for new directors to put their name forward. You need to have been a member in good standing for at least 90 days prior to the election. Nomination papers are available at the Chamber of Commerce 225 Hall Street , or by emailing tom@discovernelson.com. You need the papers signed by 2 current members of the Chamber, and have them turned into the Chamber offices no later than March 10th.

Ross McNamara of *Gerick Cycle* taking home the *Small Retail Business of the Year*, (pictured below)



The Nelson Electric Tramway Society received the *Hospitality Tourism Excellence award*, and *Lake-side Physiotherapy*(below) awarded *Professional Service Excellence* from Garry Kalinski. Nominations forms are available in the Nelson Star, at the Chamber office, or watch for the survey coming from the Chamber for your opportunity to nominate your favourite business.

Last year the Business Excellence were a big success With Pacific Insight (above) receiving the Business Excellence award from Barry Auliffe.

Other winners included the *Nelson Home Building Centre* capturing the Large Retail Excellence.





Business Excellence

Awards Nominations

This award recognize businesses and business leaders in Nelson and Area that have achieved excellence in the community through their efforts and initiatives. The recipients are business people that display a sustained commitment to positive business development, economic growth, as well as community support initiatives. Judges for the NDCC Business Excellence Awards are established or former established members of the business community who will not benefit in any manner based on who is selected. Identities of the judges will be kept confidential. Voting will take place through promotional inserts in the Nelson Star as well as through the Chamber of Commerce membership, and online at Discover Nelson. Winners will be invited to, and announced at the NDCC Annual General Meeting Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Business of the Year

The business stands out among peers in the business community as a leading organization both in its approach to business and in service to the community. The businesses should demonstrate true business excellence in overall operations, including customer service, employee relations, marketing, innovation, innovation and community contribution.

The BUSINESS OF THE YEAR should have demonstrated a high level of success through:

- Customer service
- Growth and profitability
- Sales and marketing
- Strategic and tactical planning
- Employee satisfaction
- Community supporter

Professional Service Excellence Award

A Nelson and Area business that provides services to its clients. The recipient demonstrates a consistent adherence to the highest quality service and support for their clients

- Must have been in business at least two years
- Must demonstrate an exemplary level of professional service
- Must demonstrate a strong and consistent client base
- Ex: lawyers, doctors, dentists, Realtors, business consultants, hairdressers etc.

Hospitality Tourism Award

All hospitality tourism businesses or organizations within the NDCC catchment area are eligible. This business has consistently delivered a top quality product or service that has enhanced the tourism or hospitality sector in Nelson and area. May promote or host an event that encourages visitors to use Nelson and area as a destination.

- Must have been in operation at least two years
- Ex: Festival, Accommodator, Hospitality-Tourism Stakeholder

Retailer Excellence Award

A Nelson and Area business that is proactive to market trends. Carries a variety of products, and is willing to stand behind those products. The business will have established a strong relationship with its customers and staff, and provides exceptional customer service.

- Must have been in business for at least two years
- Must demonstrate a passion for their business

Nomination forms can be dropped off at:

Nelson Star 514 Hall Street

Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce 225 Hall Street

For more information call 250-352-3433.

Business Excellence Awards Nomination Form



Name: _____

Phone No: _____

Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year: _____

Professional Service Excellence Award: _____

Hospitality Tourism Award: _____

Retailer Excellence: _____

Submission deadline:

Friday, March 6, 2015





Monday February 16th marks the beginning of Chamber of Commerce Week. Chamber Week brings awareness to the work these organizations do to stimulate local economies, promote their community, and engage in multi-level advocacy which benefits the entire province.

This year, Chambers are celebrating the theme of "Leadership in Action" – a theme which highlights the leadership Chambers bring to their business communities, working hard to enhance B.C. as a business-friendly jurisdiction with strong opportunities for all British Columbians.

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce volunteer board and membership work together for the common good of the community. A better community means better business conditions. Working with all levels of government and our community partners, we want to be involved in activities that can give your business, or organization the opportunity to succeed.

Through the Nelson and area Economic Development Partnership we continue to focus on business retention activities, investing in initiatives like the *Think Local First* campaign, promoting and developing business educational workshops on succession planning, business valuation, business productivity and human resources issues. We are the first point of contact for Invest Kootenay, providing an opportunity for business owners to connect with interested investors, and to provide key economic development and relocation information for those considering, moving or investing in our region.

Advocacy efforts of Chambers represent some of the most important work.

Chambers raise issues that concern both their members and the community at large with Local, Provincial and Federal governments.

The network of over 125 Chambers of Commerce across BC is a unique business organization, and gives issues a voice beyond the local level. This provides much needed input to public policy, which benefits local economic and social well-being..

As your voice, *the voice of business*, the Chamber represents over 500 Nelson and area member businesses and organizations from all sectors employing thousands of employees. We value input from our members and encourage you to share comments and suggestions. Our 12@12 sector consultations with business owners and Chamber Directors have been very effective as they allow us to hear your concerns first hand and take those issues to the appropriate level of government for action.

Through quarterly meetings with Nelson City Council, as well as regular meetings with regional political and economic development organizations, your Chamber is committed to advancing an environment where economic development projects are encouraged and supported and to create a business climate for local companies to grow.

Your Chamber is actively involved in BC Chamber AGM's where policy advocacy issues are actively debated and resolved that help develop a more favorable climate for business on a provincial and national basis. This includes priority areas such as competitive taxation and regulations, crime and public safety, reform of local government, job skills training, transportation, and a vibrant resource sector.

February Business after Business event co hosted by Nelson Cares

The Chamber will be partnering with Nelson Cares at their Victoria Street apartments for our next Business after Business event. Mark your calendar and join us Thursday February 26th for a glass of wine, a favourite beverage from NBC and appies . It will also be an opportunity to see some of the renovated apartments first hand .

For the last 40 years Nelson CARES has been providing affordable housing opportunities for some of Nelson's most vulnerable people, helping to end the cycle of poverty. Ward Street Place provides **affordable** and **safe homes** for individuals with limited financial resources. It is a **refuge** for people who seek short term emergency shelter from the storm through Stepping Stones. The dedicated staff provide **guidance** for people who want a way forward. It is a thriving commercial **streetscape** and most importantly it is a **symbol** of Nelson's heritage and culture of caring.



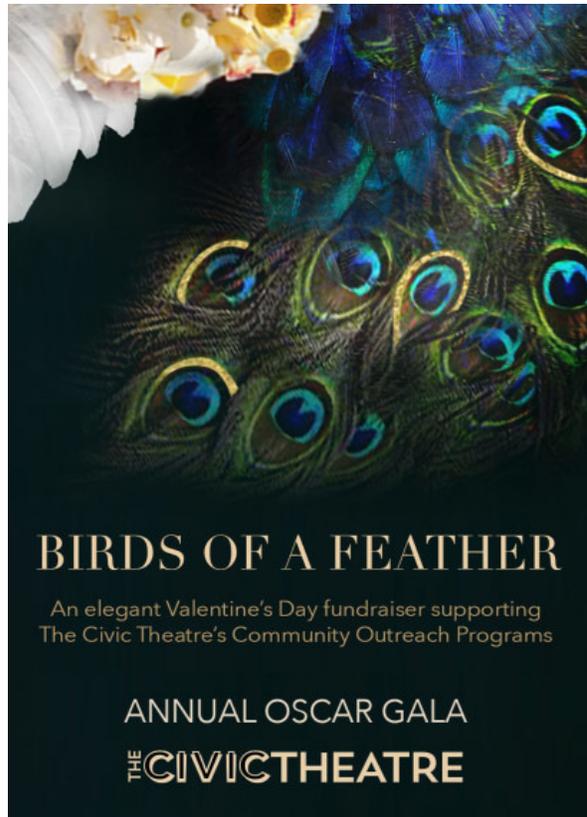
Affordable Living one room at a time
A Nelson CARES renewal project for **Ward Street Place**

Ward Street Place – a 100 year old building that provides 38 affordable housing opportunities – is a symbol of Nelson's capacity to care for its most vulnerable citizens, and our willingness as a community to help others through rough times. However, it is badly in need of renewal.

Nelson Cares goal is to preserve this stock of safe, stable and affordable housing for another half century and we have a lot of work to do. Over the last two years Nelson CARES has invested \$2.2 million to complete health and safety improvements at Ward Street Place and have purchased a new home for Stepping Stones, the emergency shelter. Now we need to focus on the residents!

Everyone deserves and has the right to a clean, safe, affordable **Room To Live**. Nelson Cares kicked off the Room to Live Campaign in the Fall to raise \$690,000, the cost of completing this important project. This will allow Nelson Cares to refurbish each room at Ward Street Place, install energy efficient windows and doors and create a long term maintenance reserve fund.

Join us on Thursday February 26th from 5pm-7pm at the Victoria Street apartments for the next Chamber Business after Business.



There are limited tickets still available for this Gala fundraiser Saturday February 14th supporting The Civic Theatre's Community Outreach Programs.

This Valentine's Day event features sumptuous food, wine tasting, live entertainment and an enticing silent auction full of unique good and experiences.

City of Nelson poised to relax downtown Dog Bylaw and Hall Street project heading to a vote

Nelson city council voted to overturn the downtown dog ban at a recent council meeting, simultaneously voting in favour of a new bylaw that will levy fines on pet owners who fail to properly clean up after their pet, leave their pets unattended or walk them downtown off-leash. The bylaw amendment passed the first three readings and is expected to be adopted at the next council meeting in March.

The dog by law issue has been a concern to the vast majority of businesses downtown for years. Business advocacy during the November election and a during a recent round table with the Chamber Board of Directors indicates some success in changing the contentious bylaw. .

The intent of the business community was to make the downtown more accessible to all, and especially to visitors who are travelling with their dogs. There are still local residents that are not sold on the revised bylaw. If we all work together to ensure that dogs are looked after properly we should be able to make this work.

On another note, the Hall Street, Stores to Shores revitalization options will soon be coming to a council vote. The public hearing in late January provided significant feedback on the design options under discussion. These proposed changes are not without controversy. While most agree the infrastructure upgrades on Hall Street are certainly required, and many of the beautification measures make sense, traffic pattern changes have mixed reviews. We you were able to provide feedback on the proposed changes. The Chamber wants to ensure fiscal responsibility has been considered, as well as concerns surrounding delivery of product to local businesses, and accessible parking is being maintained through the downtown.

KAST offering DNA workshop for youth and adults

GLOWS- Growing, Learning Opportunities With Science- is the youth education branch of the Kootenay Association for Science and Technology.

With a goal of inspiring and supporting youth interest in science and technology, they offer and support projects ranging from robotics circuit training and competition to summer science camps to the West Kootenay Regional Science Fair. GLOWS allows KAST to share its passion for science and technology with children and youth in our region and to build a love of science and technology into the foundations of our communities.

L.V. Rogers Secondary School and retired physician John Dale will be hosting a 3-day DNA workshop for up to 20 youth and adults in Nelson. This workshop will provide youth with hands-on learning in synthetic biology and bio-engineering.



The event organizers are seeking community sponsorship support to offset the expenses, and to keep the registration costs per student to a manageable fee.

Please consider adding your support to this program that will promote science and technology learning among our young community members by making science and technology fun, accessible and non-intimidating.

For details, please contact John Dale, workshop organizer, at (250) 505-8022 or by email at jrdale@netidea.com

Is your firm paying too much for group insurance? Discover The Chamber of Commerce Group Plan

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.

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For over 30 years, the Chambers Plan has been delivering outstanding group insurance to the kinds of businesses too often overlooked by traditional insurers.

Let's develop a quote for your firm, call Glenn today. When you meet, you'll simply discuss the kinds of coverage that interest you and what you want a benefit plan to accomplish for your company. Then Glenn can build a custom recommendation based on your objectives.

Let's put the Chamber Group Insurance Plan to work for you!

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Michael Borch *Baker Street Men's Wear*

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