



NELSON & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

# Newsletter

July 2015 Vol 23 Issue 12

## Stores to Shores Project

***Stores to Shores project not without it's challenges, but the feeling is the improvements will be positive when complete.***

Nelson business owners are eager to see the Stores to Shores revitalization project move forward, as construction impacts business especially near the construction zone. The good news, the impact to businesses at the south end of Hall street near Her-ridge is wrapping up. Work in IODE park ,the stairs, deck area and landscaping work has been completed. Paving, curbing and sidewalks are being finalized.

In the 500 Block of Hall crews are completing the stairs at Gericks. In addition they are working on the concrete banding and curbing. Crews have also poured the sidewalk in front of Sidewinders.

On the 400 block crews are completing the concrete curbs, banding, and begin prepping and installing sidewalks on Itza side of Hall Street, as well as a sidewalks next to the Adventure Hotel. In doing so there will be multiple pedestrian detours put in place to allow crews to complete this work. In addition, crews are also paving the remaining sections of the 500 Block.

There is finally some limited traffic flow through Vernon Street, as the crews have opened up a portion of the intersection to allow for traffic flow east and west on Vernon. With the installation of shallow utilities, storm sewers and irrigation lines progressing, crews will establish a temporary roadway and pedestrian crossing at the corner of Vernon and Hall for the complete closure of the Baker and Hall intersection which will begin Thursday and continues until next Wednesday.

The closures will last from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m daily.

The 300 block will remain under construction for the rest of the summer as there is a considerable amount of work to complete. The sidewalks on the west side of the street will be open to pedestrians. The construction in the 300 Block of Hall Street has had some impact on the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Centre.

Chamber Executive Director Tom Thomson says we are looking to mitigate some of the challenges that visitors have getting to the Visitor Centre, by developing a ***"Roaming Visitor Centre"*** kiosk at various events and throughout the downtown.

"We have seen first hand the construction closure have an impact at the visitor centre. Nelson and area is still seeing a great deal of visitation, however our Visitor centre numbers are down."

With the tourism peak just around the corner, Visitor Centre Manager Val Yowek, as well as VC staff Trina Walsh and our exceptional team of VC Councilors will be providing ***"Info on the GO"***. You will see VC services at Marketfest on July 24th. Also in the coming weeks, the Wednesday markets, the new plaza at Baker and Hall Street, other key events and high traffic locations several times per week, to provide visitor services.

This is a good thing for the majority of businesses in this area, so we're pleased it's moving ahead. It's the feeling of the chamber board that it will benefit everyone when it's finally completed."

The Chamber is also working with the City of Nelson in creating a *Business after Business*, or Business Appreciation event in the next couple of weeks. We expect early August, and will keep you posted.

# MARKETFEST

## JULY 24 6-10:30

BAKER ST, NELSON, BC

gabriel palatchi  
good ol' goats  
sunshine drive  
erin & the show cats  
gam penner  
sofiella watt & the huckleberry bandits



Kootenay  
co-op



Columbia Basin trust



NELSON STAR



Kootenay Coop Bakery  
Cotton Creek Clothing  
Oso Negro • Hipperson Hardware  
Gaia Rising • Otter Books

## **The Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership launch Business Retention and Expansion**

The Nelson and Area Economic Development Partnership (NAEDP) is busy talking with local business owners to gather their input for its 2015 Business Retention and Expansion project.

Business Liaison Anni Holtby will be hitting the streets to interview about 150 business owners in the coming months. The Economic Development Partnership expects uncover business successes, as well as the challenges entrepreneurs face with doing business in Nelson and area. These confidential interviews will be used to inform action planning to help improve the local business environment.

The last Business Retention and Expansion study was conducted for the area in 2010, when businesses were riding out the effects of the economic downturn. At the time many businesses were concerned about maintaining their customer base because consumer spending was down – they asked for a campaign to support local shopping and a greater effort to attract tourists to the area.

The NAEDP was able to respond with a strong Think Local First multi media marketing campaign and the creation of the Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Association.

The 2010 project also recognised a need for more networking opportunities, training on succession planning and human resources, seminars and events, and information on making businesses more environmentally sustainable. As a result, NAEDP worked to increase the number of workshops and learning and educational events available to businesses.

Community Futures Executive Director Andrea Wilkey notes, the NAEDP has accomplished a lot since the last survey five years ago, but there is always more to be done. We believe the 2015 survey will help us identify priority issues to make Nelson and area an even better place to do business.”

The Chamber’s Tom Thomson adds “ The Economic Development Partnership will be connecting with a broad cross section of businesses. We have a very diverse business community and everyone’s input is important.” “There are the obvious storefront retail and food and beverage businesses, but we want input from home-based businesses, technology companies and on-line businesses and from the manufacturing and professional services sectors as well”.

If you would like to participate in the survey, contact Coordinator Anni Holtby at [nelson-BRE@shaw.ca](mailto:nelson-BRE@shaw.ca), or contact Tom Thomson at the Chamber.



The NAEDP would like to thank Columbia Basin Trust, the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation Labour Market Partnership, and the Rural Development Institute at Selkirk College for supporting this project.

The NAEDP is a partnership between the City of Nelson, Community Futures Central Kootenay, the Nelson & District Chamber of Commerce, and RDCK Areas E and F. The partnership’s goal is to take a unified approach to community economic development initiatives for Nelson and area.

## 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!*

## Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce 2014-2015 Board of Directors

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

*Secretary Treasurer Cal Renwick Nelson Toyota*

*Past President Justin Pelant Ted Allen's Jewellery*

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*Karen Bennett Black Press( Nelson Star)*

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

*Scott Grimshaw Terra Therma*

*John Hanneson CIBC*

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