Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce

Chamber Beat

January 2011

Phone: (780) 594-4747 Fax: (780) 594-3711 www.coldlakechamber.ca

January 2011

1- New Years Day

3 - Office Closed

14 - Deadline for Job Fair & Career Expo Registrations

19 - Chamber Board of Directors Meeting.

26 - Cooking Class @ Cold Lake Middle School Call MFRC 780-594-6006 to Register

29 - Festival of Words @ the Cold Lake Public Library

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Executive Director's Message

Sherri Bohme
Executive Director

What Does the Chamber Do and is it Worth My Investment?

You probably have heard that question asked at one time or another and you may have wondered about it yourself. It is a legitimate question. A lot of people, including many to whom the Chamber is very important, have no real concept of exactly what a Chamber of Commerce is, how it works, or what it is for. For example, there are those who believe that the Chamber gathers statistics, prints nice brochures, answers inquiries and advertises what a great place we have to visit, live, work and enjoy the good life. They are right, up to a point. We do all these things, and proudly so. All of these jobs are important. But they are not the only reasons the Chamber is here. They are the things we do as a matter of routine because they need doing and we are good at them. The functions of the Chamber, though, go far deeper; the Chamber of Commerce is a catalyst ...a common vehicle through which the enlightened mutual interests of all segments of the business community work together for the common good of the total community. Which brings us back to that original question, what do we do? There is, in the final analysis, one reason for the Chamber of Commerce to exist and that is to do whatever is possible to keep this area's economic condition such that people will be willing to bring their resources and invest here in the hope of making a profit. Everything else the Chamber does is with and for its membership.

The Chamber staff executes and administers all Chamber programs and activities in conjunction with various committees comprised of Chamber Board Members and other volunteers. The members of the Board of Directors, serving staggered terms, are elected as the policy-making or legislative arm of the Chamber.

The Board is composed of local business leaders who volunteer their time and energies to make sure that the many and varied programs of the Chamber are carried out. I make the point that they are volunteers.

In order to carry out the major programs of the Chamber, a volunteer system of committees is organized. Major areas in which committees function include organizational affairs, economic and business development, governmental and community affairs, membership and public relations, and other specific areas such as marketing, fundraising and special events.

Where does the money come from to support an office, pay the staff, buy the supplies, conduct the programs? From the membership and the fundraising projects such as the Community Guide, the Home & Leisure Trade Show to name a few. Most of the members of the Chamber are retailers, hospitality providers, professional individuals, Real Estate brokers & developers, service providers, banks restaurants, etc. in the Cold Lake Region. We have a dues structure and categories based on size and number of employees. We respect our members' investment and in turn our members support the Chamber's programs every year because they believe in what is being accomplished.

The major benefit of membership in the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce is that the Chamber acts as the unified voice of hundreds of area businesses. We maintain our vitality because our members want to get involved in those matters which concern the economic well being of the area. Besides providing a unified approach to common problems, the Chamber can also benefit a member business with business assistance, networking opportunities, value added programs and marketing aids.

Just stop and think and look around you, and see all the good things that have happened since the Cold Lake Chamber of Commerce has been in existence, and realize that there has been a lot of work by a lot of dedicated people behind every accomplishment. This begs the question: who is the "we" that does all this? "We" are "you" the people of the community and all your business neighbors who are members of the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce. The "we" and "you" provide the ideas, the drive, the goals, the funds and the voluntary service to keep the Chamber going.

The Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce is an active member in the Alberta Chamber of Commerce as well as a new member to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Memberships to such groups allow us the ability to have a strong voice when communicating to all levels of government from municipal to federal.

We are the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce ~The Voice of the Business Community.

Province Wide.....

Alberta's Second Quarter Update

Alberta has entered a new economic era. Natural gas prices will remain low for the next several years while the Canadian dollar will remain high, oil prices continue to fluctuate, equity markets are volatile, and the U.S. economy remains fragile.

All of these factors directly affect Alberta's economy and the government's bottom line - and all are beyond any government's control.

What is in our control is our ability to carefully manage our spending—and we are. The Alberta government's second quarter fiscal update, released November 22, shows operating spending—government's day-to-day costs—to be relatively flat across the board compared to what was budgeted.

Unfortunately, difficult economic times aren't the only thing we have to contend with. Wildfires, floods, drought and mountain pine beetle infestation called for a spending increase of over $500 million for disaster and emergency assistance.

This increased expense, coupled with lower revenues than we forecast three months ago in our first quarter update, means our bottom line is now a forecast deficit of $5 billion. Savings in the Sustainability Fund—built up expressly to help deal with revenue volatility—will cover this, allowing government to continue funding priority public programs and services as we move out of recession.

While these savings have put us in a better position than most other jurisdictions, we can't take that position for granted, and we can't simply hope things get better.

That's why government works hard to return to a balanced budget. This will not be an easy commitment to fulfil, and difficult decisions do lie ahead. But it is a necessary first step toward rebuilding our fiscal strength—a step that will help ensure we can continue to fund the programs and services Albertans value, without having to raise taxes or take on new debt.

For more information on the Second Quarter Fiscal Update, please visit http://www.finance.alberta.ca/.

http://enewsletter.alberta.ca/albertagovt/LandingPage.aspx?id=652219&lm=21814540&q=264912231&qz=ae66a8de6976f565dc7419d11f5fd71a

New Distracted Driving Legislation Gets Green Light

Under Bill 16, the use of hands-free phones is allowed, along with the use of radio communications such as CB radios for commercial purposes and search and rescue services. Drivers are able to use hand-held devices to contact emergency services and this legislation does not affect the official duties of emergency service personnel including enforcement, fire, and medical services. Additional information will be provided by individual ministries in the coming months as some positions within government fall under those exemption categories.

This legislation will come into force upon proclamation, with an anticipated grace period, and could take effect by the middle of 2011. In the coming months, the province will launch a public education and awareness campaign to help Albertans understand the details of the legislation. This will be coordinated with traffic safety stakeholders and law enforcement. If you would like more information, go to www.transportation.alberta.ca

http://enewsletter.alberta.ca/albertagovt/LandingPage.aspx?id=651414&lm=21814540&q=264912231&qz=4990cb5cc443105182177888a3f2dcf2

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Minister of State Moore Highlights Government Support for Small Businesses and Tourism at Cold Lake Roundtable

Cold Lake, Alberta, November 8, 2010 — The Honorable Rob Moore, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism), met with small business and tourism leaders in Cold Lake, Alberta, on Saturday, November 6. The Minister of State discussed the importance of competitiveness and productivity in today's changing marketplace, and how the government is working to ensure the success of small businesses and the tourism industry.

"Small businesses and the tourism industry are both vital to Canada's economic well-being," said Minister of State Moore. "The Government of Canada understands this and has taken action to help both of these economic sectors to succeed and grow."

The federal government has lowered tax rates and increased the tax threshold for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), allowing businesses earning less than $500 000 annually in Alberta and all across Canada to benefit from significant tax savings. By 2012, Canada will have the lowest corporate tax rate in the G7.

On September 30, Minister of State Moore announced the creation of the Advisory Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship to ensure that the concerns of SMEs are heard. This new private sector committee is mandated to advise the government on a wide range of issues of importance to SMEs, such as reducing the paperwork burden and improving business access to federal programs and information.

Many tourism businesses are small businesses, and Minister of State Moore noted that many of these initiatives will be of particular help to tourism operators. He also told tourism leaders about the government's current $1 billion in spending on programs, projects and activities to support the Canadian tourism industry. He outlined the government's commitment, through Canada's Economic Action Plan, to enhancing tourism experiences: the recent investment in the Trans Canada Trail; the $300 million in additional investments in VIA Rail; and funding for Parks Canada and National Historic Sites of Canada and for festivals and events.

The Minister of State also spoke about the government's plan to improve access to Canada for tourists, noting that air access negotiated by the federal government has opened the door to increased daily non-stop service by Canadian airlines to major centers in China, Japan and Mexico, among others. He also noted that he had recently led a tourism delegation to China to promote Canada and our Approved Destination Status, secured by the government.

Minister of State Moore also outlined the government's commitment to fostering a highly skilled tourism workforce. The government continues to partner with the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council to help build a workforce that can anticipate and accommodate the needs of all of Canada's guests.

Lastly, he spoke of the importance of promoting Canada as a top international travel destination through increased funding to the Canadian Tourism Commission.

"Actions speak louder than words, and through Canada's Economic Action Plan and other measures, our government is helping small businesses and the tourism industry do what they do best," said Minister of State Moore. "Tourism operators will reap the benefits of our efforts to promote Canada abroad, and our work to improve Canada's tourist attractions. Small businesses will be able to grow without being tangled in red tape and will face fewer taxes. The result will be a stronger Canadian economy."

Source: Industry Canada

Chamber Happenings

VALUE ADDED PROGRAM

Featured program of the month

HUSKY/MOHAWK DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Husky is pleased to present a Group Plan commercial credit card program to all Chamber of Commerce members. Receive a $0.02/litre discount with no minimum volume requirements at any Husky/Mohawk location. Other benefits include saving time, getting great service, and enjoying quality products while working with a great business partner.

For more information on this or any other "Value Added Program", please contact the Chamber office 780-594-4747.

2011 COMING EVENTS

January 14, 2011

Job Fair & Career Expo

Registration Deadline

January 19, 2011

General Board Meeting

February 16, 2011

2011 Job Fair & Career Expo

Energy Centre Cold Lake

February 26, 2011

2010 Business Of The

Year Awards

It is time to honor our businesses in the way that only the Chamber does….

The 2010 Business of the Year Awards "Evening With The Stars" is just around the corner.

On February 26, 2011 join us in celebrating the success of all our business.

Tickets for the awards night are on sale until February 11, 2011 and can be purchased by calling the Chamber at 594-4747

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Ramada Inn & Suites

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K3 Promotions Inc.

Phone: 780-594-4633

Corps. Of Commissionaires

Phone: 780-594-5690

Cont'd.....

October 20-29, 2010 – **Cold Lake Delegates Visit Beijing & Shanghai**

32 Delegates represented the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce on a Business Leader's Trip to China. During the 10-day trip, business professionals from Cold Lake, Leduc, Lethbridge and Lloydminster had a once-in-a-lifetime occasion to see the true beauty of China-something riveting and enthralling for everyone involved.

Trip highlights included visiting 2010 World Expo and an evening cruise on the Huangpu River in Shanghai, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall in Beijing. Delegates were also treated to lunch in the home of a local family where we were warmly welcomed and fed well. This also gave us the opportunity to learn about their lifestyle and living conditions.

During the business seminar, we listened to presentations from the four Canadian Chambers, Beijing Haidian District General Chamber of Commerce and Leili Agrochemical Company Limited, an internationalized group specializing in science for agriculture and human health, exporting to more than 40 countries and regions. This seminar was followed by a visit to the software park "Tus Park".

Participation in trips like this allows us the opportunity to experience the Chinese business and social culture at the same time as building a network of business contacts.

The next trip is scheduled to depart Vancouver May 18, 2011. Watch for further details on this very affordable, exciting 10 day adventure.

Cold Lake Regional Chamber Of Commerce

Although we are sad to say goodbye to two valued board members,

Todd Munday, Grey Munday LLP

and Troy Schmeichel, Digital Connection

We are excited to welcome aboard

Carla Beaupre from 95.3 K-Rock &

Brandon Vik from Remax Cold Lake 2000

Thank you Todd and Troy for your service and valuable input, you will be missed.

DID YOU KNOW.....

The Chamber has several items that you can rent for your next function.
Some of the items we currently have available include:

- 100 cup Coffee Pot
- 30 cup Coffee Pot
- Room Dividers
- Sandwich Board
- White Pedestals
- Aisle Markers
- Draw Barrels

Contact us for more details.....

NO SHOW/PAYMENT POLICY

Remember:
When registering for a Chamber event, payment should be received at the time of registration unless prior arrangement has been made. Members who sign up for, but do not show up for an event, will be billed. Please give 48 hrs notice of cancellation as meals are often purchased according to the number of attendees.

Chamber Happenings

Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce Contact Information
Phone: (780) 594-4747
Fax: (780) 594-3711
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Box 454, Cold Lake
Alberta, T9M 1P1
Email: info@coldlakechamber.ca
Website: www.coldlakechamber.ca

Sherri Bohme
Executive Director

Sharon Martin
Coalition Coordinator - Hearts for Healthcare

Jessica Lavoie
Administrative Assistant

Nicole Mansfield
Administrative Assistant

MAPLE FLAG MEET & GREET

This year's Maple Flag Meet & Greet was held on December 8th at the Officer's Mess at 4 Wing. It was a huge success thanks to the help of this year's sponsors; Humpty's Family Restaurant, Ramada Inn & Suites, Husky Market, B&R Eckels, Casino Dene, and the Radisson Hotel in Edmonton. The event included food catered by Original Joes, drinks, and door prizes provided by members of our business community.

Many local businesses attended the event and took advantage of the opportunity to network with the Maple Flag planning delegates and promote their services. This event not only helps our local businesses but also provides a fun evening for our visitors to show them we appreciate the business they bring to our community during Maple Flag, scheduled from May 30th until June 24th in 2011.

Maple Flag Meet & Greet is an annual event organized by the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce and is held each December. Any businesses interested in participating in next year's Meet & Greet can contact the chamber for more information.

Left: Chamber President Rob Brassard welcomes the Maple Flag Delegates

Right: Mayor Craig Copeland brings greetings from the City of Cold Lake

GRAND OPENINGS

Congratulations to

TANUP SALON

On your Grand Opening
Dec.1, 2010

For all your tanning needs call:

780-594-5516

2011 Holiday Heroes & Business Mixer

This year's ***Holiday Heroes*** was a great success bringing in over 1300 lbs of non-perishable food items which was donated to the Cold Lake Hamper Project.

Our first ***Business Mixer*** was held at the Chamber Office December 1, 2010. Many of our Members joined us for an evening of networking. The next Mixer is scheduled for March 23, 2011 at Remax. We hope to see you there!

Cont'd.....

2011 Job Fair &

Career Expo

January 14, 2011 is the final day to purchase booths..

Don't Delay...

Last year's event was sold out early!

February 16th, 2011

Cold Lake Energy Centre

7825 - 51st Street
Cold Lake, AB.

JOB FAIR: 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm

CAREER EXPO: 9:00am - 12:00 pm

Employers: Register online @ www.coldlakechamber.ca or call the Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce at 780-594-4747

SHOW YOUR CARD AND SAVE.....MEMBER TO MEMBER BENEFITS

Action Plus Flooring Contact: 780-594-0013

Andrea's Nails - Contact: 780-594-2230

Cold Lake Golf and Winter Club - Contact: 780-594-5341

Down Comfort - Contact: 780-594-2775

Furniture Galaxy - Contact: 780-594-3602

Renegade Recreation - Contact: 306-236-3210

Zenful Spas 2 Go Contact: 780-573-6161

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As a Chamber member, your business…

- Is a part of an organization that represents almost 300 local businesses and over 22, 000 provincially.
- Benefits from business referrals that non-members do not receive.
- Develops instant credibility through the Chamber Seal of Trust.
- Is positioned to access and communicate with all levels of government on issues that affect business
- Will learn about rising government issues that affect business and your voice is heard on these issues.
- Benefits from great networking opportunities.
- Receives a monthly copy of the Chamber Beat newsletter, keeping you informed.
- Gains access to information on workshops and seminars that will keep you on the cutting edge of business.
- Can be showcased at a Grand Opening event.
- Reduces costs through Chamber discounts on all activities and events.
- Receive substantial savings by taking advantage of the Alberta Chambers of Commerce and Cold Lake Regional Chamber of Commerce's discounts available to you and your staff.
- Is eligible for Group Insurance - medical, dental, and disability.
- You can be a part of the Chamber member discount program when you offer discounts to local members in exchange for advertising.
- Can deduct membership fees on your income tax.

2011 Membership Investment

# of Employees	Membership Fee	GST	Total
1-5	$165.00	$8.25	$173.25
6-15	$275.00	$13.75	$288.75
16-50	$400.00	$20.00	$420.00
Over 50	$500.00	$25.00	$525.00
Non Profit	$61.00	$3.05	$64.05
2nd Business	$30.00	$1.50	$31.50

Core Chamber Activities:

- Building a successful environment for a business
- Membership services
- Lobbying
- Economic development
- Member to member benefits
- Networking/Promotions
- Information services

Chamber of Commerce 2010 Board of Directors

President	Rob Brassard, Lakeland Credit Union
Vice President	Greg Sylvestre, Ross & Sylvestre LLP
Director	Chris Emerson, Canada Brokerlink Inc
Director	Bob Buckle, Original Joes Restaurant & Bar
Director	Dave Piche, J.F.D. Contracting
Director	Ajaz Quraishi, Accounting Plus
Director	Carla Beaupre, K-Rock 95.3FM
Director	Eva Urlacher, Ketron Construction Ltd.
Director	Brandon Vik, Remax 2000
Director	Lisa Borowitz, ATB Financial
Director	Brian Clark, ATB Securities Inc

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