



WESTBANK & DISTRICT
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

■ Official newsletter of the Westbank and District Chamber of Commerce
 ■ Unit #4, 2375 Pamela Road, Westbank, B.C. V4T 2H9. Phone 768-3378 Fax 768-3465
 ■ E-mail: chamber@westbankchamber.com; Web site: www.westbankchamber.com

■ Supplement to the Westside Weekly

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January

- New Chamber committees set up for: Tourism, Events, Membership, and Advocacy & Westside Community Visioning
Any member in good standing wishing to join a committee - please contact the chamber at 768-3378
- New Visitor Sign up at the Chamber entrance
- Newsletter now available on the chamber website: www.westbankchamber.com
- Roselyn Brown was hired for the Membership Recruitment & Retention officer position
- Approved a 3 page Westside advertising spread in the Kelowna Vacation Planner

February



Business After Hours
February 8th hosted by
Fenders Autobody & Paint.

- Advocacy Committee met with Crystal Mountain for an update
- Westbank Vacation Planner advertising campaign is underway
- Brian Radcliffe has been hired for the Tourism Consultant position
- Chamber manager attended the Tourism British Columbia Tourism Conference
- First Vice President and manager attended the NorthWest Chamber Leaders Conference in Missoula Montana

March

- Westside Community Visioning took place at Mt. Boucherie Complex, with over 100 Westside residents taking part. Photo is just one of 12 tables of participants. Thanks everyone who took part in working on 4 questions. To see the full report go to the chamber website at www.westbankchamber.com,



Westside Community Visioning

- Advocacy Committee worked with BC Chamber of Commerce District 6 on the Okanagan Valley Transportation Corridor
- Business After Hours was hosted by the Sunrise Family Restaurant on March 15th.

April

- Lunch & Learn with MLA Rick Thorpe on April 20th
- Chamber staff & Friends took part in the Community 20 minute clean up challenge.
- Westbank Vacation Planner ready for distribution to every Visitor centre in BC and local tourism businesses.
- Summer students hired thanks to TBC and Human Resources Development Corp
- Joint Business After Hours with Peachland Chamber hosted by Hainle Winery



April 17th Business After Hours
hosted by Interior Savings Credit Union.

May



Mayor James Baker was our guest speaker at the May 17th Lunch & Learn

- Valley Wide After Hours took place in Penticton on May 10th.
- Tourism BC training took place for our summer students
- Westbank & Kelowna held a joint Executive Board meeting.
- President Rusty Ensign, 1st VP, Mike Scarlett and manager Leah Thordarson attended the BC Chamber Annual General meeting in Victoria: Westbank submitted a resolution on Affordable housing, this can be viewed on the chamber website www.westbankchamber.com

June

- Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce hosted a Governance Debate on June 18th to determine the governance for our community – Incorporation, Amalgamation or status quo. Your chamber remained neutral in this debate but gave information to our membership.
- Business After Hours at The Cove Lakeside Resort – on the first day of summer.



The Cove Lakeside Resort:
Business After Hours
June 21st

Annual Golf Tournament



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

July



Community In Bloom National Judges at The Cove Lakeside Resort with CIB Committee members

- Chamber Board of Directors monthly meeting was held aboard Marcia Paynter's houseboat – what a treat!
- Westside Daze from June 30th – July 1st was a complete success!
- Quick index rack cards have been produced and distributed

August

- Breakfast & Learn with Dr. Fraid Novin from Bank of Canada who talked about the Canadian economy.
- Photo data bank and pre written stories are being created for the Tourism Committee

August 28th: Parking Lot BB2 Business After Hours hosted by Curves, Cherry Pitt, Flower Affair, Greyhound Bus Lines and Westbank Pottery Studio – thanks to Rollingdale Winery for sponsoring the wine.



September

- District 6 meeting at the Lake Country.
- United Way Kick off breakfast at 19 Steakhouse & Lounge at Vintage Hills
- Key Business award nominations close, we received 266 nominations for 80 businesses, nominees find out if they are semi finalists at the Sponsors luncheon.



Sponsors Luncheon for the Key Business Awards September 25th.

October

- Lunch & Learn with Deputy Vice Chancellor Doug Ogram on October 18th.
- Key Business Gala Awards at Hdiday Inn with Fogg 'n Suds catering. Thanks to J.K. Schmidt for the watch we raffled.
- President Rusty Ensign resigned so that he could run for the new Westside Council. 1st VP Mike Scarlett became the chamber's acting President

Winners for the 2007 Key Business Awards October 20th



November

- Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce Annual General meeting at The Cove Lakeside Resort. Elections were held and 5 new board members were sworn in.
- Directors Retreat was held on Saturday November 2nd where the strategic plan for the year was discussed.
- Business After Hours at Interior Pool & Spa



Interior Pool & Spa – Business After Hours November 29th

December



Westwood Retirement Resort & Westbank Chamber hosted "A Festive Evening of Christmas Cheer" to about 150 guests on December 12th

- Revised mission Statement: "To advocate for business, social and economic prosperity within our community"
- Revised vision statement: "To be the inclusive voice for our membership by taking a collaborative role in Business, Social and Economic development"
- Main Street Christmas lights were put up.
- Community Light up took place December 1st.

Chamber NEWS

Checking references shouldn't be overlooked



Checking references is probably the single-most important part of the hiring process. An alarming number of employers neglect this crucial step. Don't make the same mistake – you may regret it. An estimated 90 per cent of hiring mistakes could be prevented by simply checking references.

Unfortunately, many employers rely on their own impressions of the candidate based on his/her résumé, application and interview.

Always ask permission before checking your candidates' references. This can

be done verbally, or with a signature on the application form.

The next step is to check all of the references your candidates supply. Do the checking yourself so that you're hearing the information directly. This also puts you in a better position to probe for additional details if necessary.

Quite often, it's the little bits of information that are

most revealing. Checking references needs to be treated with as much care and attention as selection interviews. Stick to open-ended questions and listen intuitively. For example, questions that are answered with hesitation should set off warning bells.

For obvious reasons, one of the most revealing questions is: "Would you hire this person again?"

Triumph Vocational Services creates opportunities in the workplace for persons with disabilities and links employers to one of Canada's largest hidden talent pools. Since 2002, we have helped businesses fill over 2,400 job openings.

**Please contact us at:
Westbank JobWave Centre
250-707-3765
or Walter Marin,
Employment Solutions
1-888-562-9283**

About the Chamber

Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement:

To promote social and economic prosperity within the community.

What is a Chamber of Commerce?

■ A chamber is a not-for-profit organization federally regulated under Industry Canada (It is not government or subsidized by any governmental level)

■ A chamber is a volunteer organization that is an association of people who have joined together voluntarily, in order to accomplish things no one of them could do alone.

■ Our chamber is very proud to be involved with social and community issues. We believe a healthy community will make our business community stronger.

■ Without members, there would be no chambers of commerce and in Westbank there would be no visitor information centre. Businesses support all activities of the Westbank and District area for the betterment of the community.

Networking:

■ We provide members with networking opportunities such as monthly lunch and learns, business after hours, trade shows, Key Business Awards and golf tournaments.

Knowledge and Information — Working for You!

■ Westbank and District Chamber belongs to the B.C. Chamber of Commerce — therefore, we are able to provide our members with benefits such as great merchant discount rates on Visa and Master Card, fuel fleet plans, long distance rates, group Insurance and many others.

■ Member to Member Discount program

■ Our board and committees investigate and make decisions on issues in our community, and takes recommendations to the appropriate bodies.

■ Our board and staff sit on many committees on behalf of the business community — Airport Advisory Committee, Economic Development Committee, Mount Boucherie Expansion Society, Westside Governance Committee, plus many others.

■ Staff and members sit on community issues committee and are actively involved in making our community the best place to work, live and play

For additional information about joining the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce call us at 250-768-3378. Together we can build a strong community.

NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS

NEW:

TOM HOWE
2645 Copper Ridge Drive
Westbank, BC V4T 2M7
PHONE: 768-1807

PACIFIC COASTAL AIRLINES
204 – 4440 Cowley Cres.
Richmond, BC V7B 1B8
CONTACT: Sarah Curtiss
PHONE: (604) 214-2366
FAX: (604) 273-4485

PROFILE: Family owned and operated airline since 1975. Flying to over 20 BC destinations, now out of Penticton to Calgary. Based in Vancouver with 23 aircraft providing scheduled, charter and cargo service.

SANDSTORM CONCRETE CONTRACTORS LTD.
#314 Yates Rd.
Kelowna, BC V1V 2V4
CONTACT: Corbin Thornton
PHONE: 869-2924
FAX: 448-5903

EDWARD JONES
3368 McIver Rd.
Westbank, BC V4T 1G7
CONTACT: Clifford Pierce
PHONE: 768-6625
FAX: 768-0517

PROFILE: Edward Jones is a full service brokerage firm having originated in the U.S. more than 130 years ago. Our philosophy is to serve the needs of the serious, long-term, individual investors from our one-advisor offices. In 1994, Edward Jones opened its first Canadian branch and the firm currently has more branch locations than any other brokerage in North America.

OKANAGAN VACATION RENTAL MANAGEMENT INC.
3155 Shetler Dr.
Westbank, BC V4T 1M4
CONTACT: Liz Filbrandt
PHONE: 768-5941
FAX: 768-8431

DOMINO'S PIZZA – WESTBANK
24 – 2484 Main St.
Westbank, BC V4T 2G2
CONTACT: Bryce Dipalo or Rob Kilgour
PHONE: 768-9191
FAX: 768-9179

RENEWED:
Artech Machine & Tool
Best of Life Resources Ltd.
Board of School Trustees
Canada West Realty Ltd.
Casa Loma Lakeshore Resort
Cedar Creek Mechanical
Cooks Quality Meats
Del Oro Towing
Demara Insurance
Envision Financial
Fender's Autobody & Paint
Giesela Davidson Occupational Therapist
Grant Thornton Chartered Accountants
Keen Fit "The Pole Walking Co."
Lake Okanagan Resort
Little Miss Chief Gourmet Products
Paynters Orchard Meadows Ltd.
Pharmasave – Westbank
Rick Thorpe M.L.A.
Save On Foods
Scotiabank
United Way of Central & South Okanagan
Valley Glass Ltd.
Voyager RV
West Manufacturing Ltd.
Westside Senior Centre
Whiski – Jack's Pub
Wyatt Auto Parts

Contact Us

Stay in touch by keeping in contact with your Board of Directors:

President: Mike Scarlett, Joe Maciel Inc – 768.0644
Past President: Rusty Ensign, Ensign Bros Lumber Co. 769.7298
First Vice President: Broc Braconnier, Community Futures Development Corporation 707.2063
Second Vice President: Leasa Kennedy, The Cove Lakeside Resort 707-1830
Secretary/Treasurer: Julie Clitheroe, Envision Financial 212.5722

Directors:
Ingrid Dilschneider: Mission Hill Family Estate 768.7611

Cheryl Dirks: Family Wellness Centre & Healing Spa 768-1020

Eddie Rakowski: Esteem Lingerie 768.0171

Lee Pearston: Investors Group 768.4546

Eric Steinbach: Steinbach Agencies 718-8677

Michael Trenn: Investors Group 768.4546

Brian Eli: Westbank First Nation 769.4999

Jayne Fosbery: Westbank First Nation 769.4999

CHAMBER STAFF: 768-3378
Manager — Leah Thordarson
Assistant — Ellie Zenuik