

WESTBANK & DISTRICT
Chamber of Commerce

Chamber News

n Official newsletter of the Westbank and District Chamber of Commerce

n Unit #4, 2375 Pamela Road, Westbank, B.C. V4T 2H9. Phone 768-3378 Fax 768-3465

n Supplement to the Westside Weekly

Introducing the work of Tourism Westside

Often at the Chamber we are asked what our relation is to Tourism Westside and how it is different from the work of the Chamber.

In this month's column, I'd like to take the opportunity to let the business community know about Tourism Westside and what this group has been doing for our community.

Tourism Westside is a relatively new organization, which operates as a volunteer committee under the umbrella of the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce.

One of the main goals of the committee is to provide Destination Management Services to its stakeholders and to look at the industry as a whole and not to focus on just promotion of the community.

As such many of our initiatives have focussed on sustainability, product development and partnership arrangements. In April of this year a groundbreaking partnership funding agreement was signed with Westbank First Nation, the District of West Kelowna and the Regional District of the Central Okanagan for tourism initiatives as set out in our three year strategic plan.

Here are some highlights of the initiatives that we implemented in the past few months:

- Tourism Westside signed a partnership agreement with Westbank First Nation, the District of West Kelowna and the Regional District for the funding of tourism initiatives as set forth in our three year strategic plan.
- Designed and published the Westside Trail Guide

- Placed ads in key publications marketing the Westside to potential tourists. Publications include: Westjet Up! Magazine, YLW Magazine, Westworld BC, Tourism BC's Outdoor Adventure Magazine, TOTA's Agri-Tourism Planner, and TOTA's Vacation Planner to name a few.

- Continued with social marketing strategies – we now have over 1000 Twitter followers and over 145 Facebook Fans

- Created small vignettes as well as a slideshow of Westside images for promotion of the area

- Conducted a photo shoot in cooperation with Peachland and TOTA to take iconic pictures of the Westside that will be used by Tourism Westside, TOTA and Tourism BC.

- Participated, along with Casa Loma Resort, Vibrance Wellness Centre and

Mission Hill Family Estate in the CHBC Out Town Series. This series will be played throughout the summer months.

We also have several projects in the works:

The creation of 'Circle Tour' routes Producing a Visitor Guide that will focus on 'Westside Experiences' which is aimed to increase tourist's participation as well as to support industry growth and development.

The development of an independent governance structure which will include formal nominations and elections.

Continuing efforts to work closely with our Regional Destination Marketing Organization, TOTA (Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association), as well as with other tourism bureaus and tourism promoters in the Okanagan Valley.

Lions Community Centre turns B.C. house of ministers

Special to the Westside Weekly

The Honorable Colin Hansen, Minister of Finance came to speak to 65 members of the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce on July 20 at the Lions Community Centre.

His topic and goal was to dispel the misconception of what the Harmonized Sales Tax was all about and why it is necessary and good for the people of British Columbia.

They would repeal the Provincial Sales Tax and replace it with the Harmonized Sales Tax.

This article paraphrases Min Hansen's presentation. With the recent global economic downturn, Canada and primarily BC came out of this potential disaster with less impact than other places in the world.

However, BC did suffer, and a balanced budget with surplus and revenues were now no longer possible. BC has seen migration of businesses, workers and jobs.

The provincial government is still on a course that will have business and residents have the lowest taxes in Canada, even with the add-on of the HST.

Honorable Hansen did admit that the government did not do a good job in educating and com-

municating HST to the business and people of BC. If they could go back and redo, they would have a different communication plan.

However, there are many myths and misinformation that are going around. First, that most people do not realize that if the product had no GST then today there is no HST, such as on groceries, which does not have HST.

Another misinformation was that the Campbell Government promised there would be no HST but the Campbell government made no such promise. By and large only 20 per cent of goods and services will be impacted by HST and that is on discretionary spending.

Why at this time is the Harmonized Sales Tax coming to BC? Mostly the Federal Government wanted all provinces to have the same tax and structure to level the playing field for businesses and especially cross border companies.

With Ontario also implementing the HST, BC would not have any competitive advantage for companies to have capital expenditures, hire and train new employees, product development and so forth. With HST, business can grow and BC new economy will entice new ventures and



Contributed photo

Chamber President Philippe Daigle meets with Ministers Colin Hansen, Norm Letnick and Ben Stewart at the Lion's Community Centre on July 20.

retain workers.

With the global economy down and projected BC Revenues down 1.5 million, the provincial government needed to

come up with a plan. They looked at: increase in personal and business taxes. Eliminate services or implement the Harmonized Sales Tax.

Minister Hansen commented that BC is a strong province and Canada is seen as a leader in the World and British Columbia's best years are still to come.

NEW & RENEWED

NEW

WESTERN WHOLESALE VACUUMS

West Kelowna, BC
 Contact: Erv Gautschi
 Phone: 250-212-9644
 Email: wwwwac@shaw.ca
 Profile: Western Wholesale Vacuums has been successfully operating for 5 years. We are the BC Distributor for Canavac Central Vacuums that are manufactured in Owen Sound Ontario for the last 40 years. We supply Canavac built-in central vacuums AT WHOLESALE PRICES to customers all over the Okanagan and Canada.

Our customers include vacuum dealers, contractors and home owners. You can see our products and get great information at www.westernwholesalevacuums.com

DP EVENTS

1019 Richter St. Kelowna, BC
 Contact: Anne Thompson
 Phone: 778-478-0428 or 250-212-7447
 Email: dpevents@shaw.ca
 Profile: dp events Rentals & Catering is Kelowna's best equipped and versatile event rentals and catering company with a diverse selection of rental & decor inventory for your special occasion. Whether you need barware, bowls, chafing dishes, trays, platters, linens, lighting, tables, chairs, chair covers, dance floors, tents or barbecues, we've got it which means you can rent it. With the latest styles and trends as well as classic pieces that never go out of style, we have what you need to customize your event and make it perfect.

dp events Planning services include permits and licenses, co-ordination of all suppliers, beverage requirements, entertainment and staging, and

exquisite florals.

dp events Catering offers sophisticated, contemporary, urban menus with complete staffing. We know menu selection for your big event can be stressful. It should be a joy.

We are here to cater to your taste, customize our offerings if necessary, and meet your budget.

With over 20 years in the event rental and catering business, we have the experience and knowledge to make your event a success.

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PENTICTON LAKE-SIDE RESORT, CONVENTION CENTRE & CASINO

21 Lakeshore Dr. W Penticton, BC V2A 7M5
 Contact: Vanessa Johnke
 Phone: 1-250-493-8221
 Email: lakeside@rpbh-hotels.com

Profile: Located on the southern shore of Okanagan Lake, Penticton Lakeside Resort is a destination all its own. 203 deluxe guest rooms & suites, each with their own balcony, offering a spectacular view of the lake and mountains.

A dock is provided for boating enthusiasts & water-skiing, sailing, parasailing, windsurfing and jetski are available at your doorstep.

Enjoy fabulous dining at your choice of the Hooded Merganser Bar & Grill, the Bufflehead Tapas Room or the Bar King Parrot Bar! But that is just the beginning.

RENEWALS

Business Development Bank of Canada
 Hatheume Lake Resort
 Morningstar Business Group Inc.
 World Gym

AUGUST CHAMBER CHATTER

Westbank & District Chamber Upcoming Events

August 12 – Business After Hours

Hosted by the Paynter's Market Merchants - BBQ
 2565 Main Street – 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Come to meet and greet the Paynter's Market Merchants and network with

Chamber members and guests.

No cost for members – non-members \$5
 RSVP Is required – 250.768.3378

August Breakfast and Learn

The committee is taking a break therefore the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce will not be hosting a Breakfast & Learn in August – See you the last Friday in September.

September 9 Business After Hours

BMO Bank of Montreal – 3640 Gosset Road
 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
 No cost for members to attend – non members \$5
 RSVP is required to 250-768-3378

September 21 – Westbank & District Chamber Annual Golf Tournament

The Golf Committee goal is to make this the 'Best Tournament you have ever played'

Thanks to the Chamber Events Chair person, Ann Stanley and her team, who are working exceptionally hard.

These ladies are determined to give you the very best time at the annual Chamber Golf Tournament, thanks to: Nadine Casey French, Anita Legault, Laura Brown and

Sara Hoodicoff

Place: Two Eagles Golf Course - Shotgun start at 1:30 pm

Early Bird \$99 to August 30th Regular price \$125 includes: 18 holes of golf, shared power cart, BBQ, all taxes and gratuities.

We are still seeking Hole and Prize sponsors - contact the Chamber for details

September 24 Breakfast & Learn

19 Steakhouse & Lounge
 7:00 am – 8:30 am

Speaker: Kel Good, Custom Software Development

Sponsor: We are seeking a breakfast Sponsor!

RSVP is required 250.768.3378

Member Information

Member information, are not chamber sponsored events

Mission Hill Family Estate is pleased to host a series of concerts

August 7th Wil Campa
 September 3rd Jesse Cook
 September 18th Canadian Tenors

More information: www.missionhillwinery.com

Community Information

August 14 Fifties Dinner and Dance with 'The Regals'

Hosted by Westbank Lions Club at the Westbank Lions Community Hall

Dinner 6:00 pm Dancing 7:00 – 11:00 pm

Tickets \$20 each

Tickets available at the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce

Lions Hall and any Lion Member

For more details contact Fred 250-258-5466

fredmasson@shaw.ca

JOIN US

Five Top Reasons to Join the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce

1. Credibility: joining the chamber adds credibility to your business, showing clients and customers you are interested in the health and welfare of your community.

2. Advocacy: the chamber addresses issues and concerns to the business and resident community to local, provincial and federal governments.

3. Networking: the chamber gives members and business non members the opportunity to network creating a stronger business climate for the Westside.

4. Connection: Member to Member: the chamber gives members connections to other members through the weekly enewsletter and published monthly newsletter and the Member to Member discount program.

Member to community: Members may Rack their business cards or brochure in the Visitor Centre, listing in the Web page Business directory and annual Buyers guide & Member Directory. Partnership with Tourism Westside programs and the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce facilitates and operates the authorized Tourism BC West Kelowna Visitor Centre.

5. Affinity programs: through BC Chamber of Commerce, the Westbank chamber can access programs that give our members lower costs i.e. Chamber Group Insurance, TD Merchant Solutions, Versa Pay Merchant Credit Card discounts, Fuel Fleet plans with Esso, Petro Canada, Mohawk, Imperial Oil, Primus long distance and Payworks.



Westside Weekly file photo

Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce
www.westbankchamber.com

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Community. Leadership. Pride.



Judging the local charm

Communities In Bloom National Judges Dave Hilton and Jim Baird came to our community, West Kelowna and Westbank First Nation to judge on July 19.

This venture is truly a joint partnership with our two Westside governments District of West Kelowna (DWK) and Westbank First Nation (WFN) but also with a not for profit business organization, the Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce (WDCC). The two governments were able to tidy and spruce up their areas of governance and the chamber encouraged all business to tidy and enhance their business frontage.

It was encouraging to note that DWK and WFN councils and WDCC board were supportive and active in the many activities during the judge's time with us.

The Communities in Bloom team leaders have been working together since 2005, where our community won in 2005 and 2006 the provincial competition. In 2007 we entered nationally and have always achieved a high score with 5 blooms out of five blooms although we have never taken home the top prize of winning our category of a community 20001 – 50,000 population.

The Team has very high hopes for this year.

The National judges evaluate each community on its overall performance in the following criteria: tidiness, environmental action, heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape, turf & groundcovers, floral displays, and community involvement.

The evaluation is based on the local conditions and achievements of citizens, businesses, organizations, institutions and the municipal government working together towards common objectives.

The detailed evaluation reports identify each community's strengths, and provide suggestions for improvement.

The communities become part of an extensive information exchange network with other participants in a dynamic and rewarding process for continuous improvement.

The results, including bloom ratings, criteria award recognitions and winners, will be announced at the National Awards Ceremonies, hosted this year by Halifax Regional Municipality, Nova Scotia on Oct. 27 to 30, in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Provincial Awards.

Hot night at Re/Max Business After Hours

Special to the Westside Weekly

July Business After Hours was held at Re/Max Kelowna Westside on a bright sunny day on the rooftop!

What a wonderful summertime turn out with over 60 members and guests.

Cliff Shillington and the Re/Max team made everyone feel special and they had the BBQ going with tasty snacks and drinks.

During the brief presentation by Cliff, he made everyone aware that there was still rental space available in the Re/Max building and he announced there would be another building going up in the future close to the existing structure. Thanks Cliff and the whole team at

Re/Max.

The next Business After Hours will be held on Thursday August 12 at the Paynter's Market.

Once per year, all the Market merchants come together to host this popular event, located at 2565 Main Street, in The Cherry Pit Restaurant patio. Time 5:30 to 7 pm. Members may attend at no cost and non-members are welcome to attend for \$5.

With a BBQ of super duper Irene Hamburgers with all the fixings donated by all the Paynter's Market Merchants, this after hours is usually one of the chamber biggest events for the year, therefore we request an early RSVP to the chamber at 250-768-3378.



Westside Weekly file photo

NOT ALL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLANS ARE WHAT THEY'RE CRACKED UP TO BE.



SEE WHY WE'RE CANADA'S #1 GROUP BENEFIT PLAN FOR SMALL BUSINESS.

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Don Brown - Advisor
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Executive Director Leah Thordarson and Re/Max owner Cliff Shillington meet at July Business After Hours.

Westbank & District Chamber of Commerce Annual Golf Tournament @ Two Eagles Golf Course

Lots of fun hole activities, door prizes and skill shot prizes.

Have a Pro hit a shot!

Tuesday, September 21, 2010, Shotgun Start at 1:30 pm
Early Bird registration starts August 1st to August 30th for only \$99.00, after August 30 Regular Price \$125.00

Platinum Sponsor

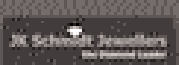
CIBC



Price includes a round of golf with a cart and a fabulous barbecue dinner of either chicken or steak with all the fixings. Limited availability so don't miss out on this opportunity to support your chamber!

Hole 'N One Prizes

J.K. Schmidt
Diamond Ring



Valley Moto Sport
Kawasaki Teryx Side by Side ATV



Marlin Travel
Trip for 2 to the Mayan Riviera, Mexico (Transat Holidays)



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Okanagan Map Guide

By phone to
250-768-3378 before
August 30th for EARLYBIRD PRICING



To register:
By email judy@westbankchamber.com

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