



Chamber Dinner and Auction/Chamber Election

The Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is all set for our annual Gala Dinner & Auction, Saturday night at the Prestige Lakeside Resort and Convention Centre. This is our primary fundraiser each year and one of the year's premier social events.

The dinner is now sold out.

The night gets underway at 5:30 with some light jazz entertainment. Enjoy a No Host Bar and Hors D'oeuvres while you view the auction items. There are thousands of dollars of items to bid on.

Dinner gets underway at 7pm with Chef Cliff Schroeber providing another great buffet dinner. The Live Auction portion of the evening will get underway at 8 pm featuring the antics of our MC/Auctioneer Reg Clarkson. We will also have a few Blackjack tables open later in the evening with a great "winner take all" Casino prize package.

How about these teaser 's for auction items:

- A Presidential Wine Pairing Dinner for 6 with Cal and Loree Renwick
- From Granite Pointe and the Nelson Star a full golf membership, initiation fee, range pass and private lessons
- A Nelson Daily News advertising package valued at \$2600
- An all weather wicker rocker glider from Val and the folks at Kootenai Moon
- Dinner for 2 with Wine from Paul and Julia at All Seasons Cafe
- Susan Cooley from Akasha Fine Art Glass has donated some beautiful glass works
- Ski or Snow Board adventure getaway at Retallack Cat Skiing courtesy All Hit KBS
- A 2010 Team Canada Jersey from RBC
- Mountain FM has donated a Gas Grill and a "secret" envelope. You'll have to be there to find out what's inside.
- And for your landscaping or driveway needs Nelson Redi Mix and SPL Paving has donated 2 truck loads of gravel

That of course is just a very small sampling of the items that will be available. It's going to be a fun night. The Board of Directors would like to thank you for your continued support of this event. The on going support of the business community is greatly appreciated. Nelson and area has always been very supportive of the Chamber Auction, and this year is no exception. You have come through with flying colours.

Thanks to Chamber Director and Auction Chair Karen Pilipishen and Chamber Staff Marg Craig and Angie Zielinski for all the extra staff time that has been invested in the event.

Chamber Election Dinner December 9th

The Chamber of Commerce will be hosting our annual Election Dinner on Wednesday December 9th at the Hume Hotel.

The Chamber has been fortunate to have had some key members of the business community step forward to play a role in the Chamber over the years.

As you know, your Chamber is currently involved in a number of important economic development initiatives. These include the Nelson Economic Development Partnership with the City of Nelson and Community Futures, Invest Kootenay, The CP Rail Restoration project which is coming to fruition this month as well as coordinating the formation of the Nelson Kootenay Lake Tourism Partnership, now up and operating.

The Chamber, in cooperation with the Nelson and District Credit Union and the Nelson Business Association has also recently launched a Shop Local media marketing campaign to coincide with the important Christmas retail season.

These and other key initiatives your Chamber is involved with have the potential to greatly

influence our region's economic well being. We look forward to you joining us;

Wednesday December 9th Hume Hotel
5:30pm-6:15pm No Host Bar
6:15pm-7:15pm Dinner
7:20pm Semi Annual Meeting and Election

Tickets to the Chamber of Commerce Christmas and Election Dinner are \$25 plus gst. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 250 352-3433 or email at info@discovernelson.com

The Chamber Board has adopted several amendments to our current constitution that will bring the bylaws up to date and make for a more effective governance model and allow for more efficient operations. These by law changes will be presented during the business portion of the December 9th dinner for approval by the membership. The bylaw changes are attached as a supporting document to this newsletter email.

All Chamber members are entitled to one vote per membership.

On another note, If you would like to put your name forward to become a Board member of the Chamber of Commerce, you need to drop into the office at 225 Hall Street and pick up a nomination form and have it completed and back in the office by **Wednesday November 23rd**.

The mission of the Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce is to be the voice of business and its membership, while also pursuing economic development for the greater good of the entire area. The Chamber of Commerce catchment area encompasses Kaslo, the Slocan Valley, and to the East Shore.

All Seasons Cafe to Co Host Business after Business Social November 17th

It's a busy time of year most businesses, but let's kick back and eat drink and be merry.

It's been a couple of months since the Chamber last held one of these great social networking events. What a great time to get together with some business friends as the All Seasons Café celebrate 15 years in Nelson.

Let's simply call this get together "a mid week diversion and open house" co sponsored with the Chamber. The All Seasons Café is wrapping up 15 very successful years in Nelson, and owners Paul and Julia Archambault, want to thank everyone for their past support with some wine and appies between 5pm and 7:30.

Drop by **Tuesday November 17th** at the All Seasons Café on Herridge Lane for a glass of wine, some appetizers and a chance to catch up with others in the business community.

See you all at the All Seasons Café **November 17th**

Mountain Baby celebrates 15 years in Nelson

Judy Banfield and the Staff at Mountain Baby will be celebrating 15 years in Nelson November 14th. The Chamber would like to congratulate Judy as she is rewarded for her hard work and entrepreneurship. The owner of Nelson's Mountain Baby store has just been chosen as one of Canada's top 25 Mompreneurs, by the prestigious business magazine, Mompreneur. Mompreneur is dedicated to supporting, informing and educating women entrepreneurs who are balancing motherhood with business ownership

The magazine is recognizing Judy's significant, ongoing success as well as her continued commitment to children, families and the community. According to Mompreneur Magazine, over a thousand businesses were nominated to be one of the top 25. It is a great honour and achievement for Judy Banfield to have been chosen.

Judy also believes in providing an excellent work environment for staff. Mountain Baby is a "Family Friendly" work place. "I truly value my amazing staff. Mountain Baby wouldn't be what it is today without the wonderful people I work with".

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Judy wants to thank the community for its ongoing support. "It's the children and families of this community that have built Mountain Baby. It's been an honour to serve them."

Judy Banfield has previously been honoured as Top Business Person in Nelson and Top Business woman in the Kootenays by Kootenay Business Magazine. Mountain Baby was also chosen as the Most Family Friendly Business in the Kootenays.

Shop Nelson Marketing Campaign underway

Supporting the local economy helps out everybody, even if you're not in the retail business.

The reasons we live in Nelson and area are as diverse as the people that live here. Nelson comes complete with history, culture, natural beauty, and a small-town energy that is both powerful and positive. One of the world's best outdoor playgrounds, and an entrepreneurial spirit second to no other community, providing a diverse local economy. Nelson is truly an area where opportunity meets lifestyle.

Some folks overlook the need for a strong local economy, and the support of our small business sector. Small business is big business in our region. Anyone who owns a business knows it isn't easy. Let's face it, generating sales, meeting payroll, serving customers, maintaining inventory, and doing all of this well enough to earn sufficient profit to keep operating takes a lot of skill and energy.

The lure of big cities and apparent deals can be tempting, and we understand that not everyone is going to buy into the importance of supporting local businesses. Hey there was time we used to throw garbage out the car window, and who ever thought that recycling thing would catch on? Just throw it in the garbage.

It will take a significant effort on behalf of all of us to think of the importance of shopping locally the same way we think about recycling, but in the end both efforts lead to sustainability. The Chamber of Commerce and the Nelson and District Credit Union have again contributed a substantial amount of money to these marketing efforts and the Nelson Businesses Association has assisted with securing additional participating businesses including:

Country Furniture
Lonnie's Lingerie
Gaia Rising
Seams Unique
Kootenai Moon
Cottonwood Kitchens
Street Clothes Named Desire
Cotton's Clothing Company
Boomtown Sports
Culinary Conspiracy
Kootenay Country Store
Sears Nelson
Nelson Sewing Solution
Paws it tive Apparel
Valhalla Pure Outfitters

Tom Murray of the NDCU notes that *"a strong diverse small business sector is vital to our region. Keeping money in our community sustains more jobs, helps fund more local services, and encourages neighbourhood improvements.* Chamber President Cal Renwick says *"it's a no brainer when it comes to supporting local business. The sustainability of the entire community through a strong business community is vital, not to mention, that local businesses contribute significant dollars to local foundations, non profit organizations and local sports teams"*. When was the last time a company in Kelowna or Spokane stepped up to the plate for a community fundraiser.

When you factor in the cost of travel, meals and accommodations for out of area shopping excursions, it doesn't appear to be even remotely worthwhile. We have wonderful retail, accommodation, dining and service providers in Nelson and area. If you find what you want locally, and the price is competitive. Buy it!

It's a shame that some local businesses disappear because they are unable to balance the delicate expense/revenue challenge. Shopping locally is a great first step. Remember you can keep your town in business, by keeping your business in town.

There has already been a great deal of interest, and if you would like to participate, email tom@discovernelson.com

Santa comes to Baker Street Friday December 4th

The Chamber in partnership with the Nelson Business Association presents Santa on Baker Street Friday November 4th. The Nelson Trading Company will be the destination for Santa once again. You can start arriving at 5:30. There will be free popcorn for the kids, a special reading of The Night Before Christmas, and Chestnuts for sale courtesy of the Italian Society. Santa will be arriving by Fire truck at 6pm to light the giant Christmas tree and meet the kids. We'll keep you posted with more details later this month.

CHAMBER GROUP INSURANCE

Becoming a member of the Nelson Chamber can save you and your business money, and provide an opportunity to help retain employees. Check out Chamber Group Insurance. Group Insurance covers all industries including one person firms, home businesses and farms. Possible benefits include life, health, dental and travel care insurance, vision care, short and long term disability, business overhead benefits and many others. Guaranteed renewable contracts and fully pooled price stability.

For details on the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan, please contact Glenn Sutherland at Sutherland and Associates Financial Service 250 352-3518, .

A Group Insurance Plan can be developed that is tailored to your needs, whether you are a 1 or 2 person operation, or a business that employs dozens of people.

2009 Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Executive

President: Cal Renwick Nelson Toyota

Past President: Janice Morrison Private Member/
Kastlerock Bed and Breakfast

Secretary Treasurer Brent Irving:
Carmichael, Toews, Irving Inc

Directors

Barry Auliffe: Selkirk College

Chuck Bennett: Black Press(Nelson Star) Ltd

Harry Davidson: Glass House Optical

Graham Edwards: Chinook Marketing

Brent Holowaychuck: Finley's Irish Bar and Grill &
Sage Tapas

John Knox: Nelson Realty

Travis Mann: Granite Pointe Golf Course

Justin Pelant: Ted Allen's Jewellery

Kerry Rakuson: Kootenay Real Estate Board

Karen Pilipishen: Investors Group

Melissa Welsh: Elephant Mountain Gallery/Melissa
Welsh Photography