



Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce

TGIT Newsletter

January 8, 2007

Your source for up-to-date information about your Chamber, Chamber members and the activities the Chamber undertakes on your behalf.

2007 Chamber Membership

Membership dues for the 2007 calendar year are due January 1, 2007. For those who have already renewed their membership, your membership benefits will not be interrupted. For those who have yet to renew their membership for 2007, you have until January 31, 2007 to pay your membership fee with the Chamber of Commerce after which all membership benefits will cease.

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce depends on the support of its membership to allow the Chamber to continue to offer programs and services of interest to Chamber members. Your membership renewal is vital to the continued operation of the Chamber.

January 11 General Meeting

The January 11 General Membership Meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held at the Golden River Restaurant. Dinner will be served at 7 pm with the meeting starting at about 7:45 pm. For those who purchased meal packages with their membership renewal, this is one of the General Meeting Meals included in the package you purchased. For those who did not purchase a meal package with their membership, the meal will be \$15 each at the door.

Pre-registration is required for the General Meeting meal. If you wish to participate in the meal and did not purchase a meal package with your membership renewal, contact the Chamber Office at 335-3265 or via e-mail at info@didsburychamber.ca to book your meal. The meeting agenda can be obtained from the Chamber Office prior to the meeting.

Harry Penner will be phoning all members to remind them of the meeting. You may book your meal with Harry when he calls.

Chamber Office Hours

9 am to 3 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays.
Office Manager: Bill Windsor

Noteworthy Dates

Thursday, January 11, 2007
General Membership Meeting
7 pm at Golden River Restaurant
Wednesday, January 17, 2007
Trade Show Committee Meeting
7 pm at the Chamber Office
Tuesday, January 23, 2007
Regular Chamber Council Meeting
7 pm at the Chamber Office
Monday, January 29, 2007
Special Chamber Council Meeting
7 pm at the Chamber Office
Program Analysis and Focusing
February 10 & 11, 2007
Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic
March 31/April 1, 2007
Didsbury Trade Show

Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic

As many will have already guessed, the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic sprint races have been postponed. Insufficient snow has forced the organizing committee to re-schedule the races to February 10 and 11. Hopes are high that snow will come to Didsbury before then.

The postponement has resulted in some changes for the races. Since the Zion Evangelical Missionary Church is not available that weekend, the Rosebud Run Meal & Mixer will now take place in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Didsbury Memorial Complex. Tickets for the Rosebud Run Meal & Mixer are \$7 each and are available through Ward Value Drug Mart, Didsbury Dry Cleaners, Mugs Coffee House, Didsbury Pharmasave, CIR Realtors, the Didsbury Chamber Office and on-line through the Rosebud Run website. The Rosebud Run Meal & Mixer is open to the public and will be serving Campbell's Chili and Kerik's Meat Market sausages with dinner rolls and Caesar salad.

The postponement has also lengthened the opportunity to obtain your Rosebud Run souvenirs. The committee has put together an impressive array of memorabilia for the 2007 races which can be seen

and purchased at Ward Value Drug Mart, Didsbury Dry Cleaners, Mugs Coffee House and Didsbury Pharmasave. The souvenirs will also be available at the race site during the races on February 10 and 11.

All other activities associated with the races will remain the same; just a month later than originally planned. For complete information on the races, see the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic website at www.rosebudrun.ca. Be sure to mark the change of dates for the races on your calendar and join us for the second annual Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic on February 10 and 11, 2007.

TRADE SHOW INTRODUCES NEW MARKETING OPPORTUNITY

The 22nd Annual Didsbury Trade Show is being held March 31 and April 1, 2007, and this year the Chamber of Commerce is introducing a new feature, a feature that will open up new doors for area businesses.

The Didsbury Trade Show Committee is excited to introduce "A Walk in the Park" Fashion area. Exhibitors in this area will cater to the grad or wedding party, specifically limousine rental businesses, photographers, cake decorators, china and crystal, giftware, caterers, hoteliers, travel agents, candles, jewellery, party rentals, makeup and spa treatments, facilities, and of course, gowns and tuxedos, to name just a few.

"This is an offshoot of the popular Tourism Trail and similar to the successful Taste of Didsbury," said Kathleen Windsor, Trade Show Co-Chair. "We wanted to offer something our local retail businesses and tourism operators could visualize as being a 'target rich environment' for them."

The entire area will be decorated by major sponsor,

ACC Group Insurance

Didsbury Chamber of Commerce members are eligible to enroll in the Alberta Chambers Group Insurance Program. The program itself is far too extensive to cover in a medium like the TGIT, however, if you are interested in obtaining more information about the ACC Group Insurance Program, please contact the area representative, Keith Fordyce, at (403)932-7846 or e-mail him at questfinancial@shaw.ca.

Victoria's Flowers & Gifts. Saturday's fashion shows will feature grad and bridal outfits courtesy of Cameo and Cufflinks. Sunday's fashion shows feature new spring lines available through Didsbury's fashion stores.

"We are really pleased the local stores recognize the marketing potential the more than 4,400 people attending the Trade Show offers their stores," added Windsor. "It's going to be a great showcase opportunity for them."

Ads have already been placed in Travel Alberta's Winter Hot Holidays magazine, and the Calgary Sun's Bridal supplement that comes out later this month. The Didsbury Chamber encourages all Chamber members, especially accommodations, beauty and gift shops, to book a booth and get the word out to local brides and grooms that there are gorgeous spots right here at home to have their wedding. If we don't tell them, they won't know.

With the addition of "A Walk in the Park", your target market just became even more targeted. To participate in "A Walk in the Park", please contact Trade Show Manager, Joelle Fournier at 335-2046. A discount is being offered to Didsbury Chamber members who book a booth in this area. More information can be found at www.didsburychamber.ca.

Chamber General Budget

The Budget committee of the Didsbury Chamber has recently met and established a proposed budget for the Chamber's 2007 fiscal year. The committee intends to present the proposed budget to the General Membership at the January 11 General Meeting. The General Meeting will be an opportunity for Chamber members to examine the proposed budget and make suggestions and recommendations to the committee prior to the proposed budget being presented to the Chamber Council at the January 23 Regular Council Meeting.

The Chamber faces a number of challenges in their 2007 financial year resulting from an increase in programs and activities the Chamber has initiated over the past two years. With an overall budget in excess of \$104,000 for 2007, equivalent to \$1300 per Chamber member, the Chamber is charged with the task of administering programs and activities for members and balancing those with promoting business in the Chamber's business district.

The proposed budget is available to members by contacting the Chamber Office or by attendance at the January 11 General Membership Meeting.

