



Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce

TGIT Newsletter

November 2, 2006

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

Didsbury Review Named 2006

Small Business of the Year!

What an unbelievable salute to Didsbury's business community at the 2006 Chamber's Small Business Week Gala. The Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce thanks all who attended the banquet, laughed with the entertainer Damien James, and danced the night away. What a great event it was.

The Chamber congratulates the Didsbury Review as the winner of the 2006 Small Business of the Year Award! The judges paid special commendation to the Review "for business growth and expansion, world-wide promotion of the business, staff safety and support, and business longevity".

The Chamber also congratulates all the nominated businesses: A Gallery of Floors, Checker Auto Parts, Mountain View Credit Union, and Unique Stained Glass Works.

First People's Choice Award Presented

For the first time, the Chamber hosted a new award, the People's Choice Award. The concept was simple enough. You just had to put a ballot in a box. This was designed as a fun event where the businesses could "challenge" each other, or do whatever they could to "court your vote". 30 different businesses received 113 votes, with the winner receiving 30% of the votes!! The Chamber is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2006 People's Choice Award is Mugs Coffee House! Rochelle Byiers, the owner of Mugs, was quite ingenious in her "courting of votes". Rochelle offered a free coffee to anyone who went to the Review office and voted for her! Rochelle is in Ontario right now, but the Chamber will make sure she gets her People's Choice certificate when she returns.

Chamber Office Hours

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

Noteworthy Dates

Monday, November 6, 2006
Gala Windup Meeting
Chamber Office at 7 pm
Thursday, November 9, 2006
General Membership Meeting
Chamber Office at 7 pm
Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Regular Council Meeting
Chamber Office at 7 pm
Friday, December 1, 2006
Country Christmas
January 13 & 14, 2007
Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic
March 31/April 1, 2007
Didsbury Trade Show

Thanks from the Gala Committee

What a great evening Chamber members had when they gathered on Saturday, October 28, 2006 to celebrate Small Business in Didsbury. The Chamber thanks the Gala Committee for putting on such a great show (Val Puttick, Margo Ward, Kathleen Windsor, Tara Windsor). The Committee would like to extend their appreciation to the following volunteers: Sandy Boyko, ticket sales phoning; Brian Braun (helped with cleanup); members of the Didsbury Elks Club (tending bar); Lloyd Kenyon and the Didsbury Lions Club (shuttle service); Ward Value Drug Mart (gift baskets and door prize); RBC Financial (50/50 hosts and door prize); Richard Marz, MLA (door prizes); Didsbury AG Foods (door prize); Al Reid (giving grace); Brian & Melanie Hepp (MCs); Chris Walker, Ron Boyko, Ed Puttick, Joelle Fournier, Greg Poirier, Bill Windsor, and Wild Rose staff (setup); and volunteers with the Carstairs/Didsbury Chapter of Ducks Unlimited (silent auction). We'd also like to thank staff from the Memorial Complex, especially Adam, who helped the cleanup crew in the wee hours of the morning. Special thanks are extended to our major sponsor, Barb & Gary Gaudette of Didsbury Liquor & Beer, who graciously provided the wine for the evening's festivities. The Gala is a success because of all these individuals and businesses who so kindly support the event.

2007 Chamber Membership Fee Increases

The Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce membership fees will be increasing for the 2007 calendar year. Annual membership fees will be increased to \$95 to cover the increased cost of keeping members informed of Chamber events and activities.

The Chamber Council deliberated the annual membership fees at their regular October Council meeting. Following a long and detailed examination of the increased expenses and impact an increase would have on membership numbers, the Council voted unanimously to make a slight increase in the membership fee for the 2007 calendar year.

While the Chamber Council is concerned the increase may result in reduced membership, the cost of servicing the members makes it impossible to continue to hold the membership fee at the 2006 level.

"All of our costs have increased, from telephone to paper", commented President Scott Puttick. "The Chamber cannot continue to offer the events and programs it does under the current membership fee structure."

The Chamber Council is also considering other possibilities to offer its members in 2007. Packages for General Membership Meeting meals is one of those possibilities intended to increase participation and present a one-stop-shop for the entire year. Two-tiered event pricing is also being considered to add value to the Chamber membership. More information will be provided as these possibilities are explored further by the Chamber Council.

Membership renewal notices will be distributed at the end of November in conjunction with the distribution of the December TGIT Newsletter. Be sure to watch for your renewal notice.

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, Kieth Fordyce, at (403)932-7846 or e-mail him at questfinancial@shaw.ca.



November General Meeting

The November General Membership Meeting of the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce will take place on Thursday, November 9, 2006, in the Meeting Room of the Chamber Office. All members are urged to attend this General Meeting as reports from the various active Chamber committees will be presented at that meeting.

With Country Christmas right around the corner, the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic sled dog races on the horizon and the Didsbury Trade Show looming in the distance, there are many opportunities for members to become involved and informed.

Others items of importance will appear on the agenda of this meeting that may impact members. The best way to make your views known is to attend and participate in the meeting.

Rosebud Run In Sight

You may have noticed a fair amount of activity taking place along the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic race trail in the Rosebud River Valley on the east side of town. The Rosebud Run Committee is immersed in preparations for the 2007 edition of the races.

Following on the heels of the exceptionally successful hosting of the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic in 2006, the committee is cautiously optimistic about the possibilities this year.

"Given the postponements and last minute change of venue last year and still attracting attendance of over 1100 spectators, one can only contemplate what might be in store this year if everything goes as planned", commented committee Chair Bill Windsor. "We actually already have snow which is, in itself, a huge improvement over last year."

Inquiries by sled dog enthusiasts have been coming in from all over North America and one sled dog association in Saskatchewan has even added Rosebud Run to their member points races.

"This is significant.", said Windsor. "It indicates acceptance and approval of Rosebud Run in the mushing world and will, no doubt, impact the number of members from that association participating in our races."

The committee will be spending the next couple of weeks canvassing the business community in the area for support of the races. If you would like to become a sponsor of the races, contact committee Chair Bill Windsor (335-9445). Complete information about the races and sponsorship is available on the Rosebud Run website at www.rosebudrun.ca.

