

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

From the President's Desk

Well another month has come and gone. We had a great General Meeting on January 14th, 2009 at the Golden River. We had a wonderful feed of Chinese food, a short meeting, and then a presentation from the Didsbury Youth Justice Committee. Very stimulating discussion followed. For those who missed the meeting there is a separate piece in this months TGIT written by the Youth Justice Committee to explain a bit of what they do. Also at our meeting was Mayor Brian Wittal, who presented the first draft of the Didsbury Economic Development Plan.

As owners of businesses in Didsbury this should be a must read. There are extra copies of the document at the Chamber office or at the Town office.

Last month also saw the successful and ON TIME running of the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic. More info later in the newsletter. Thank you to the Committee and the many volunteers for their continued hard work. This event would not be possible without them!

Roy Prevost is returning with a new topic on February 18th. This is happening through a grant from Alberta Employment and Immigration. Kathleen Windsor has been kind enough to take the lead on this project. Information has been e-mailed to everyone under separate cover. The topic should be of interest to

all small businesses, as it is how to Recession Proof Your Business. Thank you to JD's Restaurant & Pub for supplying the pizza's for the evening. Further information on tickets etc. follows in the news letter.

Preparation for our 24th Annual Art, Travel and Trade Expo is in full swing. More information on this, our biggest event of the year, further in this TGIT.

It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Ursula Krebs (Ulla La Boutique) from the Chamber Board. We wish her all the best in every endeavor and thank her for hard work and dedication over the past 8 months, especially with the Christmas Light committee. Her humor at the council table will be greatly missed.

Also on a sad note, we are losing Tammy Brooks as our office manager. Council knew that this was in our future, as Tammy is setting up her own business, unfortunately it has happened sooner than we had hoped. Tammy will be helping out until her replacement has been found.

Our thanks to Tammy for her commitment to the Chamber over the past year and a half, and we wish her well with her new project.

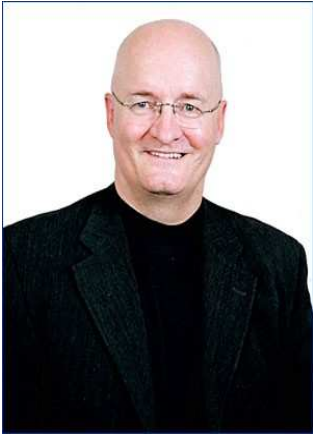
Just a reminder that the membership renewal packages will be mailed out this week. Please watch for it and reply as soon as possible. Remember we do have Visa, Master Card, or Debit at the Chamber office for your convenience.

"LOCAL FIRST" Purchasing Policy

The Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce Purchasing Policy reads: In the case of purchasing services, materials and/or merchandise, the Chamber will abide by a Local First philosophy. In all cases, the purchasing of services, materials and/or merchandise by the chamber will be done according to the following list of enterprises in the listed order of priority:

1. Chamber Members
2. Didsbury businesses
3. County businesses
4. South-central Alberta businesses (Red Deer, South)
5. Alberta businesses
6. Canadian businesses

Roy Prevost is back!



Following the great response from our seminar last fall, the Didsbury Chamber of Commerce is very pleased to bring **Roy Prevost** back for another evening seminar. This time we have partnered with the Carstairs Chamber of Commerce and Alberta Employment & Immigration, and are looking forward to another great turnout.

Roy will be speaking at the Multi-Purpose Room, Dids-

bury Memorial Complex (1702 - 21 Avenue) on **Wednesday, February 18th**, beginning with a **Pizza Meet-and-Greet at 6 pm**. The topic is very appropriate for these challenging times: "How to Recession-Proof your Small Business". At this workshop, you will learn:

- How your attitude is your most important asset
 - How your language affects your success or failure
 - Where 'outstanding customer service' is the ultimate recession buster
 - How to track your best customers
 - How to get clarity in your business affairs
- And more!



Roy Prevost is a customer service activist, entrepreneur and futurist who forecasts trends on the "Future Consumer". Through coaching and workshops, Roy Prevost helps small business increase confidence, improve profitability, build customer loyalty, and triumph over competition

Wine Glass Rentals

The Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce has 300 wine glasses available for rent. If you are hosting an event and need wine glasses, contact the Chamber Office at 335-3265 for rental details. Rental rates are very reasonable and it's a lot better than having to drive to the city.

WILL YOU BE AN EXHIBITOR OR A SPONSOR?

The Mission of the Didsbury Art, Travel, & Trade Expo (formerly Didsbury Trade Show) is to provide a showcase for local businesses and organizations (including non-profit organizations) to market their products, services and organization to area residents and visitors.

The Expo offers you, as an exhibitor, an excellent venue to showcase your business, products or services. As an exhibitor or a sponsor it is a great way to get your name out there.

The 2008 Expo consisted of 125 booths and drew over 4,400 visitors from all over Central Alberta. Where else could you showcase your business to so many people in

just two days.

NEW this year to the Expo is the Didsbury Cabaret, featuring the Polyjesters. This will take place after the Exhibitor's Dinner in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Memorial Complex from 8 pm to midnight. It is open to everyone, as is the dinner. Advance tickets are \$12.00 and at the door will be \$15.00.

The Chamber is looking forward to this being a great addition to the overall Expo. The Didsbury Pre-School and the Didsbury Firefighters are joining us on this venture and the funds raised will be shared by the three groups.

Tickets for this great event are available at Mugs Coffee House.

For all information on the Expo please visit the Chamber website at www.didsburychamber.ca.

Booth Bookings

Joelle Fournier – 403-335-4893
e-mail: tradeshow@didsburychamber.ca

Sponsorships

Amy Enns and Dolly Edwards
403-335-4814
e-mail: amy1@xplornet.com or dollye@xplornet.com

Trade Show Supplement

Because of the huge success of last year's Trade Show supplement, the committee has made arrangements with Mountain View Publishing and the Didsbury Review to once again publish a supplement in the March 30th issues of the Mountain View Gazette. This 4 page supple-

ment features expo articles, and opportunities for exhibitors to invite people to their booths for special deals. 23,000 copies will be printed to be distributed throughout Mountain View County and include Didsbury, Sundre, Olds, Innisfail, Carstairs, Watervalley, and Cremona. In

addition to this there will be a full page ad placed in the Rocky View Weekly that same week. This is fabulous coverage and a great way to expose your business to future customers. Please call Alan for details: 403-335-3301, 405-556-7510 or e-mail achambers@oldsgreatwest.ca

Rosebud Run 2009

The 4th edition of the Rosebud Run Sleddog Classic was a resounding success. 24 mushers entered 36 teams in the races. In the final analysis, 5 teams were entered in the 4-dog Purebred Class, 3 teams in the 6-dog Purebred Class, 12 teams in the 6-dog Open Class, 11 teams in the 4-dog Open Class and 5 teams in the Skijoring Class. We had no entries in the Junior Class.

900 volunteer hours by approximately 92 volunteers represented the contribution in manpower on behalf of the Didsbury Chamber. This included a last minute "work bee" on Thursday night prior to the races to move 2700 cubic feet of snow onto the trail under the bridge by 27 members of the Rosebud Run volunteer force. This does not include the contribution of the Town of Didsbury providing a backhoe, grader, skidsteer and equipment operators for 4 hours to clear the Staging Area or Tanas Industries providing a payloader for 4 hours to transport snow for

the "work bee" mentioned above.

Compliments from the mushers on the trail, race organization and community were continuous and glowing. At the awards ceremony, Robert Peebles, a musher of some distinction, indicated that he and his daughter have been to hundreds of races and Rosebud Run is one of the best they have ever been to.

Shuttle Bus spectator attendance was down due to the frigid temperatures, however, the Community Bus Association estimated transporting in excess of 1000 spectators to the race site. Additionally, a large number of people viewed the races from vantage points along the trail from the warmth of their vehicles and a sizable crowd parked in the Zion Church parking lot and gathered at the bridge for viewing. It is impossible to estimate the number of spectators this might represent.

Coverage of the races spanned 4 radio stations and 1 television station; CKfm, CBC, Country 1060 and Telus

TV respectively. 11 SAIT students enrolled in the Photo Journalism program at that institution attended the races. A CBC Radio 12 minute interview was conducted on Saturday morning live from the race site. Video footage taken by Telus TV will be aired on City TV at slotted times as a half hour feature for the next three months. Three interviews with CKfm were aired live from the race site as well as being featured with the news at the top of the hour from Saturday morning through Monday until noon.

These are just some of the many highlights of the races over the weekend. To say it was a resounding success is likely an understatement of profound proportions. The satisfaction of the mushing community in attendance undoubtedly promises a bright future for these races.

As we turn the page on the 2009 edition of Rosebud Run, the committee is already focusing on 2010. For more information on the races, see the Rosebud Run website at www.rosebudrun.ca.

Didsbury Museum Annual Fundraiser

Saturday, March 7th marks the date for the annual Museum fundraising Prime Rib Dinner and Auction. There will be a cash bar, auction, and entertainment by Divine

Dance Academy dancers. Auction prizes will include a week's holiday in Panorama and an original painting by Earl Cummins. Tickets \$20—members, \$25—non-members, con-

tact the Museum at 403-335-9295 or Shirley Dorin at 403-335-3277. All tickets will be pre-sold, there will be no tickets will be available at the door.

Noteworthy Dates:

Valentine's Day -	Feb. 14th
Roy Prevost Seminar	Feb. 18th
MPR room, Rec Centre—call Kathleen for details 403-335-4655	
Trade Show Committee Meeting	Feb. 23rd
Chamber Council Meeting	Feb. 24th
Chamber General Meeting	March 11th

General Meeting

General Membership Meeting will be held every other month—next gathering will be March 11th. Stay tuned for details!

Youth Justice Offers Alternatives

The Didsbury Youth Justice Committee offers alternatives to youth based crime. They support our community through various forums.

What is a Community Justice Forum? It is a form of restorative justice involving a meeting between offenders, victims and their respective family and friends offering an opportunity for people affected by crime to discuss how this act has influenced their lives face to face with the offender.

This allows communities to hold young offenders accountable, change attitudes, which have contributed to the offending behaviour and reintegrate offenders into the community.

The purpose of the forums is to assess the harm caused by the offender's actions and to find ways

to repair the harm. It also gives police, probation officers or educators a powerful new way to address crime and disciplinary problems.

Victims have expressed satisfaction with the process as this gives them the opportunity to face the offender, express their feelings and state their needs which is an experience not usually available when judicial and traditional disciplinary methods are used.

A victim support worker is available to help support the victim's face the offender. If the victim is unable to attend the forum the support worker will read an impact statement on behalf of the individual affected by the offence.

The forums are convened in cases where an incident has adversely harmed someone, where an offender has admitted to an offence and where

there is a need to repair any harm.

Educators, justice personnel and youth service providers may use forums as a prevention approach where a conflict has developed, but not yet resulted in a criminal offence.

For the Didsbury Youth Justice Committee to succeed they need our help.



Anyone wishing more information on the Youth Justice Committee and their programs please contact Chairperson, Charmaine Williams by leaving a message at the Didsbury RCMP Detachment: 403-335-3382 attention Constable Shane Williams.

ACC Group Insurance

Didsbury Chamber of Commerce members are eligible to enroll in the Alberta Chambers Group Insurance Program. The program itself is far to extensive to cover in a small medium like TGIT, however, if you are interested in obtaining more information about the ACC Group Insurance Program, please contact the Chamber office at 335.3265

MISSION: *The Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce is a community-based volunteer business organization, whose purpose is to support, promote, nurture, and educate for the improvement of our business community*

LOCAL FIRST
COMMITTED TO OUR COMMUNITY



Get involved
Volunteer
Today!