

TGIT Newsletter— August 2008

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

From the President's Desk

I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. The Chamber Council took a bit of a break in July but we are all back now starting to gear up for the coming year. The Ag Society Rodeo is this month and the Chamber will be starting it all off on Friday morning, August 15th, with our Annual Merchant Pancake Breakfast, details in article below. The Elks Annual Pancake Breakfast and Parade follow on Saturday morning. Let's get as many floats out there as we can, it is a great way to promote your business, watch for your President in her unique mode of transport! Let's get the stores and windows decorated and promote the Rodeo! This is a great time to let your staff dress western as well.

Our first General meeting for the year is on September 10th which will include a supper and a presentation from Ian Taylor from

the Chinook's Edge Board of Education. More details on this will be in the September TGIT. Also in September, we will have the privilege of having Roy Prevost come to town to present battling the Big Box Stores. He is a fabulous speaker, and well worth the cost, please see the article below for further details.

The new Christmas lights should be in this month and we will be looking for volunteers to help get them onto the new garland before it gets too cold. It would be great to have enough volunteers now, before we get too busy with the fall, to get all of the strings of lights ready to go so that it is a very simple process to hang them come November. Remember, Country Christmas is Friday November 28th, 2008.

Well, that is all for now. Hope to see you all at the Chamber Merchant Pancake Breakfast!

Prospering in a Big Box Retail World Seminar

Guest Speaker:
Roy Prevost
Oakray
Marketing
Services
Monday

**September
22nd, 2008**

Didsbury Five-O
Club

Meet & Greet:
6:30 pm

Speaker: 7:00
pm

Members: \$25
Non-Members:
\$30

Call Kathleen
403-335-9445 for
tickets or e-mail
info@didsburychamber.ca

Proudly hosted
by the Didsbury
& District Chamber
of Commerce

Flapjacks and Tubesteaks!

Fair Weekend in Didsbury is right around the corner and the Didsbury Agricultural Society has a lot of great activities planned for your enjoyment. The Chamber of Commerce is proud to have a small part in the festivities and invites everyone to the 4th Annual Didsbury Chamber Merchant's Pancake Breakfast on Friday, August 15th.

All the fun happens at the Didsbury Dollar Store Park-

ing Lot from 7 - 10 a.m. Come for a hearty breakfast of flapjacks, sausages, juice and coffee before you go to work! Tune into 96.5 FM and watch for the 96.5 Community Cruiser at the breakfast!

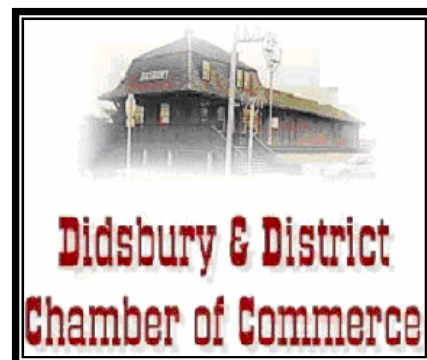
This is a FREE breakfast hosted by the folks from Custom Touch Homes, James Carpenter CIR Realty, Didsbury Pharmacy, Didsbury Value Drug Mart, and Didsbury AG

Foods. Come on down and enjoy breakfast with your neighbours and family as your business community joins in the fun on Fair Weekend!

See you at the Fair and Rodeo, August 15 - 17! Don't forget the Thunder on the Prairies fireworks on Friday night and the Elks Breakfast and Parade Saturday morning! It's going to be a great weekend to be in Didsbury!

Noteworthy Dates:

<i>Merchant's Pancake Breakfast—7:00 AM</i>	<i>August 15th</i>
<i>Rodeo starts 6:00 PM</i>	<i>August 15th</i>
<i>Be sure to get all the Rodeo info from the Ag Office</i>	<i>403-335-4494</i>
<i>General Meeting</i>	<i>September 10th</i>
<i>How to Thrive and Prosper in a Big Box Retail World</i>	<i>September 22nd</i>



Renowned Speaker Comes to Didsbury—September 22nd

There are more than 300 power centres in Canada, and just six months ago, commercial developers grouped several big box stores together in Olds, just ten minutes away. The Cornerstone Development includes Walmart, Canadian Tire, Mark's Work Wearhouse, Reitman's, Lammle's, and the list goes on. Didsbury retailers have certainly felt the effect of the big box outlets as they get closer and closer to our customers.

Love it or hate it, the "Big Box Retail World" is here to stay. The trick is to learn not only how to survive alongside big box retailers, but how to prosper.

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce is very excited to host one of the most requested inspirational speakers in North America to share his thoughts on how to thrive and prosper in the Big Box Retail World. Roy Prevoost is a customer service activist, entrepreneur and futurist who forecasts trends on the "Future Consumer".

Roy will provide you with the tools and techniques to thrive in the 21st Century. Roy Prevoost is a regular contributor on Small Business to the Financial Post and the Vancouver Sun. As an authority

on Walmart and Big Box Retail, Roy Prevoost gives small business the tools and techniques to thrive and prosper in the Big Box Retail environment. Through a very entertaining workshop, Roy will help Didsbury and area small business owners increase confidence, improve profitability, build customer loyalty, and triumph over competition. As an authority on Big Box Retail, Roy has a keen view of trends in customer service and offers a first hand look into what new challenges companies are facing.

Roy Prevoost will be coming to Didsbury for a special evening, Monday, September 22nd at the Didsbury Five-0 Club. Tickets are sold in advance by calling Kathleen Windsor at 403-335-9445 or e-mailing the Chamber **o f f i c e** at info@didsburychamber.ca. Didsbury Chamber Members: \$25.00. Non-members: \$30.00. Coffee and dessert included. Meet & Greet: 6:30 PM, Speaker: 7:00 PM.

Roy's down to earth and common sense approach to customer service makes for a great seminar. Many facets of business will

benefit, whether retail, service or industry. You will each take away something different, yet important, from this seminar. This is an uplifting positive seminar/workshop that empowers the small business to raise their standards regarding customer service and to focus on the positive elements of their business.

You will leave with a better understanding of Big Box Retail, a new approach to your business, and a new paradigm for your small business. The lessons learned here will empower you to create a magical workplace where staff members are motivated and willing to go the extra mile. Make sure you sign up your employees as well as yourself.

Deadline for tickets to hear this **a m a z i n g** speaker is Monday, September 15th at 4:00 pm.



Get on the Waiting List!

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce pays tribute to the significant contribution that small and medium-sized business owners make to our economy.

The Chamber acknowledges our business community through the Small Business Gala. This year's event is on Saturday, October 18 at the Memorial Complex. If you have any questions about the Gala, contact committee members Kathleen Windsor (403-335-9445) or Margo Ward.

Entertainment will be provided by comedian Clark Robertson (pictured).

Back by popular demand as MCs for the evening are Melanie & Brian Hepp of CK-fm 96.5 FM

Radio and Rock 104.5.

The 2008 Small Business of the Year Award will be presented by President Margo Ward.

The Chamber is encouraging members of the public, our customers, to attend as well. 2008 tickets will be available soon and will go fast, so call Kathleen to book your spot now! We will do up invoices, receipts, and deliver your tickets to you when we pick up your payment. No tables will be considered "sold" until payment has been received.



Small Business of the Year Award Recipients

2004

Didsbury AG Foods

2005

For Trees Company

2006

**Didsbury Review /
Contemporary Graphics**

2007

Didsbury Pharmasave

2008

Who will it be this year??

Showcase Didsbury

Showcase Didsbury: A Celebration of Our Community will take place of Thursday, September 18, 2008 from 6:00—9:00 PM at the Curling Club.

There is no charge to take part in this exciting event and all community groups are urged to participate. As well, a complimentary meal will be provided to all participants and attendees.

To book your table, please contact Didsbury Neighbourhood Place at 403-335-8719. RSVP deadline is

September 12th! Be sure to look for the Chamber of Commerce — See you there!

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 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 OR call ACC directly at 1-800-984-2658

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!

Didsbury businesses participate in ArtWalk

You've seen the signs up on sidewalks throughout town, and you've seen them downtown in Olds and Sundre as well. ArtWalk 2008 is currently ongoing until September 2nd, with art from local artists on display in various participating businesses. Make sure you stop in to all the stores with sandwich board signs and check out some of the most beautiful pieces of artwork created right here in our region.

All Didsbury businesses participating in ArtWalk this year are also members of the Chamber of Commerce. Stop by sometime and check things out.

A Gallery of Floors :
Featuring landscape designs by Lorene Runham of Olds

Unique Stained Glass Works: Featuring woodwork by Cliff Thompson of Didsbury

Ulla-La Boutique: Portraits & Figurative Artwork by Karen Heit of Bowden

Shorthorn Art Studio: Landscapes by Edna L. Bliss of Sundre

Didsbury Review: Oils and Watercolours by Lila Weiss of Sundre

Mugs Coffee Shop: Oil, acrylic, pastels by Osi Cruz-Lahtinen of Innisfail

Didsbury Pharmasave: Paintings & Scratch Art of Animals by Shelley Haase of Carstairs

Didsbury AG Foods: Floral paintings by Patricia McDonald of Olds

For more information on ArtWalk 2008, call 403-335-8389.

Didsbury Portal

Looking for up-to-date information on things happening in and around Didsbury? Check out www.mydidsbury.ca. Established as an unique access portal to Didsbury events and activities, this site is all about Didsbury including weather, news and so much more.

Parade Float Ideas

- ⇒ Some very interesting things can be done with a grocery store cart.
- ⇒ One of the easiest floats can be constructed around an electric golf cart or a lawn tractor.
- ⇒ Build your float on top of a car.
- ⇒ And of course, a flat bed trailer is always a standard.

Terry Fox Run Coming Soon

Scheduled for Friday September 12th, the Terry Fox at Work Day is a national fundraising opportunity for workplaces across Canada to hold fundraising events for cancer research. The premiere fundraising event of Terry Fox at Work Day is The Great Canadian Head Shave. And one of our businesses is host-

ing a special event that day. Cut 'n Loose is the only salon in Mountain View County participating. If you want to take part, and are willing to lose your locks for cancer research, contact the Terry Fox Foundation at 1-888-836-9786 or visit www.terryfoxrun.org to register so you can collect pledges. The Terry

Fox Run in Didsbury begins at 12:30 pm starting at the Didsbury Memorial Complex on Sunday, September 14th. Our race is 2x5k, and you can walk or run, participate with your bike, or wheelchair, or roller blades, plus the race is dog friendly. For more information, contact Brenda Hemming at 403-335-2390.

Small Business Week is coming...

October is Small Business Week and of course the Chamber will be presenting the Small Business Week Gala. This is the event of the year and I hope to see you all there. Details for tickets etc. are in the article on page 3.

Nomination packages for Small Business of the Year Award will be distributed to local businesses in the coming weeks.

Watch for them and ensure that your customers receive a copy.

