



***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***

The month of September has been extremely busy for your Chamber. We started off with our first General Meeting since the summer break with a fabulous steak dinner at the Didsbury Golf Course followed by our meeting and then a great presentation by Ian Taylor from the Board of Education. Thank you again to Deb Pelletier and Ian Kennedy who arranged the evening. It was truly enjoyed by all who attended. At that meeting the membership approved the change in our by-laws to move our membership year end to match our fiscal year end. Once the by-law has been approved by the government we will explain how we are going to handle the change for our members.

As there was a writ dropped in September for a Federal Election, we have been very busy preparing for our Political Forum which will be held on Oct 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008 at the Complex in the Multi Purpose Room. We hope to see you all there.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> we had a special presentation by Roy Prevost, a renowned speaker who was there to help us improve our business practices so we can protect ourselves from the Big Box Stores. Thank you to Kathleen Windsor, whose hard work, made this evening a great success. The annual Small Business Gala and Award Night is next, and it is coming soon. October 18<sup>th</sup> is the night so get your tickets now.

The Christmas Light committee will be contacting everyone in the next couple of weeks to get the lights ready. Please give of your time. The more volunteers we have the faster it gets done.

And last but not least Country Christmas is November 28, 2008. There will be info coming from this committee early in October.

Our next General Meeting will be November 12<sup>th</sup>. The speaker will be talking about prevention of theft and vandalism. Sounds exciting! Details will be in the next TGIT. Hope to see you there!

**Special Speaker a Huge Success**

On September 22, businesses were entertained and educated by special guest, Roy Prevost, whose presentation on "Prospering in a Big Box Retail World" received rave reviews! Fifty-six people from 23 different businesses registered for the seminar, from Olds, Sundre, Carstairs, Red Deer, and Didsbury.

Roy talked a lot about customer service and how to recognize your loyal customers.

Comments received included, "We need to do more of this.", "Very motivating. Excellent ideas.", "This was very enjoyable and extremely valuable. It was unfortunate not to see some businesses here that SHOULD have been here.", and "Nice to attend a meeting that had a purpose. I feel like I can take on the world!"

The Didsbury Chamber thanks everyone who attended. The Council is hoping to host another business seminar in the spring.

**Retail Opportunities Survey...**

The town of Didsbury is collecting information that will improve and expand business and services within our community. Please take a moment to provide input about local shopping needs and opportunities by completing their online survey at

**<http://www.didsbury.ca/retlsurv.html>** This is an opportunity for business owners to provide important feedback to the Town about Didsbury's local shopping needs.

## Noteworthy Dates:

Federal Election Political Forum—7 pm, MPR	October 1st
Small Business Week Gala	October 18th
Information and tickets available from Tara 403-335-4800	
Ag Society Christmas Farmer's Market	October 25th
10 am—4 pm at the MPR—Call Laura for details 403.335.4252	October 25th
Chamber Council Meeting	October 28th
Chamber General Membership Meeting	November 12th
Didsbury Country Christmas	November 28th

### Museum

#### Makes Repairs

The Museum will be closing September 30th for viewing to allow for electrical work throughout the building.

However, during the winter months their office will remain open Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10 am till noon and from 1 pm—4 pm for business and research. During this time they will be cleaning, painting and rearranging display cases.

## Tickets are going fast!!

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce Small Business Gala will take place on Saturday, October 18th at the Memorial Complex. Entertainment will be provided by comedian Clark Robertson. Back by popular demand as MCs for the evening are Melanie and Brian Hepp of CKLJ 96.5 FM Radio.

The 2008 Small Business of the Year Award will be presented by President Margo Ward. And, of course, the People's Choice winner will be announced.

The Gala is a must attend event for Didsbury entrepreneurs, service organizations and those in the community who just want to say "thank you" to our local businesses. What a great opportunity to take your staff out for an affordable evening of fun and socializing. Use this year's Small Business Gala as an opportunity for customer appreciation. Bring your friends and family!

The Chamber is encouraging members from the public, our customers, to attend as well. 2008 tickets

are now available. To make arrangements to get your tickets, contact Tara Windsor by phone at (403)335-4800 or by e-mail at tara@wildroseevents.ca.

We will do up invoices, receipts and deliver your tickets to you when we pick up your payment. No seats will be considered "sold" until payment has been received.

The Chamber has a wireless POS machine, so if it's more convenient for you, stop into the office and purchase your tickets with Interac, Visa or MasterCard. We're trying to make it just as easy as we possibly can for you.

If you have any questions about the Gala, contact Kathleen Windsor at (403) 335-9445.



### Last Chance

There are still a few tickets available for this year's Small Business Gala, but don't put it off any longer!

The caterer needs to know headcount by October 10th.

Please call Tara at 403-335-4800 to get your tickets immediately!

### 2008 Gala Ticket Prices

#### Chamber Members

1—5 Seats: \$50.00 each  
6 or more Seats: 47.50 each

#### Non-Members:

1—5 Seats: \$55.00 each  
6 or more Seats: \$52.25 each

All tickets subject to additional GST

## Deadline Extended to October 4th!

### *Small Business of the Year Award*

We know everyone is busy, but you should never be too busy to recognize your fellow businesses.

There have been very few nominations that have come in this year for Didsbury's 2008 Small Business of the Year Award, and so we're calling on all business owners and employees to nominate their fellow businesses.

And who better to see the businesses that keep bringing people to town, the ones that obviously provide top quality customer service and community support?

The nomination forms are on the Chamber's website at

[www.didsburychamber.ca](http://www.didsburychamber.ca) or you can pick them up at the Chamber office at the Train Station. If you don't feel you have the time to complete the form but still want to recognize one of your business neighbours, call Kathleen at 403-335-9445 or Deb at 403-335-4222 ... we'll be glad to lend a hand. Nominations can be dropped off to the Chamber Office or Revibe until 6 pm, Saturday October 4th.

Let's show our support to our business community and let them know how much we appreciate all they do for us. The Small Business of the Year Award is presented by the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce at their annual Small Business Gala in October.

### *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??**

## People's Choice Award Returns!

This has been so much fun the last couple of years, we decided to do it again!

The Chamber of Commerce is inviting the general public to vote for their absolute, positively FAVORITE BUSINESS, the winner to be crowned People's Choice!

The People's Choice Award was the brainchild of Ron Boyko of Custom Touch Homes. "The Chamber wanted to make sure everyone in town had a chance to vote for their favourite business," said Boyko, adding "and we wanted them to have a little fun in the

process."

It's quick, it's simple, and you'll have fun being involved! Any business operating in Didsbury or the surrounding area is eligible. Challenge your neighbours and friends to fill out a ballot. Campaign to make your favourite business the winner. And if a business happens to "court your vote", it just might make it that much more interesting!!

Last year's winner, the Didsbury Municipal Library, waived library fees to anyone who voted for them. The first winner, Mugs Coffee House, gave a free coffee to anyone who

voted for them. What neat ideas businesses offer their customers this year remains to be seen!

Slip on down to the Didsbury Review office, 2017 - 19 Ave (across from the Didsbury Inn), and mark your ballot. Ballots will be collected and tabulated on October 16<sup>th</sup> so get your votes in right away! The winner of the People's Choice Award will be announced at the Chamber's Small Business Week Gala, Saturday, October 18.

So, come to the Gala and congratulate the People's Choice Award winner in person.

#### **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!

## Gift Card Regulations

Alberta has developed a Gift Card Regulation under the Fair Trading Act that will come into force on November 1st, 2008.

You can view the Gift Card Regulation and the Fair Trading Act at [www.servicealberta.ca](http://www.servicealberta.ca). under Consumer Information Legislation.

If you're in a retail business or one that issues gift cards this may affect your business. Be sure to review the new rules.

## Congratulations Didsbury!

Mountain View Publishing held their Second Annual Reader's Choice Awards in August. Readers of the Didsbury Review, Mountain View Gazette, and other MVP publications had a chance to vote for the favourites in all sorts of categories. Here's how Didsbury Chamber members stacked up with the rest of the County.

### Most Beloved Citizen

Rick Wannamaker (Dick's Auto Service), Silver

### Best Place to Stargaze

All Star Telescope, Gold

### Best Customer Service (1-5 employees)

Dick's Auto Service, Bronze

### Best Customer Service (6-25 employees)

Didsbury Pharmasave, Silver

### Best Customer Service (26-100 employees)

Didsbury AG Foods, Bronze

### Best Place for Lunch

Mugs, Silver

### Best Cup of Coffee

Mugs, Silver

### Best Wine Selection

Mountain View Liquor, Silver

### Best Beer Selection

Mountain View Liquor, Bronze

### Best Place for Auto Repairs

Dick's Auto Service, Silver

### Best Place to Buy Beef

AG Foods, Bronze

### Favourite Realtor

Rod Neufeld & Allen Reed (TIE), Gold

And of course...

### Best Local Landmark

Didsbury Train Station (Chamber office), Silver.

## Congratulations Didsbury!!

### Accepting Door Prizes

While we do not actively solicit door prizes for the Gala, they're always a highlight with everyone at the banquet!

If you would like to take advantage of this promotional opportunity, just call Kathleen at 403-335-9445.

Any business hosting a door prize gets signage at the Gala, PA acknowledgement at the Gala, and recognition in TGIT.

## Member Survey

The Chamber would like to call an informal survey of our Members:

### Question:

Would you prefer TGIT to arrive in your: a. Inbox b. Your post office box c. Your fax machine

Please respond to the office either by e-mail to [info@didsburychamber.ca](mailto:info@didsburychamber.ca) or by phone or fax to 403.335.3265 Alternatively, tear off this section and drop it by the office. R.S.V.P. by October 15th. Thank you!