



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

Hi everyone! Well the pancake breakfast is done, the parade is over and here it is September already. Thank you to the businesses who sponsored our annual pancake breakfast and also to all those businesses who participated in the Elks Parade.

Your Chamber is at the beginning of its busiest time of year. Our first General Meeting will be on September 10, 2008 starting with a nice BBQ and meet and greet. Note that this will be held at the Didsbury Golf Course. All the details of this are in the info on page 4. The Notice of Motion with regard to the change in Bylaws presented at the June General Meeting will be discussed and voted on.

On September 22 we will have a special presentation by renowned speaker Roy Prevost. Kathleen Windsor has been very busy preparing this evening and will be contacting everyone regarding tickets to this special event. Further info follows in this TGIT and is on our website.

It looks like we may have a fed-

eral election this fall, and if that is the case your Chamber will be busy preparing for the usual Political Forum for the candidates.

We follow in October with our Annual Small Business Gala and Awards night. This is a very exciting evening with the Award presentations, a wonderful dinner, entertainment and the silent auction. All of the details for this special event can be seen on the Chamber website. Purchase your tickets early as we are always sold out for this great event.

Sometime in late September or early October, the Christmas Lights Committee will be looking for volunteers to help with the replacement of burned out lights etcetera to make sure that everything is working in preparation for the hanging of the lights in November. The Light Committee needs lots of help here so watch for Linda and Ursula who will be contacting businesses for assistance.

Country Christmas is November 28, 2008. See you there!

Congratulations to the Didsbury Chamber members in the Elks Parade August 16th

1st Place
Commercial Float
Didsbury Value Drug Mart

3rd Place
Commercial Float
James Carpenter
CIR Realtors

2nd Place
Harness Horse Mountain View
Credit Union

Thanks to all the businesses who put an entry in the parade. It was great!

Member News

The Best Pizza is Back!!

As everyone knows, we've been without Macy's for the last while due to renovations. Well, guess what? August 26th marked the date with a coffee and cake opening, and their regular hours are back to normal. Tuesday through Saturday from 11 AM—10 PM. Closed Sundays and Mondays. Hours will expand when more staff can be found.

History in the making...

The Didsbury & District Historical Society will be 30 years old on September 20th, 2008.

They will be holding their Annual General Meeting at the Museum at 7 PM, to be followed by coffee, dessert and conversation.

Members and friends are all invited to come and join the celebration.

Noteworthy Dates:

Chamber Membership Meeting—Golf Course 6 PM	September 10th
Showcase Didsbury—Community Celebration	September 18th
Information through Neighborhood Place (403)335-8719	
Historical Society—AGM and 30th Anniversary Celebration	September 20th
Details at the Museum (403)335-9295	
How to Thrive and Prosper in a Big Box World	September 22nd
Chamber Council Meeting—7 PM Train Station	September 23rd
Merchant Services Night at ATB—see article Page 3	September 25th

Notice of Motion

“ that the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce apply to the Board of Trade of Canada to have By-Law #3.02 changed from “A membership shall end on December 31 following admittance.” to “A membership year shall follow the same time frame as the Fiscal Year of the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce as set in the By-Laws.”” This motion will be tabled for discussion at the September 10th meeting.

Prospering in a Big Box World – September 22nd

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 Prevost 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 Prevost is a regular contributor on Small Business to the Financial Post and the Vancouver Sun. As an authority on Wal-Mart and Big Box Retail, Roy Prevost 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 Prevost 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 office 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 semi-

nar/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 amazing speaker is Monday, September 15th at 4:00 pm.



Nominations are now open!

Small Business of the Year Award

Nominations are now being accepted for Didsbury's 2008 Small Business of the Year Award, an award presented by the Didsbury & District Chamber of Commerce at their annual Small Business Gala in October. Introduced in 2004, the award is designed to recognize Didsbury and district businesses that provide top quality customer service and community support. It also showcases the entrepreneurial spirit found in our business community.

So many of us have had a business owner or staff member go above and beyond as they try to service our needs. It is so nice to go for a walk downtown in the evening and be able to stop in for a cup of espresso or maybe an ice cream cone. There's been times when our favourite store didn't have exactly what we needed, but they ordered it

in special, just for us. And there's more than one person in town who has called their pharmacist at home and seen them open up the store just to fill a prescription for us.

Then there's the business owners who help our sport organizations by sponsoring our hockey tournament, or buying tickets to a band concert or church supper. The owners volunteer their time to help with painting work bees or give their staff time off for volunteer work.

All these are the very best reasons you should be nominating a Didsbury business for this award. The nominations forms are on the Chamber's website at www.didsburychamber.ca or office at the Train Station.

Let's show our support to our business community and let them know how much we appreciate all they do for us. you can pick them up at the Chamber

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??

ATB Celebrates their Customers...

ATB Financial is holding a Customer Appreciation Week from September 29th through October 3rd. There will be refreshments, baking and door prizes all week long for their customers.

To kick off the week, they will be

hosting a Merchant Services Night on Thursday, September 25th at 5:30 PM at the Didsbury Branch of ATB Financial.

There will be a light dinner served along with refreshments as well as door prizes. The evening is open to

everyone in the community.

Please RSVP to
Karen Hunter at
(403)335-7187.



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 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*



Get
involved
Volunteer
Today!

THANKS to Everyone!

The Didsbury Chamber of Commerce hosted this year's Merchant's Breakfast on Rodeo weekend. This is a FREE breakfast hosted by the folks from Custom Touch Homes, James Carpenter CIR Realty, Didsbury Pharmasave, Didsbury Value Drug Mart and Didsbury AG foods.

Special thanks to everyone who came out and helped with flipping flapjacks: the folks from ATB Fi-

ancial, Spectrum Home Plans and the Elks Club members who helped with set up. A big thank you to Mark and Karen with the Didsbury Dollar Store for the use of their parking lot.

It was a huge success with over 500 people in town for breakfast. Our thanks to Jake Peters for supplying the music and the 96.5 FM crew for bringing the cruiser. What a terrific kick-off to a terrific fair!

Tickets Now Available!

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.



Chamber General Meeting

Eat, meet, greet and be merry.

The first general membership meeting after the summer break for the Chamber of Commerce will take place on September 10th at the Didsbury Golf Course.

Dinner is at 6:00 pm and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$17.00 (plus GST) and this gets you a great steak, baked potato, salads, veggies, dessert and coffee.

Keynote speaker will be Mr. Ian Taylor from the School Board. He will discuss how our tax monies are utilized in the education system.

Come and join your fellow businesses people for an evening of fellowship and information!

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