



CHAMBER NEWS

June, 2009

CHAMBER LUNCHEON THIS WEDNESDAY OFFERS EXCELLENT SPEAKERS

It's a jam-packed luncheon this Wednesday, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Cornerstone Hall. First, we're featuring Jessie Radies as our guest speaker. Jessie is a co-owner of The Blue Pear Restaurant in Edmonton and founder of Original Fare and Keep Edmonton Original. She's talking about "Living Local", and what it means to our communities. Her Edmonton perspective translates well for St. Albert, and you're sure to gain some new understandings. Another wonderful feature at this luncheon is a display from the Alberta Special Olympics that's being held in St. Albert this month. We'll hear a presentation from members of the committee that have been working hard to bring a successful Special Olympics to our community. Please register for lunch by phoning the Chamber office at 780-458-2833.

LET'S HEAR FROM THE 2009 CHAMBER CHAIR!

Since the Downtown Business Association teamed up with the Chamber of Commerce last fall, the Downtown Business Committee that was formed in its place has been hard at work planning and organizing events and improvements to enhance the downtown experience for our residents and for visitors to our community.

Save the date. . . for the largest initiative undertaken by our Downtown Committee will be the "Kick-off to Summer" event being held on Saturday, June 13. Plan to take the Free Park and Ride sponsored by St. Albert Centre to avoid the question of where to park. While this day officially opens our Outdoor Farmers' Market, the committee has added many other exciting activities to ensure citizens and visitors alike extend their stay and take advantage of the entire downtown experience.

Start your "Kick off to Summer" with a pancake breakfast on St. Anne Street by the Bruin Centre, sponsored by the St. Albert Seniors Centre, and continue down the streets and avenues to take advantage of Kick Off to Summer specials being offered by many of the downtown businesses.

The official opening of the 27th annual Farmers' Market will see our Mayor and Council, both St. Albert MLAs, and our MP in attendance at 9:45 in front of City Hall. You can enjoy the performance of the St. Albert Community Band throughout the day at St. Anne Street and St. Thomas Street, and for the children, there is a sidewalk chalk pastels art contest for all ages, and an inflatables play area. And . . . you'll want to stop back to St. Anne Street near the Bruin Centre at Noon as our Member of Parliament Brent Rathgeber serves up pulled pork sandwiches in support of our pork industry.

The Downtown Committee has also been busy providing input to the Mayor's Taskforce on the Downtown, working on downtown advertising, and doing strategic planning with the downtown businesses. Recently the committee heard presentations on the City's Founders' Walk project, and the Arts Day Festival, and will be discussing ways for the downtown businesses to be involved.

So watch the papers for many of the upcoming events in the downtown and throughout St. Albert as we celebrate 105 Days of Summer.

Joe Bécigneul,
2009 Volunteer Chamber Chair

WE'RE GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS! WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Accent Travel Ltd.
Crystal Lambertus, Owner/Operator
52 Grandin Woods, St. Albert
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Allstate**Wayne Chambers, Agency Manager**

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Beauty Blends**Kara Murray & Cindy de Bruijn, Owners**

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Coaching That Works**Donna Galay, Owner**

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Genesis Studio**Constantine Tanasiuk, Owner**

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Lease Link Canada Corp**Craig Shanahan**

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Maximum Health & Nutrition**Adam Nashman, President**

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Pearl River Rentals**Andy Osman, President/Owner**

7340 Yellowhead Trail NW, St. Albert

Ph: 780-463-2458 Fax: 780-474-5835

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Progressive Home Warranty Solutions Inc.**Mike Garritty, President**

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Shear Magic Hair By Nicola**Nicola Savard, Owner**

58 Grandview Ridge, St. Albert

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Somebody's Home Pet & Home Care Service**Michelle Anderson, Owner/Operator**

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Yvonne's Furniture**Jason Milne, Owner**

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ADVOCATING ON BEHALF OF BUSINESS

Last weekend was the Alberta Chambers of Commerce 2009 Provincial Conference and Policy Session held in Grande Prairie. Chair Joe Becigneul, 1st Vice Chair Mike Howes, and President and C.E.O. Lynda Moffat all attended from St. Albert. This year there were 35 Chambers of Commerce from throughout Alberta in attendance.

During the Plenary Policy Session, delegates considered 29 policy resolutions, and after often-intense debate, 24 resolutions were adopted as official Alberta Chambers of Commerce policy. These are now public policy, and the Alberta Chambers will prepare letters to the appropriate Provincial Government Ministers advising them of the policies that were adopted. During coming months, meetings will be held with government to initiate discussions on moving these resolutions forward. Some past resolutions initiated by the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce, and successfully adopted provincially, include policy on Pandemic Emergency Preparedness, the use of Sheriffs in Alberta, and a call for Provincial Regulation on Smoking.

We owe a very big "Thank You" to Brad Cody, a Past President of the St. Albert Chamber of Commerce, who just completed his term as Past President with the Alberta Chambers of Commerce. His six year commitment to provincial business advocacy is most commendable.

**SUCCESSFUL “ALMOST ANNUAL” GOLF
TOURNAMENT HELD ON WEDNESDAY**

130 golfers filled the Sandpiper Golf Course last Wednesday, under bright sunny skies, for the Chamber of Commerce golf tournament. With fun at every hole, and a “Challenge the Mayor” feature, the day was a great success! There were three hole-in-one prizes offered, a car from St. Albert Dodge, a \$10,000 GIC from ATB Financial, and a \$5,000 GIC from TD Canada Trust – but no lucky winners.

Points will be given out towards the 2009 Healthy Business Challenge for businesses who participated in the tournament. So far, we’ve held a Curling Bonspiel, a Slo Pitch Tournament, and now a Golf Tournament, and the leader is the City of St. Albert, with several other businesses close behind.

The next Healthy Business Challenge event takes place on June 23rd, with the Bowling Tournament at St. Albert Bowling. To enter your team contact the Chamber office at 780-458-2833.