



SWAN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Spring/Summer Newsletter

June 2014

Board of Directors

Heather Nielsen
President

Jodi Willis
Vice-President

Naomi Neufeld

Kevin Neely

Bev Potten

Don Declercq

Jack Dyck

Brian Gilroy

Gillian McGrath

Warren Genik

Stacy Grindle

President's Message

It's only been a couple of months in my new role and my head is still swimming with ideas. The first thing I did in April was attend the MB Chamber of Commerce AGM in Dauphin. There was a lot of good information and as I watched other communities show their tourism videos I thought to myself that the Swan Valley is just as spectacular, if not more. We need to start bragging a little bit. Did you know that tourism is the 4th largest growing industry in the world? There is always talk about what industry could come here. Tourism already is here! Can we improve it?

My first goal as president is to inspire and encourage some partnerships in our Valley. I believe this is a great place to live and we all need to do our part to ensure sustainability. We have a Valley comprising of smaller communities with a very strong volunteer bases. It is to all of our benefit to communicate and work together to achieve greatness. It benefits us all.

Communication is so important and we are going to be communicating a lot more on what we are doing and what we know is happening around the Valley. We have a new website which is a work in progress. Please check it out at

www.swanvalleychamber.com and newsletters and information will be circulated.

Prairie Mountain Health Report to Communities has been circulated and put on our website. What is new and coming to the Swan Valley? Lots! Kudos to the hard working people working on our medical situation.

In an effort to accommodate our members we have changed the structure of how we do meetings. We have committees designed to address specific areas; Events, Retail/Promotion, Membership, Economic/Community Development, and Executive. Please contact the Chamber office and we would love to help you join whichever committee interests you.

Our General Membership meets every 2 months. July 8, September 9, and November 11 are our upcoming dates. Mark your calendars. Committees present reports and there are speakers from around the Valley with interesting information on what is happening in our communities.

Colleen Immerkar is retiring this fall and Erin Brown has been hired as her replacement. Erin brings with her 7 years of experience with Brandon First, a proactive marketing organization that works to increase group business to the City of Brandon through ongoing recruitment of meetings, conventions and special

Brandon First, a proactive marketing organization that works to increase group business to the City of Brandon through ongoing recruitment of meetings, conventions and special events. Brandon First has partnered with Brandon Chamber of Commerce for some events and she has experience in membership recruitment, fundraising, public relations and awareness, networking and tradeshow/convention marketing. Erin has also been on the board of directors for Tourism Westman and worked tourism for 2 years before Brandon First. Thank you to the hiring committee and Welcome Erin! Erin will be starting June 25, stop by and say hi.

Swan Valley Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer group currently of 11 directors all concerned with one goal keeping Swan Valley prospering. Our motto is *Fostering Swan Valley Community Through Business. Connect. Engage. Impact. Thrive* I encourage you to talk to the directors, ask questions, give feedback and attend some meetings. Knowledge is power.

Enjoy the summer and all the Valley has to offer. If you have any suggestions, ideas or concerns please do bring them to our attention ... Heather Nielsen

If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go with others.

- African proverb

Effective
July 1, 2014

Office hours 9:00
A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Monday to Friday
until further
notice.

Weekends TBA

What's happening at the Chamber Meetings?

The Chamber has restructured their meeting schedules. They meet bi-monthly for general meetings.

January - Shauna Klekta, Economic Development Officer gave a presentation on Swan Valley Rise and Gillian McGrath gave a presentation on Swan Valley Settlement and Immigration Services.

Committees gave update reports on Festival of Trees, and Midnight Madness.

March - we were treated to a tour of the Richardson Recreation and Wellness Centre. For the formal part of the meeting Small Business Financing was the topic of discussion.

May—RCMP Staff Sargent Cliff McKay attended giving information on the loitering and vandalism instances that has occurred in the

Flowers

The flower baskets have been hung and the flowers planted in the large flower bed.

Thank you to all the volunteers that made these projects possible.

Baskets

Equipment: Town of Swan River
Operators: Justin Lumax & Matt Leslie,

Delivery truck: Robert Vessey, Halley Vessey, Bev Potten, Willeta Hoffman,

Flower Bed

Rototilling: Erv Parachoniak

Planters: Maxine Zamzow, Carol Fahrenschon, Diana Taylor, Jean Baskier, Della Schaeffer, Connie Declercq, Colleen Immerkar.

Our grass mower this year is Colby Chaykoski.

Thank you to all the businesses that sponsor the baskets and the greenhouses for planting them.

downtown area. The RCMP had been approached to see if it would be possible for officers to make a presence by walking the sidewalks. Due to the shortage of officers Cliff did not feel this was possible. He reported that Swan River is losing a full-time provincially funded RCMP Officer. He was questioned on whether letters to the Minister of Justice would reverse the decision. The detachment is also facing a couple of vacant positions. Swan River Safe House and the COPP programs were discussed.

Blaine Campbell representing the Swan Valley Credit Union gave a presentation on the history of the Swan Valley Credit Union. He detailed the 5 C's of consideration of processing a loan.

- Capacity (cash flow)
- Collateral (security)
- Character (borrowers reputation)
- Capital (net worth)
- Conditions (terms of credit)

Next General Meeting is July 8, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at the Tourist Info Centre

Thompson Trade Show

A delegation of six attended the Thompson Trade Show. They reported that the traffic through the trade show was extremely busy. There were lots of young families looking to relocate. Thank you to Bev Potten, Gillian McGrath, Alex Haluschuk, Don Bobick, Rick Achter and Linda Goudy for attending and promoting our valley.

Communities in Bloom

The mission of the Communities in Bloom is to inspire a sustainable approach to improving the quality of life and civic pride. Summer plans are underway to promote tidiness and community involvement thus fostering civic pride. The local CIB is looking for input through other organizations in attaining this goal. Their portfolio will be updated for evaluation of the community in the area of Tidiness, Environmental Action, Heritage Conservation, Urban Forest, and Landscape and Floral Displays. Each of these areas are subdivided into: Municipal, Business & Institutions, Residential and Community Involvement. Any ideas or comments can be forwarded to Phyl Friesen at 204-734-0940, Maureen Bowles 204-734-2639 or Diane Taylor 204-734-4838.

Our community will be judged on August 6th.



Thumbs up to the many volunteers in our community!

Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote goodness or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity can produce a feeling of self-worth and respect. There is no financial gain involved for the individual. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun. It is also intended to make contacts for possible employment. It is helping, assisting, or serving another person or persons without pay. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work, such as medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Others serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

- Wikipedia

Fostering Swan Valley Community Through Business
Connect. Engage. Impact. Thrive.



New Board and New Strategic Directions Unveiled at 2014 AGM

A greater focus on economic competitiveness is a key pillar of the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce new Strategic Plan that was launched at the Chambers 83rd Annual General Meeting in Dauphin the beginning of April

Over the next three years, MCC will look to increase its policy development and advocacy work focused on creating a stronger entrepreneurial climate in this province and working to remove the economic barriers business currently face. In addition MCC is committed to strengthening the relationships with the 66 local Chambers to ensure they are receiving greater value.

Wading Through Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL)

New legislation establishing rules for the sending of commercial electronic messages (CEMs) and the installation of computer programs is coming into effect.

Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL) also prohibits the unauthorized alteration of transmission data. The rules that apply to CEMs come into force on July 1, 2014. Over the last few weeks and months the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce has been working to better understand the impact on local chambers and how the new legislation will effect communications with our valued members.

Changing of the Flags

Special thanks to Ray Atkinson, Marvin Vestby and Keith Woolford for replacing the flags at the Tourist Info Centre.

Swan Valley Tourism needs your help!

The tourism building is traditionally open 6 days a week in the summer worked by a summer student. There used to be government grants to offset the cost of a summer student but those are no more. We have approached the municipalities for support and we thank them for what they contribute. This year is presenting some new challenges and we are looking for some volunteer help.

We would very much like to keep the building open but are needing some volunteer help on the weekends and especially the week before rodeo, July 21-25. If you know of anyone that can volunteer some time please let us know.

204.734.3102

chamberofcommerce@chamber8.ca

Congratulations 2014 Graduates



NORTHWEST ROUNDUP & EXHIBITION

JULY 24-27, 2014

PARADE

Friday, July 25th 10:00 A.M.

THEME:

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FAMILY FARMING

Phone entries to 204-734-3102



Later this fall I will be retiring. I would like to take this opportunity to say good bye. For the past twenty five years I have had the opportunity and the privilege of working with some unique individuals (volunteers). I would like to say thank you to all the past and present directors that I have worked with. Your dedication and interest in sustaining your community is inspiring.

It is great to have new faces at our Executive table. Your enthusiasm and new technical ideas are refreshing and exciting. I wish everyone well on all your endeavors.

Thank you to all the business personnel that have responded positively to my many requests for financial and volunteer help.

To my replacement, Erin Brown, Welcome to our Beautiful Swan River Valley. I wish you the best of luck on the job and hope you will find working with volunteers as enjoyable as I have.

It has been a great twenty five years!

Thank You!

Colleen Immerkar

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

GROUP INSURANCE PLAN

BENEFIT

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
GROUP INSURANCE PLAN®

facts: *The Top 10 List you must read before you buy group benefits for your business.*

The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan is Canada's #1 plan for small-to-medium businesses, delivering more benefits for you and your company. Here are 10 top reasons 20,000 firms like yours are already covered.

1. This program has no industry restrictions. All for-profit businesses are guaranteed eligible while they are Chamber members. Not-for-profit organizations are also considered, on a case-by-case basis.
2. Your firm customizes its plan from a wide range – and many levels – of coverage, from Life and Disability, to Health, Dental, and even Critical Illness benefits. That lets you control coverage and cost!
3. You can include employee-paid products in your plan, from optional life insurance for employees and spouses, to retirement savings.
4. Your Chambers Plan coverage is guaranteed to continue as long as your firm pays its premium each month. With three or more full-time people, your firm can even choose options that guarantee coverage to each person.
5. This program averages the claims it pays each year over thousands of customers. Rates are based on this 'pooled' average, providing you with more stable premiums from year to year.
6. And those claims are paid promptly and accurately: health and dental payments are typically on their way to you within 48 hours.
7. The Chambers Plan gives you my-benefits®, exceptional administration software. You have the option of running your plan on-line, anywhere, any time.
8. Claim forms, booklets and administration instructions are clearly written and easy to use. The National Service Line offers firms and employees toll-free access to Plan information from anywhere in Canada.
9. The Plan is run under the direction of a not-for-profit organization (the Chambers Insurance Corporation of Canada), so premiums are set to cover the cost of benefits and administration.
10. The Chambers Plan delivers quality group insurance plus these value-added services, without additional charge:
 - Best Doctors® gives employees and their own physicians access to world-class medical advice, to confirm the diagnosis of serious conditions and plan the most effective treatments.
 - The plan's Long Term Disability options include Confidential Telephone Coaching to help owners and supervisors deal with difficult personnel issues, plus counseling for employees receiving disability benefits.
 - Health options include Preferred Vision discounts on eyewear purchases and Health Access Line, staffed by experts ready to answer questions about health, nutrition, and regional health resources.

So how many reasons do you need? Whether you're introducing or replacing a program, get all the benefits of the best group plan. Call the Chambers Plan today.

Toll-free – fax 1-877-277-0711; phone 1-877-277-0677; for the Chamber of Commerce Group Insurance Plan web site go to <http://www.buychambers.ca/>

Swan Valley Chamber of Commerce has a new logo. It's all about us being a chain link ... connecting, associating, networking, linking, bringing together.

