



Mission Chamber of Commerce Business TRACK

connect • influence • prosper

JULY 2017

MISSION CHAMBER SEES GROWTH IN ADVOCACY, MEMBERSHIP AND EVENT PARTICIPATION

The staff and volunteers at the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce and Mission Visitor Center have been busy over the course of the first half of 2017, working hard to advocate for our members needs through our policy developments, implementing new programs, organizing key local events and activities and gearing up to celebrate the Mission 125th Birthday.

In following with our strategic plan set forth by the Board of Directors in 2016, we are focusing more on our core objectives in Advocacy, Benefits and Connections. Everything we do at

the Mission Chamber aligns with our Mission: To foster a thriving business community.

In the first half of the year, the members of the Government Affairs Committee have been busy working to create key policies in the areas of PST on Donations, BC Hydro rate increases, Liquor deposit fairness, Canada Summer Jobs Grant program alignments and more. It's been a busy year for this committee, which has seen a significant increase in volunteer participation over the past 12 months. The work this committee has accomplished over the

past year has been instrumental in putting the Mission Chamber and the Mission business community on the radar with the Provincial and Federal Government. The Mission Chamber has been invited to attend various press conferences for government announcements and attended both Throne Speech events held in Victoria, and was invited on a special tour of the Oil Sands in Alberta. The Chamber continues to create dialogue with key members of government and industry leaders to discuss business in Mission and the needs of the business community.



Kristin Parsons,
Executive Director,
Mission Regional
Chamber of
Commerce

“Everything we do at the Mission Chamber aligns with our Mission: To foster a thriving business community.”

Chamber is building connections

What a strong start to the year for both Membership and Events at the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce! We are proud to announce that our membership has grown by an increase of twenty-eight percent (28%) when based off the 1st half of 2016 to that of 2017, and we are so excited to welcome these amazing businesses into the Chamber!



Janessa Derksen,
Membership
Engagement &
Events

To further assist our members to connect, we launched the Explore Mission App that in mid-March. This new app is available to ALL chamber members to post deals and advertise their business. Still in it's initial soft launch over 1000 people are actively using the app to find local businesses and events. Events at the Chamber has seen an all-time record in participation with every event to date in 2017 SOLD OUT! We have been working hard at listening to our member's needs and what they are looking for when it comes to events and creating connections, and we feel like the participation increase is a result of that.

Walk about Wednesday is a new venture that began in 2017. It is an opportunity once a week for the Chamber staff and volunteers to go out into the community and visit our members for a quick chat, to see how they are. It is great to grow that relationship with our members further than just events or phone

“Events at the Chamber has seen an all-time record in participation” calls, we like to see you doing what you do best and find ways that our Chamber can support you further! Overall, it has been a wonderful first half of the year here at the Chamber and we have our members to thank for that!

Whats next for the Chamber?

We continue to work on the current Business Walk program to receive feedback from the business community on what they would like to see for business support in the area. This feedback is imperative in helping to shape the plans for the Chamber in the year to come. Watch for new business training seminars, new benefit providers and a continued focus on Advocacy in the near future.

Call for volunteers:

Did you know that most of the fun work completed by the Mission Chamber is done with the help of many volunteers? We have four committees currently run by volunteers that help to shape all the programming and direction of the Chamber. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact us.

Visitor Services – Year to date check in

Summer is here and the Mission 125 & Canada 150 celebrations are in full swing with many successful events already accomplished. The Mission 125 Community Challenge Passport (available at the Visitor Information Centre, Leisure Centre & London Drugs) not only provides a list of all the exciting events in one spot but it also doubles as an opportunity to qualify for a prize draw in September at the “Roots N Blues Festival”



Jo-Anne Chadwick,
Tourism Services
Manager

The Visitor Information Centre (VIC) on Lougheed Hwy is now open 7 days a week 9 am -5 pm for the rest of the summer. The Centre is a hub for local and provincial information, maps, great books, must-have

souvenirs AND ALL THINGS Mission 125 and Canada 150.

We have been busy stocking up the centre with some very local gift options including postcards and magnets by ShutterNutter, cards by ABC Cards, “Places that Matter” by UFV Graphic Design Students, Mission 125 collectibles & giftware, Mission 125 Tartan inspired gifts and so much more. Soon we will be adding a product from Leq'a:mel Market which includes traditional healing salves, candles, lip balm.

Can't make it into the Visitor Center? Our Mobile Services Team will be attending as many events as we can over the summer. Check out our calendar on the new Explore Mission App, now available for download on itunes and google play. To find out more about any/all of these programs contact us anytime, and remember to #ExploreMission and share what you are up to with us along the way.

Find us on Facebook / tourismmissionBC, on The Explore Mission App, or Twitter & Instagram @tourismmission

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JULY 2017 President's Report

Summer is truly an amazing time to get out and explore! Kids are out of school; the weather is beautiful and everyone seems a little more relaxed. I, like many I know, always count down the days and look forward to this time of year. Not just because of the aforementioned seasonal attributes but as a small business owner here in Mission, I know that summer also brings new folks and fast friends through the doors of my business. Seasonal organizations starting up, people working on summer home improvement projects and visitors from other communities who are just shopping along their travels. Yes, summer is a great time to get out and explore... Explore

business in Mission!

Exploring business in Mission is exactly what your Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is doing this summer; our business walks are underway once again. This Summer, and into the fall we plan to visit even more businesses than last year. Our focus again this year is to take the temperature and pulse of business so we can properly advocate for what is required to make our already great business community even better!

It is also right to note that our great businesses deserve recognition - Nominations are open for the 2017 Business Excellence Awards. As a

recipient of one of these awards a few years ago, I can honestly attest that nothing feels better than to have one's efforts validated by being recognised at such a prestigious event. We have so many fantastic businesses in Mission, please nominate your favorites and give them the elevated profile they so rightly deserve. The deadline for nominations is July 31st, don't miss out!

So, enjoy your summer everyone! Please take advantage of all that the season brings your way, and remember to get out and explore!



David Sawatzky
PRESIDENT

Annual Business Walk underway

Volunteers with the Mission Chamber of Commerce and their partners have been busy hitting the pavement over the last few weeks to complete the 2nd annual Business Walk. With over 100 local businesses participating in 2016 the goal this year is to reach 150 businesses through this 2nd annual event. In order to meet this goal, volunteers are continuing to work together to meet with businesses throughout the community on various days and times that work for everyone!

Help the Mission Chamber better understand your needs and bring value to your Chamber membership!! If your business would like to be included in the list of visits, please contact the chamber by emailing

execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca.

Once the Business Walk has been completed a full report will be developed from the results of the surveys completed and will be made available on the Chamber website at

www.missionchamber.bc.ca



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Sharilyn Macdonald, Mission Community branch manager for Vancity Credit Union (third from left) with Vancity team members as they receive Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Award for Educational Leader.

Spotlight on Excellence: Vancity educational leaders: Focus on staff, community needs

by RICK RAKE,
Click Media Works

Sharilyn McDonald, Mission community branch manager for Vancity Credit Union, is clear about her company's vision of promoting talent from within and "understanding what the community needs are and supporting them."

Vancity recognizes the talent that can be harvested from its ranks and encourages its staff to set goals and to find their passion which the credit union supports by offering a variety of professional development opportunities.

"Through tuition reimbursement for courses related to role or future role, in-house training, one-on-one coaching sessions, and an online learning platform that offers instructor-led courses available to all Vancity staff at any time, we love to see our employees grow," said McDonald.

For these and many other reasons, the Mission branch with its 12 staff was honoured with the 2016 Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce Educational Leader Business Excellence Award.

According to Mission Vancity financial services representative Jennifer McGrath, who has worked hard to engage a number of valuable community partners "we invest time in understanding and supporting community needs. We share common concerns like affordable housing, living wage, social justice, and financial inclusion . . . and we make sure the marginalized are supported through services and financial literacy education."

Support comes through Vancity's Each One, Teach One program, special loans, sponsorships, donations, said McDonald. "We look for opportunities to partner with organizations that align with our focus areas and values."

This branch has one of the largest community rooms in its network, offering free space for groups needing it. This room is also used for in-house training and the Mission branch was fortunate to host and train two more of their staff, including Jennifer McGrath, to be able to deliver financial literacy workshops in the community. Six staff at the branch provide this free resource now.

"We enjoy our relationship with the Mission Chamber because it is a good way to connect with community stakeholders through outreach," said McDonald.

As a co-operative, we share 30 per cent of net profits with our membership and the community," she said.

"From small business to the marginalized, we are here to make a difference. We enjoy working with the people of Mission," said McDonald.

CHAMBER EVENTS

CHAMBER GOING EVENTS

September 15th

SAVE THE DATE

MISSION CHAMBER NIGHT GOLF EVENT

Join the Mission Chamber of Commerce for our 2nd annual night golf event and have a blast trying to golf in the dark! The Night golf event features 9 holes of super cool night golf, prizes, food, refreshments and music, capped off by the infamous

Glass Break Party.

Place: Cedar Ridge Golf Course

Time: 6:00pm-11:00pm

Cost: \$95.00 per player

September 21st

SAVE THE DATE

CHAMBER MONTHLY DINNER WITH DISTRICT OF MISSION

Join us for the year's Second Dinner Meeting with special guests from the District of Mission, giving an update on various projects in the community.

Space is limited, book early!

Place: Mission Golf & Country Club

Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm

Price: \$30 members

\$35 non members

To REGISTER for these events visit our website at missionchamber.bc.ca or call 604-826-6914 or e: member_services@missionchamber.bc.ca



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2017 CHAMBER TEAM

"Membership has its benefits!"



Kristin Parsons
Executive Director



Jo-Anne Chadwick
Office Administrator and
Tourism Services Manager



Janessa Syrenne
Membership Engagement
and Events

Mission Chamber of Commerce Presents,

NIGHT GOLF

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 15th

Registration 5:30 PM
Pre - Golf BBQ
6:00PM-7:00PM

Shot Gun
Start 7:30 PM

\$95.00 /Person +GST
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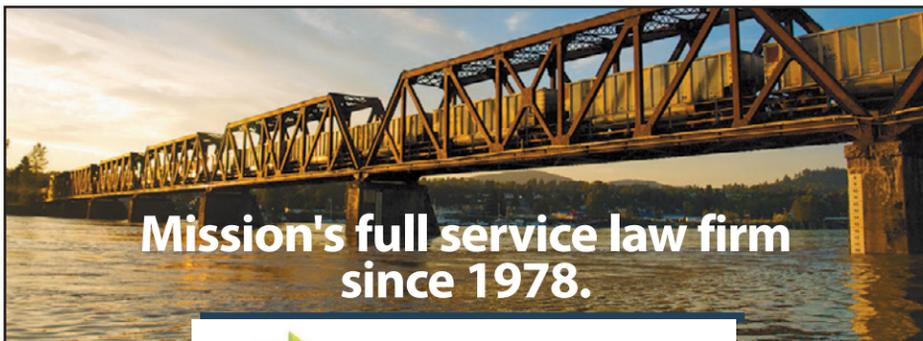
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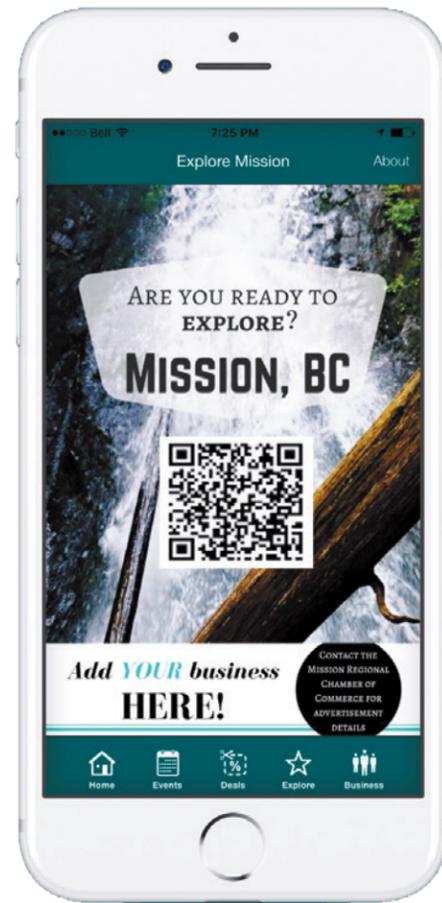
including office supplies, coffee and tech accessories, plus you get free shipping and next day delivery in the Mission area on orders over \$50.

How it works:

Every member of the MRCC who signs up for an account with Grand & Toy under their Chamber membership will receive special Chamber rates on a core list of products. These core item lists can offer substantial discounts on items that many of our members use every day. In addition, members are given the opportunity to

meet with a dedicated Grand & Toy account rep to have their own core list of commonly purchased items created. There is no minimum program requirement for our members and no cost to our members for signing up or opening a Grand & Toy account. This is strictly a member discount available to the MRCC members.

For more information or to sign up for an account and start saving on your next purchase, contact Janessa Derksen at membership_services@missionchamber.bc.ca




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Do you know a local business that stands out from the rest? **Nominate them for an award category today!**



May 1st - July 30th

- ★ Customer First Award
- ★ Educational Leader Award
- ★ Community Builder Award
- ★ Local Focus Award
- ★ Big Bang Award
- ★ The Power Of Small Award



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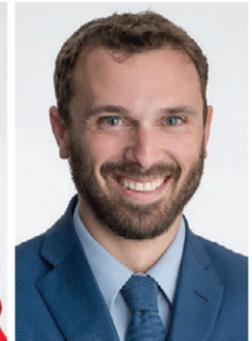
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