

# myBusiness

ENGAGING CONSUMERS • BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Monthly publication brought to you courtesy of our Media Partner: **THE NEWS** ABBOTSFORD

## THE ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE ORGANIZED THE “ONE YEAR AFTER THE FLOODS” DONOR APPRECIATION EVENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY WITH ITS ABBOTSFORD DISASTER RELIEF FUND COALITION PARTNERS.



Susan Mid Kiss, UFV, Jackie Hogan, UFV, Katerina Anastasiadis, Abbotsford Chamber, Steve Willems, Assante, Milt Walker, Gateway Church, Alison Arends, Crossroads Dairy, Craig Toews, Abbotsford Chamber, Wendy Neufeld, Abbotsford Community Foundation, Anita Neilsen, UFV

(Event description from the Abbotsford Community Foundation blog: <https://abbotsfordcf.org/granting/disaster/>)

The Chamber's President Craig Toews was the event MC and he was also joined by fellow Chamber Board Directors and members including its Not for Profit Committee. President Craig Toews noted in his remarks to the audience that significant impact into the community has been made as a result of the donations received and administered to flood victims; farmers, businesses, individuals and families. Over 80% of the 4.4 million of ADRF funds raised have been provided to those in need and the remaining funds are being used to fill existing gaps in the community. Even today, some families have not yet returned to their homes. The Abbotsford Community Foundation continues to receive donations and grant to not for profits and charities in the community who continue to support flood victims and the long road to recovery.

Thank you to all who have donated and supported the ADRF. We are truly grateful for your support!

If you haven't already check out the related news release:

<https://www.abbynews.com/community/abbotsford-disaster-relief-fund-raises-4-4-million/>

### About the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce:

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is a leading member-driven organization that improves the effectiveness of doing business. We have over 650 members and are the largest Chamber in the Fraser Valley, located in the 5th largest city in the Province. We are an Accredited Chamber of Commerce, meaning that we are a Chamber that is managed strategically and that our operations reflect national standards of business excellence and best practices.

Membership gives access to a variety of benefits and services and a well-grounded organization with quality business people who are focused on the growth and development of the business community. The Abbotsford Chamber is widely recognized as at the forefront of business advocacy and policy development, acting as a strong voice for its members. In 2021, the Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 108th year of service. Created to promote the interests of businesses in the City of Abbotsford, the Chamber has been an integral part of Abbotsford's growth and evolution for nearly as long as the city has existed.

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### Contact:

Katerina Anastasiadis  
CEO, Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce  
[Communications@abbotsfordchamber.com](mailto:Communications@abbotsfordchamber.com)

### November 24, 2022

**Abbotsford, BC** – Donors and grant recipients gathered together on November 15th, 2022 at the University of the Fraser Valley, to hear stories and celebrate the small victories our community has made.

We heard from Alison Arends, the owner of Crossroads Dairy Farm in Abbotsford, as she spoke from the heart about what it truly was like over the six weeks and more following the flooding. Her property became a place of refuge for others to temporarily move their cows and be served a hot meal.

She said that the community outpouring of love was incredible. "I phoned to different restaurants in the area and they showed up with hot meals for everyone. There was never a shortage of warm food to eat." Arends received two grants from the Chamber stream and one through Gateway church.

"There was a lot of activity and a lot of different hired hands helping around the clock. Even though things have improved, there is still a lot of clean-up to do and the situation is still not very good for many people," she said.

Milt Walker, who led aid distribution at Gateway Church in Abbotsford, also spoke on his experience during the time of the floods.

"We recognized that when people rebuilt their homes, they were going to have to buy new furniture and new appliances. We made an appeal to the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund, and they were there within a matter of days to support us,"

Walker said. Milt told stories of over 60 Gateway Church families being displaced and affected by the floods, many of these families still stepped up and volunteered their time and efforts to others in need. To date, Gateway Church has provided over 100 affected farmers on Sumas Prairie over \$650,000 in financial aid through the Abbotsford Disaster Relief Fund grants.



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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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2022

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2022

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TEAM MEMBERS

#207-32900 South Fraser Way • 604-859-9651



Katerina  
Anastasiadis, CEO  
katerina@  
abbotsfordchamber.com



Carole Jorgensen  
MANAGER OF EVENTS & SPONSORSHIPS  
events@  
abbotsfordchamber.com



Lais Gomes  
OFFICE MANAGER  
officemanager@  
abbotsfordchamber.com



Jessica Levesque  
BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT MANAGER  
engagement@  
abbotsfordchamber.com

CEO MESSAGE

The Chamber's Company of Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs

Have you heard about the Chamber's exciting new program and networking group the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs?

The Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce is proud to host the Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs program that offers individuals under 40 a chance to participate in leadership, career, and business development opportunities, to network and engage in peer-to-peer dialogue and support one another while making meaningful connections in the community. This program aims to support and inspire the next generation of leaders in our communities!

The Chamber's CYPE Council aims to achieve its vision: "To build, attract and leverage the next generation of leaders in Abbotsford and demonstrate business leadership in the Fraser Valley."

We are hosting an upcoming event and we would love to see you there, see details here:

All the best,  
Katerina



Katerina  
Anastasiadis  
CEO

ABBOTSFORD

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Company of Young Professionals  
and Entrepreneurs Program

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS MINGLER

4 PM – 6 PM  
Trading Post  
Eatery  
Abbotsford

NOV  
24



RSVP at [abbotsfordchamber.com/events](https://abbotsfordchamber.com/events)

Hope to See You There

Thank you to our program sponsors:

Abbotsford  
TECH DISTRICT

RBC  
Royal Bank

NEW MEMBERS:

Gurnoor Sidhu  
Company of Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs - CYPE

Mia Skoone  
Student Member

UPCOMING EVENTS:

CYPE Christmas Mingler  
Thursday,  
November 24  
Trading Post Eatery  
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Chamber Luncheon – 2022  
Abbotsford Vital Signs Report  
Wednesday,  
December 7  
Clarion Hotel & Conference Centre  
11:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Business After Business  
Wednesday,  
December 14  
Sandman Hotel & Suites  
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

For more information and registration go to: [abbotsfordchamber.com/events](https://abbotsfordchamber.com/events)





# An Exotic Moroccan Adventure

## 2022 Abbotsford Chamber Discovery Tour



After a delay of 2½ years, due to COVID and international travel restrictions, our Chamber Discovery Tour finally landed in Casablanca, Morocco! Indus Travel had arranged a wonderful itinerary for us and it began with an airport introduction to our Host/Guide Abdul, followed by a short sightseeing tour of Casablanca. Our hotel accommodation was first-rate and provided us with an opportunity to rest up from our flight and prepare us for the days ahead.

The next two days were filled with the further sights of Casablanca and the capital city of Rabat before arriving in Chefchaouen in the Rif mountains. Known as the "blue city," Chefchaouen is a mountainside maze of winding streets and alleys with a photo opportunity at every turn. Its charm and exotic nature was our first introduction to the uniqueness of Morocco. From there we headed south, beginning our journey to the Sahara.

Our next stop was the medieval city of Fes with a medina (old city) as a UNESCO World Heritage site with reportedly over 9,000 streets and alleys. Our guide Abdul showed his talents as he expertly guided us through the twists and turns while telling us the rich history of this area. The streets are far too narrow for cars and the only transportation for goods is a donkey cart!

We then began our ascent into the Atlas mountains passing a ski resort area resembling one found in the alps. We rose past the tree line into a desolate high alpine desert area inhabited only by nomadic herders of sheep and goats. As we descended into the Sahara the setting sun created a panorama of colour on the steep cliffs of the red clay hills contrasting with the green of the oases in the canyon floors. We arrived in darkness at our first desert hotel, which provided a resort-like welcome to the desert.

The next morning's rising sun introduced us to an entirely new landscape that was both stark and beautiful at the same time. We spent the day in a convoy of jeeps to explore and admire the local scenery which ranged from endless rocky plains to some of the highest dunes in the country. We stopped to sample tea and hospitality with a local berber family at their desert camp and later enjoyed local tribal dancers and musicians at another camp. Our final jeep stop was the desert tent camp providing that night's accommodation. Although rustic, the tent came with its own sink, shower, toilet and comfortable bed.

The day provided one last adventure – a camel ride to the top of the dunes to watch the sunset. I have to say that was the highlight of the whole trip! It's difficult to put into words the overwhelming richness of this truly exotic, romantic and fulfilling part of the trip. It is something we will always treasure.

From there we were on the road to Marrakech, a major economic centre and home to mosques, palaces and gardens. Another medieval city filled with a maze of alleys and thriving souks (marketplaces) selling traditional textiles, leathers, pottery and jewellery.

Returning to Casablanca for our departure home we all felt that we had discovered the uniqueness of the Moroccan people, their history, their life and the majesty of the land in which they live.

We hope you can join the Abbotsford Chamber in our next Discovery Tour in 2023. Watch for details soon!

