

MAY 2024

my Business

engaging consumers, building community

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ABBOTSFORD CHAMBER PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

May has been a transformative month for the Abbotsford Chamber as we embarked on a busy spring season of events and advocacy activities. Earlier in March, we witnessed the launch of the Fraser Valley Business Coalition, a new partnership of four Chambers in the region (Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Mission, and Langley) to support regional advocacy initiatives to move our communities forward.

Together representing thousands of members across the Fraser Valley, chaired by Abbotsford, the Coalition is working to support, connect and advocate for the needs of local business.

I was thrilled to see this work come together with the Coalition hosting its inaugural Fraser Valley Economic Summit last week in Abbotsford. We welcomed BC Premier David Eby, the Mayors of Langley Township, Abbotsford, Chilliwack and Mission, alongside 200 business leaders for a full day of discussions and advocacy on regional economic opportunities, emerging sectors, and pro-growth policies.

The inaugural summit featured a keynote economic update from Ken Peacock of the BC Business Council, who provided a comprehensive overview of the economic realities for both BC and the Fraser Valley region. The Summit also included thought-provoking panel discussions featuring local professionals and thought-leaders tackling the Valley's critical infrastructure needs, food security and



agriculture, and workforce development, as well as a free-wheeling discussion on the strengths and needs of the region with the four regional Mayors and Chair of the Fraser Valley Regional District.

The Summit was punctuated with a lunch address by Premier David Eby, who highlighted his government's economic initiatives and spoke to the choice facing British Columbians in the upcoming provincial election.

I'm thrilled to see our Abbotsford Chamber play a leadership role in the region to ensure that the voice of our members and local business community is heard across the Province. There is so much that we can accomplish by coming together with a shared voice.

As always, advocacy is core to the Chamber's work, and the team continues to have open doors to engage with you on the issues that matter most to your business. If you are facing a particular challenge, please reach out so that we can support you in amplify your concerns and working towards a more business-friendly city.

Furthermore, Abbotsford Chamber activities continue to serve our members. Business after Business events are now free as a value-add for our current members, allowing business owners the opportunity to network and build relationships. We also have the annual Agriculture Bus tour coming on June 14th which is sure to be another terrific opportunity for our business community to interact with the producers and operators that are driving our local economy. As we head into the summer months, we look forward to seeing you out at an upcoming event.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- AJAE Consulting Ltd.
- Arfhad Shaikh
- Carla Kirk Behaviour Consultation Services
- CDW & Associates
- Devon Technologies
- Eagle Vision Optical
- Eric Roberts
- FoodMesh
- Julie Brandsema
- Mandi Brix
- Norden and Gordon Events & Entertainment
- Red Rhino Rentals
- Reframe Psychology and Counselling Clinic
- The Polly Fox

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ABBOTSFORD
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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The Agriculture Bus Tour is back on June 14



Campbell's Gold Honey Farm & Meadery

Find out what makes Abbotsford the agricultural hub of Canada! Abbotsford farms and agri-businesses generate \$3.83 billion in economic activity for our city and support 23% of all jobs in Abbotsford. The theme of this year's tour is *Sustainable Agriculture!* Minister of Agriculture, Pam Alexis, will be providing remarks during lunch. The Chamber's **Annual Agriculture Bus Tour** will be taking place on Friday, June 14 2024 from 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM. Stops on this year's tour:

Fraser Valley Gleaners

"At Fraser Valley Gleaners we take donated surplus and non-marketable vegetables and with the help of our amazing volunteers turn it into a dehydrated vegetable soup mix which is given away to partner organizations to distribute to hungry people around the world. On weekday mornings, volunteers from many walks of life give of their time and energy to sort and process the vegetables. The produce is chopped and diced, then spread on trays. The trays are placed in racks and the racks wheeled into our industrial-size drying units. Drying times are between 8-10 hours. The dried product is then removed from the trays and stored in barrels.

Once we have an entire season's worth of dried items for our soup mix, the mixing lines are set up and several of the winter months are devoted to transforming individual barrels of vegetables into a versatile just-add-water soup mix."

Campbell's Gold Honey Farm & Meadery

"When owners, Mike and Judy Campbell, entered retirement in the early 2000's, they decided to follow their passion for bees and turn a decades-long hobby interest, into an agri-tourism business. With a love of learning and deep respect for the nuanced balances in the environment around them, both Mike and Judy pursued certification through a Master Beekeepers course. The experience and knowledge they have accrued has resulted in a thriving business today Campbell's Gold Honey Farm & Meadery, which provides premium honey wine, honey and beehive products, as well as education to their community, and greater biodiversity in support of a healthy local environment."

Fraser Valley Biogas

"The Fraser Valley Biogas facility collects a variety of wastes, such

as dairy manures, food processor wastes, grease trap material (alleviates pressure from local waste water treatment plants) and more. The material generates biogas in an anaerobic environment, which we collect and refine into natural gas. The finished product is then injected directly into FortisBC's grid. The remaining slurry is then land applied on local farms as a nutrient-rich fertilizer (reducing or removing the need to apply chemical fertilizers.

Fun Fact: Fraser Valley Biogas was the first agricultural digester to produce renewable natural gas in Canada."

Maan Farms

"Since 1977, Maan Farms has a proud tradition of providing high-quality, sustainable local produce to the community of the Lower Mainland as a leader and innovator in their field. Utilizing high-tunnel and greenhouse technology, Maan Farms is always expanding and looking for new ways to improve the use of the land they have been blessed with."

Tickets are available at www.abbotsfordchamber.com/events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Business after Business

June 6th

Fraser Valley Child Development Centre

Agriculture Bus Tour

June 14th

Virtual Roundtable with Minister of Jobs

June 18th at 12:00 pm
Economic Development and Innovation

37th Annual Golf Tournament

Sept 6

Ledgeview Golf Club

For more information and registration go to:
abbotsfordchamber.com/events