



*Your "Voice of Business in the  
North Thompson Valley"*

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## What is a Chamber of Commerce anyway?

It's been said there are three types of people in the world: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wonder what the heck happened. If you're part of –or want to be part of –the "make things happen" crowd then join your local chamber of commerce, and it's good for your company. Here's why.

Most communities in Canada have a Chamber of Commerce, and those who belong take great pride in their membership.

"A Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary, non-profit, action organization established to promote civic, commercial, industrial and agricultural progress of the community and district which it serves." It is a voluntary organization of progressive individuals and businesses that work together for the betterment of the area.

The Chamber exists to make any community a better place to live. A Chamber of Commerce provides an avenue for the business people in a community to create a positive business environment. It also provides the local business community with a vehicle to promote their region to the outside world – either for tourism or business investment. It then serves to help people find their way when they arrive.

The Chamber provides an opportunity for those people who create local jobs and drive the local economy to work with government and the public to build a better community. The community Chamber works closely with the municipal and regional governments.

The provincial Chamber acts as an umbrella organization to lobby the provincial government on issues of mutual concern to all chambers. The Canadian Chamber serves a similar role at a national level.

The chamber speaks for the business community at public hearings, to the media and behind closed doors. They are the voice of business.

When a business joins the Chamber, they help make their community – and their business - healthy and prosperous.

The Chamber provides business people with the opportunity to get to know the local community. They can interact with them, make contacts, and give their business greater exposure to those who are its likely clientele.

## Benefits of Joining the Chamber

### Membership Benefits for you and your staff

#### Reduced Credit & Debit Card Fees

**Savings on Vehicle Expenses** – Esso, Shell, Petro Canada

#### Savings on Extended Health Benefits

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan  
<http://www.chambers.ca/>

### Community Services & Promotional Advantages

Opportunity to enjoy guest speakers and network at Chamber general meetings and socials

Opportunity to promote your business events through e-mail advertisements

### Other General Advantages

Your Membership in our Chamber automatically registers you as a Member of the BC Chamber of Commerce; thus, as a Member, your single business gains the powerful voice of thousands of businesses across the Province

Organized networking among members connecting buyers to sellers

Discounts on Chamber sponsored seminars and workshops

Free listing on the Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce's website

Discount rate to be listed on the Clearwater area map for distribution to tourists and businesses.

Attending Chamber social events

If you are not currently a member, please e-mail us and we will send an application form.

**E-mail:** [manager@clearwaterbcchamber.com](mailto:manager@clearwaterbcchamber.com)

## Your 2017 Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce Executive



President            Jeff Lamond  
 Vice President    Sandie Robinson  
 Treasurer           Judy Annis  
 Secretary          Anne Krawec  
 Directors –        Bonnie Ruttan  
                           Lorne Selbee  
                           Flo Amundson  
                           Trudy Anderson  
                           Cheryl Thomas

The above executive members also volunteer and attend many local committee meetings such as: Age Friendly Community Committee, Age Friendly Mobility Study; Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities; Tourism Wells Gray ; National Forestry Week; N T Communities Foundation; and Raise-a-Reader program.

### **Building Community Partnerships**

With

District of Clearwater

Information Wells Gray

Tourism Wells Gray

Yellowhead Community Services

### **Some Accomplishments in the past 50 + years**

The Clearwater & District Chamber, established in 1956, has been instrumental in helping the area to become prosperous by providing input into the procurement of the following services and events:

1961 Instituted Citizen of the Year Award  
 First Citizen of the year – Frank Capostinsky.

Early 1960's promoted BC Telephone service to Clearwater and North Thompson Valley. By 1967 there were 346 phones in Clearwater, Birch Island and Upper Clearwater, 65 in Vavenby, 14 in Avola and 113 in Blue River. Cell service arrived in 2003.

1964 Promoted installing BC Hydro & Telephone in the Upper Clearwater Valley.

1964 Promoted the completion of Yellowhead Highway 5 from Little Fort to Clearwater and continuing on to Tete Jaune Cache with final bridges completed in 1968.

1966 Chamber Information Booth established. First located in log building across from Sportsman Cafe, next to Baptist Church, then building was moved across from the Wells Gray Inn. By 1980 was in the Wells Gray Inn and in 1986 moved to its present location at the B C Parks building known as Wells Gray Information Centre. Since taken over by IWG.

1967 Chamber promoted Ida DeKolver's trip, with 2 donkeys, to Wadena, Sask. Ida promoted W G Park and area along the way. Her trip took 40 days.

1968 Promoted first (in a basement) BC Government Liquor Store in Clearwater.

1979-1980 Instrumental in the Uranium Moratorium in BC with our Dr Woollard as spokesperson.

1986 Asked by B C Tourism Department to moved into the newly dedicated Information Centre in Clearwater.

1989 Promoted 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wells Gray Park.

1990 Promoted 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Clearwater

### **Accomplishments continue in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

2004 Chamber launched first website.

2007 Promotional Chamber of Commerce tear off map started and continues into 2016.

2007 Promoted for several years Christmas Shop Local with "Clearwater Dollars" as prizes.

2009 sponsored with B C Chamber and Community Resource Centre established the Video Conference room to be used by business community for Small Business BC / TRU courses and workshops.

2009/10 Show cased in The Times newspaper many local businesses, both members and non-members in Shop Local campaign.

2010 Chamber promoted a showcase of local businesses at Wells Gray Inn.

2010 Chamber website redesigned.

2012 Job Fair in conjunction with Clearwater Secondary School & Clearwater Employment.

2012 Micro Business Training Program started to train small business owners with funding for updates to their education. Discontinued by BC Government.

2012 The Chamber celebrated the 52<sup>nd</sup> "Gala - Of the Year" Awards evening to honor Businesses, Employees, and Citizens.

2012 Clearwater Chamber sponsored with Barriere Chamber of Commerce the Premier's Luncheon with Christy Clark, Premier of B C.

2013 Chamber sponsored GST seminar to make vendors familiar with the new tax system.

2013 Chamber promoted Breakfast meetings.

2013 Chamber erected directional sign at old Brookfield Shopping Centre with list of Chamber membership.

2015 Participated in local Business Walk & Pub Nite

2015-2016 Co-sponsored National Forest Week

2017 Sponsored 53<sup>rd</sup> Awards Evening to honor Businesses, Employees, and Citizen for 2016