



The Clearwater and District Chamber of Commerce's new board of directors. (back row, from l) Naomi Lancaster; Usoff Tsao; Matt Edwards (potential board member); Danny Beauregard; Ron White. (front row, from l) Cheryl Thomas; Kaare Long. (Regrets: Chris Enns, Roger Toews, and Kelly Sunderman.) Contributed by Clearwater Chamber of Commerce

# Clearwater and District introduces new board and Chamber Chats

In the spirit of Small Business Week in B.C., we are thrilled to introduce the new executive board of directors for the Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce: Kaare Long (president); Cheryl Thomas (vice president); Naomi Lancaster (treasurer); and Chris Enns (secretary). The directors are Ronald White, Usoff Tsao, Dany Beauregard, Roger Toews, and Kelly Sunderman.

Our dedicated team is committed to fostering a vibrant and inclusive business community in Clearwater and the district. This commitment is unwavering, and we are here to be the voice and advocate for all local businesses, ensuring their interests are heard, addressed and promoted.

Our Chamber is more than just a network of businesses; it is a cornerstone of the community. We are not just



KAARE LONG

CHAMBER CHATS

open to collaboration; we are eager for it. We are ready and excited to work with local businesses and residents to provide the most valuable services and support needed. We believe that the strength of our Chamber lies in a diversity of voices and ideas, and we are actively seeking new members to join our committees and board of directors. Your unique perspectives and innovative ideas are crucial as we plan for the coming year and beyond.

We warmly welcome feedback and encourage newcomers to take an active role in shaping the future of our Chamber. Your involvement is vital whether you are a seasoned business owner or new to the community. Together, we can create a thriving environment where every voice is heard, and every business has the opportunity to succeed.

We'll also be launching a new project called "Chamber Chats": a bi-weekly column authored by business specialists and volunteers from the Chamber of Commerce, designed to engage with the community by providing insightful commentary, expert opinions, and practical advice on local business trends, economic developments, and community initiatives. This column aims to foster a deeper connection between the Chamber and the community,

encouraging dialogue and collaboration on issues that impact local businesses and residents.

We are excited to engage with you and warmly invite you to reach out with any questions or to schedule a meeting with one of our board members. We are committed to transparency and active engagement, ensuring that you are always informed and involved in our operations. We want to include you and your ideas in our strategic planning for the coming year. Discover how you and your business can become a valuable part of the Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce. Let's collaborate to build a stronger, more connected community together!

*Kaare Long is president of the Clearwater & District Chamber of Commerce at: <mailto:president@clearwaterbchamber.com>*



# MLA-elect resigns as Barriere mayor

Hettie Buck

Conservative MLA-elect for Kamloops-North Thompson, Ward Stamer, gave his resignation, bidding farewell to his years of service as a councillor and as mayor from 2018 to present, during the District of Barriere (DOB) regular council meeting on Monday, Oct. 21.

"It is with mixed emotion that I inform council, and the residents of Barriere, that as of today's date, I am officially tendering my resignation from council as mayor of the District of Barriere following my successful election in the provincial MLA candidacy for the Kamloops-North Thompson on Oct. 20, 2024," stated Stamer in a letter to council.

Stamer had been on a formal leave from the district since Sept. 3 to pursue his candidacy for MLA.

During that time, district councillor Rob Kerslake stepped in as acting mayor while the provincial campaign was underway.

"This all-started way back in 1996 when I wanted to give back to not only my community but be involved in the process and to make a difference," Stamer told Black Press Media Monday evening. "From the Improvement District and fire department to incorporation, being able to be elected on Barriere's first council and subsequently all the way through, then being elected mayor in 2018 and acclaimed in 2022. Through it all it's been a wonderful experience. I'm extremely proud of Barriere, its current council, its staff and of course the residents who call Barriere home."

Stamer is off to Victoria on Tuesday for his orientation in the new role as MLA as a first-time member



Ward Stamer / Black Press File photo

of the B.C. legislature and says he is "excited to embark on this new journey in representing the residents of Barriere and everyone living in the beautiful North Thompson Valley."

"Now I get the opportunity to take the next step and support everyone here in our provincial government. I want to thank so many for having faith in me. I'll continue to do my best and work

extremely hard for Barriere and the entire Kamloops-North Thompson riding."

Stamer has already hired Jasmine Devick, the former stakeholder engagement specialist for Trans Mountain Pipeline, as his executive assistant. She has roots in the North Thompson Valley and because of her experience he feels she will be "a valuable asset to the team moving forward".

**Church Directory**  
A guide to finding your way

**St. James Catholic Church**  
Sunday Service  
Mass 9:00am  
Father Paschal Ekeh  
324 Clearwater Village Rd. • [stjames@ntcp.ca](mailto:stjames@ntcp.ca)

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
Pastor Tim Nagy  
Services Saturday 10AM  
11 Lodge Drive  
Clearwater  
250-674-3468