



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Olds and District Chamber of Commerce?

The Olds and District Chamber of Commerce is a volunteer, not for profit organization, incorporated under the Society's Act, and is a Member of the Alberta and Canadian Chambers of Commerce.

Who are the members of the Chamber?

Over 200 businesses and services in our community are members of the Chamber. For the year 2013, Chamber members gave a total of 10,588 volunteer hours. At the minimum wage, this is a donation of over \$104,000 to enhance the quality of life for all in our community.

Where is the Chamber office?

The business of the Chamber is organized and coordinated out of the home of a person contracted by the Chamber. The contract person coordinates and acts as a support to the members who volunteer their services for the Chamber.

What is the role of the contract person?

The Contract Person is responsible for the administration duties of this organization. The Contract Person attends all Board, Executive & Committee Meetings of the Chamber and is responsible for the coordination of the volunteers and implementation of the details of the many events & projects hosted by the Olds Chamber such as monthly luncheons, annual staff/employee appreciation luncheon, business awards week events, educational workshops & seminars, annual general meeting, political forums, trade shows, and numerous community events, etc.

In addition to coordinating the member's volunteer activities of the Chamber, the contract person also answers the phone, handles the mail, responds to inquiries and sends out information packages and recruits new members and acts as the Program Administrator for Highway 2 & 27 Commercial Signage.

How is the Chamber involved with economic development?

The Chamber believes that economic development can not be done in isolation and requires people in our community and other communities working together. We believe that any development that is done must improve the quality of life for everyone in our community.

How has the Chamber supported this belief?

The Chamber has:

- Organized and sponsored many meetings between stakeholders in ours, and other communities.
- Organized and sponsored many workshops for stake holders and become a member of CAEP. (Central Alberta Economic Partnership).
- Attended and participated in the Smart Communities meetings. These meetings are used to gather information for the allocation of grant money for economic and community development purposes.
- Is one of the four "Essential Members of Olds Institute for Community & Regional Development" and has Board Member Representation on the OI Board. Has numerous Board Members and Chamber Members on the OI Pillar Committees including: Business Attraction, Retention & Expansion Committee, Marketing & Communications Committee, Community Lifestyles, Technology Committee, Connected Communities Sub-Committee. The Olds Chamber has representation on the Regional Tourism Committee, Olds Fashioned Christmas Committee & CAEP - Central Alberta Economic Partnership.



What are the results of these efforts?

These efforts have improved communication and cooperation between the various stakeholders and promoted the sharing of information and ideas such as:

- The Chamber Website at www.oldsalberta.com is linked to other organizations in our community, the CAEP website, Alberta Chambers of Commerce, Olds College, Town of Olds, and the Olds Regional Exhibition. There is a hotlink to our Chamber Members which lists contact information and a link to their websites if applicable so people can have easy access to our members through our website.
- Leadership Development at Olds College and in Innisfail.
- The Mountain View Phone Directory. The Chamber published a phone directory for Olds. It was done in larger print and was very well received by the Community.
- The Leadership Development Program. A training program for adult and young adults which focuses on things such as public speaking, team development and listening & communication skills. The end result being volunteers trained to take leadership roles in the community.

What does the Chamber do for the community?

The Chamber

- Works with the R.C.M.P. on the Community Policing Committee.
- Sponsors and organizes the Annual Harvest Festival BBQs in support of numerous local organizations/groups.

- Sponsors and organizes the Annual Chamber Pancake Breakfast and BBQs in support of numerous local organizations/groups.



- Organizes Business Awards Recognition and Celebrations in October through:
 - Three "Business of the Year Award" and "Community Spirit Award" for business/organizations, "The People's Choice Award", the "Exceptional Customer Service Award", and the "Youth Employee of the Year Award" are presented at a banquet at which businesses and services have an opportunity to network and showcase their product and/or services.
 - Ensuring a theme is incorporated and promoted at the workshops, luncheons and breakfasts also organized and held during that week.

- Organizes the Staff/Employee Appreciation Luncheon in April; 240+ people attended for the Year 2013.
- Hosted a wide variety of Educational Workshops/Professional Speaker Series Sessions which provide ongoing leadership training, personal growth and employee recruitment, development & retention strategies for employers.
- Host "Business After Hours" Event for Member Business which provide the opportunity to showcase their services / products and to network and share information with community businesses.

- Worked with the Town to promote and support "Olds Fashioned Christmas". The Olds Chamber gathers and compiles information pertaining to the 80-90 events taking place in November and December each year and ensures the distribution of over 19,000 calendars with this information. The Olds Chamber also markets these events via newspaper and radio advertising. In addition, the Olds Chamber serves free hot dogs and hot chocolate in Centennial Park during the OFC 'Light Up' Event that happens the last Saturday of November.



- Attends provincial meetings and conferences of the Alberta Chambers to learn from the ideas and experiences of other communities.
- A Chamber Board Member has served on the Alberta Chambers Policy Committee and reports to members on current issues, through the newsletter, at monthly luncheons and other Chamber events, members are encouraged to bring forward issues.
- Has partnered with the Olds Agricultural Society for the Olds & District Marketplace Trade Show.
- Organizes political forums.
- Gives other volunteer community organizations the opportunity to raise funds at our venues.
- Acts as an umbrella organization for other community projects.

- Initiated the "Community Centre Research Committee" and took a leading role in this initiative.

What are the benefits of membership in the Olds Chamber?

Members have the opportunity to:

- Network with other businesses and organizations and meet new members; share information and ideas at the many events held each year
- Take advantage of the many educational workshops and seminars relevant to today's business environment at member preferred rates.
- Be part of the Alberta Chambers Group Insurance with flexible plan design.
- Receive Chamber Member Financial Benefits: Reduced VISA, MasterCard, Esso, Petro Canada, Purolator & Hotel Accommodation reduced rates.
- Learn about upcoming events so they can use the information to market, promote and prepare their business or service
- Showcase their products and/or services by hosting a networking/social event "Business After Hours"
- Listen to interesting and innovative speakers
- Participate in recognizing volunteers and services or businesses that have served our community
- Receiving information from the Olds Chamber Office, which may be of interest and support to them.
- Be a part of the #1 Largest Local Business Organization at very economical rates with unparalleled networking & member benefits.

To make the Chamber successful takes the commitment and dedication of many hard working volunteers . As our track record shows there are many people in our community who are willing to take on that kind of responsibility.

WE THANK THEM.

"We can do it Better Together"