

## May Greetings from the Chamber

To begin, we would like to take the time to introduce our new Members of the Olds & District Board of Directors for the 2017 fiscal year. Joining the Chamber board this year is Vicky Barzey of Expedia Cruiseshipcenters, David Burchat of Bank of Montreal, and Doug Parcells of Pomeroy Inn & Suites @ Olds College. Returning members include Judy Schlichenmayer of Torrock Sales and Services, Ben Stone of BMO Nesbitt Burns, and Bill Hall of Westview Co-op. Our new executive consists of Bill Hall as Past President, Vicky Barzey as Vice-President, Ben Stone as President, Doug Collie as Secretary, and Judy Schlichenmayer as our Treasurer.

2017 continues to be a busy year! We recently held our Chamber Staff/Employee Appreciation Luncheon which turned out to be a huge success due to the countless hours put in by a number of volunteers including Tracy Gardner; Olds Regional Exhibition, Mary Turner & Kim McLennan; Wildrose Medical Centre, Heather De-Boer; Centre Street Insurance, and our Executive Director, Robbin Corsiatto.

As mentioned at the luncheon, despite the fact that employers value the work that their employees put in on a day to day basis, we often find ourselves too busy to sit down and truly pay employees the recognition that they deserve. With the Chamber's Annual Employee Appreciation Luncheon, we as a business community are given an excuse to do just that – to take the time to show appreciation to arguably the most important part of our business community, the employees. So once again, thank you to everyone that comes to work with a positive attitude and a desire to help Olds business reach its extraordinary potential!

We are pleased to announce that the 'Power Up! Alberta Entrepreneurs Conference' was a great success, largely in part to both the attendees and volunteers that made this conference happen! It was a jam-packed day filled with a wealth of knowledge on all areas of business from social media to simple business advice such as allocating more time for family and vacation. We at the Chamber are looking forward to having another opportunity to partner on this amazing event again next year –so stay tuned!

As a reminder, the Chamber has a few dates open yet this year for sponsoring one of our monthly luncheon or breakfast events. These provide an excellent way to market your business without the hassle of having to organize the event yourself! The Chamber takes care of venue, food, seating, and advertising – all you have to do is show up with a good attitude and a bit of chutzpah! And speaking of which – we have rescheduled April's Lunch n' Learn as many of you couldn't make the date. Be sure to let us know you want to attend to hear Nathan Kusiek of O-NET introduce new 'fibre business solutions' at the Ramada, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Another reminder also regarding to let us know if you would like to host a Business After Hours event, where you get to showcase your place of business, network with peers, eat/drink and have an overall great experience. Contact the office for more details.

More exciting news, we are pleased to be in our new home early this month! You can now stop by to say 'hello' at #1, 5102 – 51<sup>st</sup> Street (across from Post Office). As the Chamber gets accustomed to having a store-front location alongside partnering agencies; Olds Institute, Uptowne Olds, and the Olds Regional Exhibition, work has already begun looking at ways to best leverage the various skill sets each entity brings to the table to provide even greater benefits to our members. We look forward to opportunities this new venture will provide and will be reporting back to you, our respective members on the improvements that we are currently working on to serve you better.

Finally, we would like to remind you, our valued members that we are always in search of ways to do things better. If you have any ideas or suggestions for your Chamber, please don't hesitate to contact the Chamber President; Ben Stone @ 403-556-7937, via the website to find another Chamber Board Member. We are always looking to improve upon the services that we offer, and what better way to do that than through personal input!