

Tricia Arsenault - Guns N Hoses Roofing, Exteriors & Insulation

Thank you for considering my application to be on the Commerce Board of Directors! I grew up on a farm in small town Manitoba. After graduating from High School, I moved to the big city of Winnipeg. I attended the University of Manitoba, and also studied abroad to receive my Bachelor of Commerce Degree, majoring in International Business and Marketing. After I graduated from University, I moved to Australia for a year on a working holiday visa, then moved to Alberta in 2002.

When I first moved to Alberta, I worked as a travel agent for many years, as I had the travel bug. I've traveled to many countries. After that, I was a Financial Advisor at TD Canada Trust for several years. While working there, in 2006, my husband and I started our roofing company, Guns N Hoses Roofing, Exteriors & Insulation. After 2 years of doing both jobs, I decided to focus on growing our business, and I starting working full time for our company.

We lived in Calgary for the first 11 years of our business, and recently moved to Okotoks just over a year ago. We absolutely love living in this community and meeting so many like-minded business owners. We feel right at home here. We enjoy giving back to the community and getting involved, and we decided sitting of the Commerce Board would be a great way to help out where we can.

I currently sit on the Board of Directors for Alberta Allied Roofing Association, and have for the past 4 years, therefore, I understand what it takes to be a committed board member and what it involves. I have been a Commerce member for almost a year now, and I helped out on the Golf Tournament committee last year. I look forward to another exciting year, and I hope you consider me to be a new face on the Commerce Board of Directors this year.

Chelsea Besuijen - The Eagle 100.9

I grew up in the community with parents that were entrepreneurs for many years in Downtown Okotoks. I have also successfully owned my own small business for many years in the town of Okotoks. Currently I am the Station Manager for The Eagle 100.9 which has been a fantastic past 2 years of experience working with other local businesses to help them see success in the local market. I have a degree in Marketing with a large background in Automotive Marketing.

I would like to be involved in the Chamber so that I can be a part of the local business communities success story. I am passionate about business and our community so a role with the Chamber to help support local business is a great fit for me.

Warren Carriere - Alberta Construction Rentals

I have been an Okotoks Chamber member for 4 years and a board member for 2.5. I was the Marketing Committee chair and am currently involved with the Policy Committee. I have significant board experience as I am currently the President and Membership Committee Chair of the Canadian Rental Association Alberta Chapter. I am also on the Cochrane Developer Committee for the BILD Calgary Region. I have been an Okotoks resident for 17 years and have truly made it my home with my wife and 2 daughters.

Harlene Day - Mosby Insurance Agencies Ltd.

I have owned and operated Mosby Insurance Agencies Ltd. in the Foothills area for decades. I have been currently serving on the Chamber Board as a director for the past 3 years and have chaired the Christmas Party Committee for the past two years and I am a member of the Business Excellence Committee. My company has sponsored many Chamber events in the past year, on behalf of my company and associates at WealthCo.

I bring many years of Board experience to the Chamber. I am excited to see the Chamber moving in the right direction and think that the past year has been a very positive time for us all. We need to continue our path to excellence.

I want to see us continue to grow, prosper, and assist fellow business owners on our community to find success. I want to see us expand our Advocacy on behalf of our members and I to assist our Board to excel and develop leadership.

Andrea Glowatsky - Eiffel Group of Companies

Andrea Glowatsky is the owner of Koch Safety Services, a company that provides health and safety training and consulting for businesses in the construction industry. This single Mom to daughter Emma, is also the Director of Sales and Marketing for the Eiffel Group of Companies, a construction/restoration business based out of Okotoks.

Andrea joined the Okotoks Chamber Board of Directors 5 years ago and was instrumental in reestablishing the Chamber Golf Tournament and been has been the Chair of the that Committee for the past 3 years.

In her spare time, she is the President of the Okotoks Synchro Sea Queens and a coach for the Okotoks United Soccer Club and is an avid downhill skier. No matter which hat she's wearing, her goal is simple -- to empower organizations and thought leaders to differentiate themselves and to inspire and develop others.

Dawn LeMaistre - Okotoks Oilers Jr. A Hockey

I have had the pleasure of being involved as a Chamber Director for the past two and a half years, and have held the position of Chair for the annual Business Excellence Awards for the past two years. I am hoping to continue my role as a Director so I can keep working with this group of business minded individuals and their companies for the better good of our Town.

The Chamber creates an opportunity for many different businesses to come together to create a single voice that promotes the community and the businesses operating within its boundaries and others in the surrounding areas. I would be honored to represent the non-profit/athletic team category of business as part of this voice.

With an extensive background in small and large event planning and currently working for a business with a similar business structure as the Chamber, I bring a large toolbox of skills to the Board Room Table. Having had past experience as a Town Employee and combining this experience with many years of work on various other boards and committees, I do feel I bring a strong understanding of processes and the ability to work for the businesses of Okotoks so we can help make change should it be warranted.

Currently I hold my Director position with the Okotoks and District Chamber of Commerce, I am also the School Council Chair for St. Francis of Assisi Academy, and I am a Director for Partners of the Young Canadians of the Calgary Stampede. I have been involved at many different boards and held various executive positions over the years, and I was also a part of the Emergency Response Team for the Town of Okotoks during the flood of 2011. Being an active face in our community and having sat on the Chamber Committees for the Trade Show, Business Excellence Awards, and Chamber Christmas Event during my time as a Director, I look forward to continuing my role with the Chamber and making these and other Chamber events bigger and better with each passing year and being a voice for local businesses in our community.

Twila Louden - My World My Body - NuSkin Distributor

Twila Louden is a Calgary native who settled into Okotoks in 2004 when she purchased the Bullpen Pub, which she owned and operated until 2015. She and her husband have raised three kids in Okotoks, two have graduated from the Foothills Composite High School; their third is currently in junior high. The pair have been passionately involved in local sports, and this continues through their support and sponsorship of Okotoks teams and players.

Twila has changed directions since 2015 and has spent the last three years running an online business as an independent distributor for NuSkin/Pharmanex-building local business, as well as teams in places like New Zealand, Spain and Mexico. The transition has been powerful, both encouraging personal growth and allowing Twila to see business from a new prospective.

The combination of Twila's business experience, community involvement and ability to adapt and build relationships make her a strong asset on the Okotoks Chamber Board. Twila is excited to be more involved in the community and to be able to work with other business owners to help the town of Okotoks and its entrepreneurs to thrive.

Brad Mauro - Digipower Design and Print

Brad Mauro is a new local business owner as he purchased Digipower Design and Print in April 2018. Digipower is a longstanding member of the Chamber and Brad has already contributed to a number of Chamber events as a sponsor and/or participant. Since moving to Okotoks in 2015 Brad has become a proud Okotokian and his desire to join the chamber is directly linked to being more involved in the local business community.

Brad was born and raised in Calgary attending both SAIT and the U of C, although there was a 20 year gap between being a student at these two institutes. Brad spent most of his career in engineering consulting doing land development work for Stantec. He then switched careers over to academia and worked at SAIT for six years. During this time he earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the U of C.

Brad has four boys, two of which are men who live in Calgary, and the other two live with Brad and his wife Candice in Okotoks as a blended family. When not working Brad and all the family like to go camping, in fact there is a holiday trailer restoration project happening that will no doubt add to their camping experience. When not working or renovating, Brad likes to golf and do crossword puzzles.

Robin Mitchell - RAM Accounting & Consulting

I am the sole practitioner of RAM Accounting & Consulting in Okotoks. I am a 12 year designated Chartered Accountant with 20 years of experience in small businesses, large public companies, oil & gas and First Nations. In addition to my CPA, CA designation I also hold a CAFM (Certified Aboriginal Financial Manager) designation through AFOA (Aboriginal Financial Officers Association) Canada. I've been operating as a sole practitioner for 8 years and my focus is mainly on owner-managed businesses. I've been in Okotoks for 4 years and a member of the Chamber for 2.

I was a Director on the Board for the 2018 year and was on the Finance Committee, the Policy Committee and the Golf Tourney Committee. This was one of the first years that the Chamber had a finance committee in a long time and the Policy Committee put together the Red Carpet not Red Tape survey that resulted in us being able to present 17 recommendations to Council on how to both entice new businesses to Okotoks as well as make the system and processes more user-friendly for existing businesses to expand their operations.

I was thrilled to be part of the Board during a year of so many successes. If re-elected I would like to set up an initiative to have discussions with home-based business owners to determine why they work from home & whether they wish to continue to do, and why, or if they wish to expand to a store-front and why they haven't yet. The intention would be to gain a better understanding of the operations of our home-based businesses and how we can assist with policies to help them achieve their goals of either staying at home or expanding outside of their homes.

Cheryl Olson - Okotoks Dawgs Baseball Club

Hello! My name is Cheryl and I am the Operations Manager for the Okotoks Dawgs. I currently sit on the Board of Directors for the Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce and have thoroughly enjoyed my first year on the board!

After spending nearly 15 years in Human Resources at a major bank, I followed my passion for baseball and working with the public and joined the Dawgs in December of 2016. Having lived in Okotoks for over 25 years, I have been part of the Foothills Minor Ball Association's Executive Board and I have experience as a fundraising coordinator for a local dance school and have volunteered for the Okotoks Hospice and the Calgary Humane Society.

I am also very familiar with the world of small business having owned and operated a local coffee shop in 2008-2011 in Okotoks where I was able to bring my love of coffee together with my passion for customer service. I can be found most days at the ball park getting ready for the summer collegiate season, working on ways to improve the fan experience or just enjoying the game itself. On days when I'm not at the ballpark, I enjoy watching my son play competitive baseball or watching my daughter compete in Irish Dance. I would love to serve another term on the Chamber's Board of Directors and continue to advocate for Small Business in Okotoks and surrounding areas!

Chad Osowski - Nerds on Site

I'm Chad Osowski, I'm 46 years old, have lived in Okotoks for the past 17 years. I was born and raised in Calgary. I have been in the IT industry for over 30 years. I worked with IBM in North Carolina for 9 years and now a Nerds On Site Independent contractor in the Okotoks and Calgary area.

We are a on site mobile IT company that services any technology, from basic residential computer repair to large scale enterprise companies networks and servers. Nerds On Site is founded and head office in London Ontario, with Nerds in 7 different countries. We are a global team and have over 97% client satisfaction. We have several commercial clients in Okotoks and High River and always looking to expand.

I would like to be a part of the Board of Directors for the Chamber, as I feel I can bring new ideas and expand on existing issues and projects, as well at the same time, expanding my companies local exposure, and building client and small business relations within the community.

Clint Pigeon - 2 Birds Furniture Inc.

To become more involved and help businesses develop in Okotoks at a more efficient rate in order to become stable pillars of the community and develop on a larger scale. Teach people how to invest in themselves and the community while growing a successful stable business. To be honest when your in start up mode of a business all your energy goes into creating a stable business for the long term and once you get established you start to look for ways to give your time back to the people who have helped you get to this point. That is why this year we are closing the shop on December 14th to take all our staff to the food bank and work the charity check stop. Charity Checkstop - Okotoks Foodbank 2017. Staff/ Team Management and Delegating Tasks: benefit would be the ability to organize a group of people to make sure everyone has a job and is the right fit for the job so that they can succeed in the role. Event Coordination: Growing up on the BAR U Ranch every weekend all summer was an event and from 2005-2007 I was apart of the team who promoted, set up and took care of vendors and participants. Business Degree from the University of Lethbridge and Business Owner: know how to read financial statements, create a team who can prepare and handle finances and maintain investor relationships.

Sandi Scott - Scott Mortgages

Sandi Scott has lived and raised her family in our Wonderful Community for almost 16 years, and her daughter Samantha attends High School here.

Sandi is a Mortgage Broker and owns and operates Scott Mortgages. She has been involved with the Business Community and the Chamber of Commerce over those years. Sandi has sat on the Executive for the Diamond Valley Chamber in the past and is familiar with the roles and expectations involved.

She has fulfilled many volunteer positions within our Community; including being a member of 100 Women Who Care Foothills, Jail & Bail for the Okotoks Food Bank and recently has joined the Okotoks Kiwanis Club. Sandi brings with her a natural exuberance for, and genuine interest in, connecting people and promoting success and growth in our Fabulous Town!

Leanne Sigurdson - One Collective

It would be an honour to be selected to serve on the Okotoks and District Chamber Board of Directors. For the past seven years, I have owned and operated a local small home based business. We decided to move back to Okotoks a number of years ago to raise our family and it was incredibly important to us to move to a community that supported entrepreneurship as well as healthy work life balance.

During my multifarious health care administrative roles, ongoing entrepreneurial ventures, and personal growth development I have acquired and honed in on many attributes that I believe will positively serve me in the position of a Board Member for the Okotoks Chamber. Attributes such as time management, strong communication skills, exemplary organizational and prioritization abilities, team building and spirit. While acknowledging the importance of client service, maintaining and representing strong core values, specifically impartiality and neutrality while helping the business in the community.

Becoming a volunteer on the Chamber has always been of great interest to me, I am open and eager to learn the essential skills required. I would like the opportunity to become actively involved and contribute to help provide assistance for businesses to collaborate, work together and build relationships. Constructively and harmoniously promoting the community for economic growth.

I would be grateful for this opportunity to serve our community as well as surrounding areas.

Adam Stepa - Infinite Chartered Accountants

I moved to Okotoks with my parents and younger sister, Sara, in 1999. I attended Okotoks Junior High School and later graduated from Foothills Composite High School in 2003. I then moved to Calgary to attend the University of Calgary. In 2008, I graduated from U of C and obtained my Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting along with a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science, both with distinction.

Throughout my university days I worked at various small oil and gas companies downtown Calgary. After graduating from university I articulated with Collins Barrow Calgary where I obtained my Chartered Accountant designation in 2011. Later in 2011, I returned to Okotoks to work for Thompson Darrach Chartered Accountants, which is now Infinite Chartered Accountants, and on January 1, 2015 I was admitted as a partner.

In the fall of 2013 I moved back to Okotoks with my now wife, Megan, and in September 2017 we welcomed our daughter, Azlin, to the world. We also have two dogs at home, a Chiweenie named Luna and a Great Dane named Lincoln.

Since being back in Okotoks I have taken on a few different positions in the community. Since 2012, I have served on the board and been the treasurer for the Foothills Centennial Centre. Since 2014, I have served on the board and been the treasurer for the Foothills Country Hospice. I plan to continue in my role at the Hospice as it has been a very rewarding and challenging experience to date. I have been a part of many changes and projects at the Hospice that have helped me to develop my skills set in being an effective board member.

I joined the Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce board back in January 2018 and am the current treasurer. We had a really good year in 2018 and turned our financial position around throughout the year. I would like to continue in my role and help the chamber achieve even further financial success moving forward in 2019.

Kathy Thirsk - Remax Flrst

Born and raised in Ontario ...was a realtor for a number of years there along with being a member of many community and church committees. I moved for love and the rest is history! I love what I do here and have enjoyed serving on the Okotoks & District Chamber of Commerce first as a director and then the past 2 years as secretary. We have made many great changes and more to come with our goal to better serve the community....to be a voice for the community and help each other have the right tools to do more business. I'm excited for another year upon us with new and exciting ideas ...I have a very outgoing and positive focus and I do believe that the best is yet in front of us.