

2019 Annual Report

The Canadian, Alberta and Local Chambers of Commerce were established to provide a common vehicle through which businesses and professionals can work together for the common good of the community. Our Chamber has been working with local and regional businesses plus the Town of Devon to establish strong lines of communication so that everyone can benefit from a strong economic community.

It is our Chamber's desire to do whatever is appropriate to keep our local area's economic condition at a level where business will risk their resources in their locality, in the hopes of developing a strong community for everyone.

In any community it is from the operations of business that all benefits are derived. Only in succeeding in this fundamental goal can jobs be provided which in turn develop economic confidence for all.

Chamber Membership:

- In 2019 the Chamber increased its paid memberships from 81 to 82 members.
- During 2019, we had some businesses closing, some relocated to Leduc and others due to economic restraints, were unable to participate in Chamber activities.
- The marginal increase in memberships is due in part to new business start ups; active recruitment of former members; new exhibitors participating in the 2019 Devon Business Expo and having some of the businesses sign up for the Chamber's Group Health Insurance Plan, of which you have to be a Chamber member to participate.

Chambers Group Health Benefit Plan:

- In 2019, 21 businesses in Devon participated in the Canadian Chambers of Commerce Group Health Benefits and Insurance Plan.
- This generated approximately \$5,200 in revenue for the Chamber.

2019 ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CHAMBER MEMBERS

January 2019

- The Chamber and Mr. Printer, combined to produce The Devon Business & Services Directory, for the 29th Year of Publication.
- The Directory was distributed to the businesses and residences of Devon.

January 8

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speaker:
 - Mr. Mike Thomas, Principal Journeyman
 - SOLAR NINJAS Energy Solutions
 - Mike spoke on the basics of solar technology, its features and benefits, the new types of systems available and how they interact with buildings. He also provided some information about payback, business and tax incentives.

February 12

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speaker:
 - Mr. Carter Robertson, Business Account Manager
 - RBC ROYAL BANK
 - Carter provided a presentation on Business Succession Planning and spoke about Investment Retirement Planning and Business Tax Planning.

March 12

Mayor Ray Ralph's 'State of the Town Address:

- 95 people from local businesses, neighbouring civic leaders and invited guests attended the luncheon.
- Mayor Ralph provided an update on the Town of Devon's accomplishments and growth in 2018 plus future and ongoing projects in 2019.

April 9

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speaker:
 - Mr. Allan Macaulay – Chairperson
 - Devon Communities in Bloom Committee
 - Alan updated everyone on the work of the Communities in Bloom over the last year.
 - He also explained that the Committee is developing a promotional brochure about Devon, which will be circulated throughout the province.
- 2019 Business Excellence Awards:
 - 18 of the 26 nominees for the 2019 Business Excellence Awards who were invited attended the Luncheon and were recognized.
- Annual General Meeting:
 - The Chamber's 2018 ANNUAL REPORT and 2019 Financial Statement were presented to members.
 - Tyler Cranshaw was appointed to the Board of Directors
 - Brigitte Nowicki, Susan Hardy, Eva Bencsik, and Deb Cox were re-elected for new two-year terms.

April 25

2019 Business Excellence Awards – Banquet and Award Presentation:

- 92 people (Nominees, friends and business people) attended the Banquet and Awards Event to recognize the winners of the 2018 awards for excellence.
- Awards were presented to the winners in the following four categories:
 - Business of the Year (+10 employees) – Devon IGA
 - Small Business of the Year (-10 employees) – Devon Neighbourhood Dental
 - Employee of the Year – Janice Morris, Devon Preschool Experience Program
 - Young Entrepreneur of the Year – Nicole & Chris Felgate, Small Town Buds

May 8

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speakers:
 - Mr. Colin King, Manager Group Financial Services
 - Mr. Kelvin Ma, Group Benefit Advisor
 - SERVUS Credit Union
 - Colin and Kevin addressed the following:
 - Why offer Employee Benefits?
 - Group Retirement & Savings Programs
 - Group Benefit Programs
 - Program Implementation & Support

June 13

8th ANNUAL CHAMBER GOLF TOURNAMENT:

- 48 Golfers from the Devon Business Community and their guests registered and participated in this annual event.
- The weather was great and everyone who attended enjoyed the opportunity for fun, interacting /networking with each other.

July 9

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Tour of the AGA KHAN GARDEN in the Alberta Botanic Garden Site
- 13 members and guests toured the recently opened AGA KAHN GARDENS
- Following the tour there was a luncheon for all

September 10

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speaker:
 - Sgt. Jolene Nason, Detachment Commander
 - Devon Municipal Detachment, RCMP
 - Sgt. Nolan provided information on a new crime mapping for the Town of Devon, which is updated daily and available on www.devon.ca/crime-map. Only reported crimes are reflected on the map.

September 10 continued

- Updated the level staffing that is planned for the Devon Detachment
- A new Voluntary Surveillance Camera Registry is being set up to assist RCMP in fighting crime and potentially catching the offenders.
- Open House on Oct 2 at the Detachment for the public and members to meet staff

October 10

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speakers:
 - Ms. Pat Nicol, Economic Development Officer
 - Mr. Andy Tchir, Environmental & Sustainability Coordinator
 - Pat and Andy spoke that the Town of Devon Town Council, has given direction to reduce the use of single-use plastic items and restrict the distribution of the single-use shopping bags in Devon.
 - The Town will appoint a Single-Use Waste Reduction Task Force to provide community and business input on the issue.
 - The proposed By-Law was presented and reviewed with the members.
- Devon Business Environmental Sustainability Awards for 2019
 - Three Nominations were received by the Town for this year's award. These nominees were invited to be our guests at the Chamber Luncheon. The luncheon enabled members to recognize and honour the nominee's environmental best practices projects.
 - Keep it Clean & Green – Felicia Fleck and Mainstreet Mud – Sally Fairhead & Sylvia Kizor attended.
 - The winners will be announced on October 26 at 1 PM at the Devon Business Expo.

October 25 & 26

9th Annual Devon Business Expo:

- This year's theme for the Expo was 'The Prize is Right Giveaway', which was supported by over 50 local businesses, who donated both cash or prizes for the Shopping Spree.
- We had 45 Exhibitors from a wide range of local and regional businesses participated in this annual two-day event.
- 26 exhibitors from 2018 returned.
- There were 19 new exhibitors who participated.
- 9 of the Exhibitors were new small home businesses who used the Expo to feature their products in public.
- 9 members of the Arts Association of Devon displayed their artwork in the Dan Claypool Room.
- 18 Chamber volunteers participated in this years Expo.
- We had approximately 700 people go through the doors.

The Town announced the winners of the 2019 Devon Business Environmental Sustainability Award:

- 1st place was awarded to Keep it Clean & Green
- 2nd place was awarded to Mainstreet Mud.

November 5

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest Speaker:
 - Mr. Sean Stepchuk, co-founder of Waste Free Edmonton Society
 - Sean spoke about the history, development, educational and advocacy work of the Waste Free Society in the Edmonton region about the need to reduce the use of plastics by individuals and businesses.
 - He also spoke about the awareness programs and materials produced to assist individuals, business owners and business leaders to introduce alternate materials to replace plastic as containers, in packaging food and products and single-use bags.

December 4

CHAMBER SPONSORS BREAKFAST MEETING:

- Devon Business Owners, Building Owners and Chamber Members were invited to attend the meeting to share their concerns about 'Downtown Devon'.
 - The meeting was facilitated by John Fairhead, the Chamber's Past President.
 - 23 people attended and raised their concerns, presented ideas and options for consideration in a realistic manner to improve the Downtown Devon experience.
 - The shared ideas and possible solutions were intended to provide options that can/may be achievable and affordable, plus have a reasonable chance of success.
 - The information that was presented, was gathered, and compiled into a report and circulated to attendees.
 - The Chamber members were also provided with the report.
 - A further meeting is scheduled for early in the new year.

December 6

Regular Monthly Chamber Luncheon Meeting:

- Guest speaker:
 - Bob Patterson, Director of Integrated Sales
 - POSTMEDIA
 - Bob spoke about changes in small town newspapers, the economic challenges facing print media news, Dispatch Home Delivery in Devon and the issue of business advertising flyers reaching residents.

December 6 continued

- Numerous questions raised about guaranteed home delivery and having a few outdoor newspaper bins for non town residents and residents in rental buildings that do not provide access to home delivery couriers.
- Bob confirmed POSTMEDIA's commitment for home delivery and how residents can pursue delivery by phone with POSTMEDIA.