Find your way to the beautiful Chilcotin on Highway 20 west of Williams Lake
The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce is "The Voice of Business": Businesses working together towards economic and social well being to make our community a better place to live. We promote the well being of business and foster a work, shop and play at home atmosphere.

President's Message

The Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce is proud to be the ‘Voice of Business’.

It is my great honor to serve as the chair for the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce. The past six months have been busy for the chamber, meeting with many levels of government, community groups and businesses to help Williams Lake be a vibrant and business friendly community.

Economic Development was big on the agenda for last year’s municipal election and we have been involved in a number of initiatives over the winter involving the Reputation Recovery Meetings and the TRU economic forums. We are excited to have an Economic Development Corporation in Williams Lake and are looking forward to propose initiatives to them on behalf of the business community.

The Business Excellence awards were a fantastic showcase of what Williams Lake has to offer, recognizing businesses of all sizes and across all sectors.

We attended the BC Chamber AGM from May 24 to 26 in Prince George with four delegates. Our chamber was approached by a small group of people from the Hagensborg Improvement District in March who have been starved for money by government policy for 20 years. Instead of having direct access to government funding to upgrade their aging water systems infrastructure they were left to foot the bill on their own. Our policy committee submitted a policy which proposes that improvement districts would be granted equal access to government funding. We are thrilled to report that the policy was accepted by the BC Chamber caucus and will now be part of the BC Chamber mandate before the provincial government.

In addition to the Hagensborg Improvement District, there are 215 others in our province who will directly benefit from this policy.

We are also supporting a policy put forward by the Prince George Chamber in relation to highway improvements to better accommodate resource industry traffic in the North.

con't on page 3...
As the tourism season is upon us we really need assistance from our members; we need to know if you have any events happening and in particular the tourism operators. Please call our office, drop in or email information on events, special activities and/or things that would interest people to stay an extra hour or day in our area. The visitor information counsellors answer questions daily on our community and area, and the number one question is what should I see and do while I am in the area. So your information is vital to helping keep people here. To provide details call 250-392-5025, or go into the Williams Lake Visitor Centre Facebook at www.tourismwilliamslake.com or email visitors@telus.net.

Angela Sommer, our President is looking for interested candidates to work on various committees so if you would like to give up your time a few hours here and there, let us know. Working with the Chamber of Commerce is rewarding in many many ways.

Congratulations to City Council on resurrecting the Economic Development function; we look forward to seeing great things happening for our community.

The BC Chamber and the Canadian Chamber work with local Chambers like us to foster a strong, competitive economic environment that benefits businesses of all sizes in all sectors across Canada.

To meet this goal, they engage the government directly on issues that are critical to the Canadian economy. They rely on the work of local Chambers like us through our Policy committee. We are happy to say that through our members and our Policy Committee we were successful in having our policy accepted at the BC Chamber AGM recently. One of the policies we worked with the Prince George Chamber on was the Highway 97 corridor; it got great support from many of the northern communities as well and was adopted by the assembly.

Collectively we represent business on issues that are timely and important; whether it is infrastructure funding, competition law or debt reduction we all work with government officials to ensure government policy grows the Canadian economy. Get involved in this process; we always need your input and are unable to assist if we don’t know what the issues are.

Looking forward to some great things in Williams Lake in the next few months, Williams Lake Stampede, Bike Symposium, Harvest Fair, and many other volunteer lead initiatives. Show your pride and get involved, participate and enjoy what our wonderful community and region has to offer.

These successes remind me again how important the chamber is for all its members big and small and how far reaching the influence is of a few people from a small town.

I am looking forward to a busy summer, working with the Chamber’s board and staff and to continue to be the ‘Voice of Business’ in our community.

I am proud to be a member of a strong and active Chamber that makes a difference.

Angela Sommer
President, Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

Businesses working together to make our community even better
Jaylyn’s Corner

by Jaylyn Byer

Welcome to Summer!

Williams Lake in the summer is an exciting, vibrant place to be and this summer promises to be no different. From breathtaking mountain scenery and cool, deep blue lakes for fishing, the Cariboo Chilcotin Coast offers so much to our many visitors and our local people alike.

In the City, the Williams Lake Stampede will kick off the summer season with a lot of entertainment down at the Stampede Grounds and the entire community can celebrate as usual with a street party and parade.

If you would like to see more rodeo action and cheer on more cowboys, come in to the Visitor Centre and pick up your BCRA events brochure see when and where the rodeos are happening. The rodeos are always popular with our visitors and you will hear many foreign accents mixed in with the local talk in the spectator stands.

Here at the Visitor Centre we offer a variety of colourful, local wares to both the travelling public and local people. Come in and do your shopping here; pick up some Williams Lake-branded merchandise for your friends and family, and support the local economy.

On behalf of everyone working at the Visitor Centre this summer: enjoy the warm weather and have a Happy Summer!
Mayor’s Message  by Mayor Walt Cobb

I am amazed at how quickly we have arrived at the summer and tourism season already! It is my pleasure to welcome visitors to our vibrant city and I encourage visitors and residents alike to take part in the many wonderful summer activities Williams Lake offers as a “four-season playground”. Be sure to visit our local businesses that provide us with a wide array of services, and are such a big part of our local economy. I want to recognize our local businesses and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to making our community a great place to call home.

To all the Chamber members, thank you for all you do. I sincerely hope this summer is the time that helps turn our economy around and we can look ahead to bigger and better things.

Don’t forget we have our Stampede coming up on June 26-29. There is lots of fun and excitement to be had, whether it is at the Rodeo or the many other events that take place that weekend. Dust off your cowboy boots – it’s going to be another great Stampede!
Wilderness retreat is given a whole new meaning for guests visiting The Dean on Nimpo; no longer strictly a fishing lodge and resort, this pristine property is, to quote owner Donn Irwin, “changing with the times” to accommodate for a newer audience of vacationers looking to get away from it all. In business for 37 years on the shores of Nimpo Lake, The Dean has been host to many traditional outdoor activities including boating, hiking, fly in fishing trips and flight seeing tours of the Chilcotin. While these activities are still available, the focus has become transitioning into the ultimate retreat destination for a new generation of travellers. This new generation is less interested in the things their grandparents looked for in a vacation” says Donn. “Now, we focus on providing more self-serve style vacations, like yoga retreats, family reunions, and small weddings.” This transition has involved redoing the landscaping around The Dean, to enhance the natural beauty of their settings, as well as marketing their new image at Chamber events and throughout the surrounding communities. We wish Donn and Lee at The Dean on Nimpo the best of luck in their new venture!

For more info visit www.thedeanonnimpo.com or call toll free at 1-888-646-7655 or find us on Facebook at Retreat Wilderness
With a name like Community Futures, it is no surprise to find Karen Eden and her staff hard at work every week serving and growing small businesses in the Cariboo Chilcotin. Community Futures Cariboo Chilcotin has been active in the community for 30 years as of this October, and have impressive statistics to match their years of dedicated service.

Over their three decades of existence, CFDC has been able to provide loans amounting to $32 million for small and medium businesses in its service area (from McLeese Lake to 70 Mile House to Bella Coola) which helped benefit over 1100 separate businesses and aided in the creation of 2650 jobs. The services delivered by CFDC range from providing start up loans to offering mentoring and training opportunities for business owners. Training focuses on all aspects of owning and operating a successful business, including the need to plan ahead for buying and selling businesses. Overall, the focus of CFDC is on providing entrepreneurs with the tools they need for the unique challenges faced by rural settings.

Added to the support Community Futures provides the business community is the support they show towards local 4-H clubs. Thanks to their interest free loan program, over $200,000 has been lent to youth who would otherwise be unable to purchase their 4-H projects to sell at the annual district Show and Sale in August. These loans not only enable members to pay for their projects worry free, but also teach them the loan process they will go through in the future, when they could become the next generation of small business owners.

When asked how being a member of the Chamber had impacted CFDC over the years, Karen spoke of the networking and collaboration opportunities offered at the monthly chamber meetings. Continuing their support of community based initiatives; Community Futures sponsors the annual Business of the Year Award each year. Community focused and continuously supportive, CFDC is a large part of what has made small businesses the backbone of the Cariboo.
Williams Lake in the Cariboo is classified as the gateway to the Chilcotin Coast, and for good reason. Once you leave the city lights, the stresses and worries of urban life fade away, replaced by natural splendour only found in the rolling hills, winding river valleys and awe-inspiring vastness of the Cariboo Chilcotin plateau. This vast scenery is far from empty however; as the land has been populated over the centuries by local First Nations, pioneer ranching families, innovative entrepreneurs, and modern day adventure seekers. To travel Highway 20 from beginning to end means a journey by car of 456km, not counting any excursions onto the many back roads. This trip will take you through a variety of communities with their own unique identities and attractions, which you are highly encouraged to explore. Beginning in Williams Lake, and ending in Bella Coola, the landscape appears to transform before your very eyes. Steep hills alternate with lush plateaus throughout the trip, making for many photo opportunities, occasionally interspersed with various species of wildlife. Once you turn onto Highway 20, you too become a part of this grand place, steeped in natural beauty and history.

Because Highway 20 is the home to many communities, each with its own unique attractions, this article will focus on the communities between Williams Lake and Nimpo Lake. In the fall edition of the newsletter, the trip will continue from Anahim Lake down “The Hill” into the Bella Coola Valley. Another incredible journey!

Almost immediately after leaving Williams Lake, the landscape changes, opening up more and more from suburban dwellings to acreages to sprawling ranch and crown land holdings. The road winds through many historical points of interest, beginning only a few minutes outside of Williams Lake when crossing the Fraser River becomes a necessity, made possible by the landmark Sheep Creek Bridge. If it’s the right time of the year, the bridge becomes its own attraction as it is a popular location for traditional First Nations dip net fishing. Crossing the bridge is often viewed as the beginning of the Highway 20 adventure, as after this point you can choose to branch off the main road onto some of the back routes, many of which offer fantastic landscapes and historical sites. There is also an opportunity to jetboat along the river. One such site is the remains of the ranch made famous in the book “Three against the Wilderness”, found by branching off onto the Meldrum Creek Road. This part of Hwy 20 also houses the first of many guest lodges and resorts, the Chilcotin Lodge B&B. A very authentic stop or stay only 30 minutes from Williams Lake.

Minutes from the Chilcotin Lodge off Hwy 20 will lead to the natural phenomenon known as Farwell Canyon, 24km south of the community of Riske Creek. Farwell Canyon is one of the few places in Canada to see sand dunes, which are interlaced with the rapids of the Chilcotin River. Hiking the dunes is a pleasant day trip, but if you’re feeling more adventurous, Teepee Heart Ranch and other lodges are available farther along in the area to conduct wilderness riding adventures.

Once you leave the community of Riske Creek, the next stop has to be the community of Hanceville, known to the locals as Lee’s Corner. This community is also the gateway to Nemiah Valley, where you will find Chaunigan Lake Lodge and Chilko Lake Provincial Park, operated by Xeni Gwet’in National Government. The graveled road offers limited services but contains spectacular scenery. Continuing on Highway 20 will take you next to the community of Alexis Creek, which contains more services for the public and tourists alike. There is a small store and post office as well as mechanical repairs and towing. Alexis Creek is also home to the nearby Bull Canyon Provincial Park, which offers
camping, hiking, and day use facilities.

Leaving Alexis Creek means travelling further west towards the perfect outdoor getaway, found in any of the communities up to and including Nimpo Lake. The Puntzi Lake area is host to a wealth of attractions, the least of which are the many resorts that populate the lakeside. Kokanee Bay, Barney’s Lakeside and Woodland Caribou Resort are specialists in providing exceptional fishing and wildlife related adventures, and are knowledgeable experts of the area. The lake offers many opportunities for wildlife viewing, including the many pelicans that call the lake home in the spring and summer months.

Leaving Puntzi, the community of Tatla Lake takes form, located on the edge of the Chilcotin Plateau. Tatla Lake is a community of many services, catering to visitors by offering groceries, postal service, mechanic and tire repairs, and internet access. The view from here of the mountains stretching into Chilko Lakes’ second access point is breath taking. After reconnecting with the outside world, Tatla Lake has many types of accommodation, including the Tatla Lake Manor or the White Saddle Ranch Country Inn located down the Tatlayoko Road, and is a great stop along Highway 20 to recharge. White Saddle also provides air tours. Nearby Tatlayoko Lake is located in the Potato Mountain Range, and is home to the Homathko River Inn B&B, where guests have their pick of outdoor activities in a hidden paradise.

Kleena Kleene is renowned for its pristine waters, hidden through the picturesque Klinaklini River Valley. A recognizable landmark for Kleena Kleene is Perkins Peak. It is the northernmost part of the Pantheon Range and is easily accessible by car nearly all the way to the peak at 9,250 feet. Kleena Kleene is also home to the Clearwater Lake Lodge and Resort, which boasts luxurious cabins and a variety of outdoor adventure activities. At this point on Highway 20 you are very close to the half way mark to Bella Coola.

Following Kleena Kleene is Nimpo Lake, the float plane capital of British Columbia. Nimpo Lake boasts spectacular views of the local mountains, and is only a short drive away from Itcha Ilgachuz and Tweedsmuir Provincial Parks. Nimpo Lake is one of the larger communities on Highway 20 between Williams Lake and Bella Coola, and to this end it is home to many services, including the famous and delicious Nimpo Lake Bakery. Not to be outdone by other resorts in the area, the beautiful blue waters are home to three beautiful lodges: The Dean on Nimpo, Nimpo Lake Resort, and Stewart’s Lodge.

Look for the next segment of the Highway 20 Drive between Anahim Lake and Bella Coola in the fall issue of the Chamber Magazine. For more information about any of these areas, please feel free to contact the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Centre, by phone (250) 392-5025 or toll free 1-877-967-5253; email visitors@telus.net and our website is www.tourismwilliamslake.com. We are open 7 days and are located in the Tourism Discovery Centre at 1660 South Broadway!
BUSINESS PROFILE  Homathko River Inn

Homathko River Inn has been proudly serving their clients for three years, providing the ultimate vacation for anyone who ventures out to their base on the historic Circle X Ranch. Whether you are seeking a wilderness ranching adventure, or a relaxing stay in the gorgeous Tatlayoko Valley, hosts Connie Bracewell (who has been in the tourism business for 26 years) and Rudy Vermeer will ensure your dreams become a reality.

Because of their rural location off Highway 20 in the Tatlayoko Valley, Homathko River Inn is ideally situated for guests to enjoy many outdoor activities, including horseback riding or hiking along trails leading to breathtaking views of the mountains, lakes and grasslands of the Chilcotin. After a long day of activity, guests can settle into their luxurious rooms and feast on locally raised and produced meals, including Homathko’s famous Sunday brunches. Because word of their amazing meals is spreading, they are hoping to expand their dining room this fall to accommodate up to 20 diners.

Although Homathko is more than happy to cater to clients from around the world, their emphasis is on promoting to the local community, something Connie is very passionate about. “I believe in local tourism”. She says. Very proud to promote her Chilcotin region, and says “I’m honored that the locals send their guest to our door”. “We support local businesses, and it is fantastic to have that support returned.” It is this support that will help keep Homathko River Inn flourishing in the Chilcotin for years to come as a must visit destination all year round. For more information check out their website at www.homathkoriver.com

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BUSINESS PROFILE

Clearwater Lake Lodge and Resort

“Relaxation or adventure…the choice is yours!” This slogan accurately describes the options available to visitors whose travel destination is the Clearwater Lake Lodge and Resort in Kleena Kleene, BC. To quote owner Bernward Kalbhenn, the resort boasts “everything you could want” in terms of a vacation getaway.

In business for 22 years, Bernward and his wife Gisela operate their lodge only 600 metres off of Highway 20, but for visitors from near and far accustomed to urban lifestyles, it is a perfect wilderness retreat. In line with the wilderness setting come many outdoor adventure opportunities, including lake based activities, helicopter hiking, and wildlife viewing opportunities. Clearwater Lake Lodge can also arrange dramatic float plane tours of the coastal mountains, as well as the glacier lakes in the area.

Clearwater Lake Lodge has been involved with the Chamber of Commerce for many years, and are proud to have been sponsors of the Business Excellence awards for over 15 years. Bernward sees the relationships formed by being a chamber member as being mutually beneficial, as the advertisement and opportunities offered through the chamber allow for businesses like Clearwater Lake to enjoy successful tourism seasons. For more information on this beautiful Chilcotin vacation place email: welcome@chilcotinlodge.com or call 1-250-476-1150.

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Gibraltar & the Mining Industry
The past few years have been challenging for the mining industry; commodity prices are down, including copper, which hit a 5 year-low this past year and has yet to recover, and economic uncertainties continue to persist.

It is during times like these that mining companies must rely on their employees to improve efficiencies and reduce spending, all while ensuring safety and environment integrity remain top priorities. The employee’s at Taseko’s Gibraltar Mine were up for the challenge.

In 2014, Gibraltar operated at capacity and produced 136 million pounds of copper, 12% higher than in 2013. Molybdenum production for the year was 2.3 million pounds, a 61% increase over 2013. These strong results were achieved even though production was hampered by some short-term operational challenges.

Safety and Integrity
Safety continues to be the top at the Gibraltar. In March, employees and management were recognized for a significant safety accomplishment receiving the John Ash Safety Award from the Government of British Columbia’s Ministry of Energy and Mines. The award recognized Gibraltar for having achieved the lowest injury-frequency rate of all BC mines with at least one million hours during the year. In 2014, Gibraltar employee’s worked over 1.7 million hours with zero lost time accidents. This injury free streak continues today and now stands at more than two million worker hours!

Following the Mount Polley tailings dam incident in August 2014, the integrity of all tailings storage facilities in BC and around the world were called into question. An Expert Independent Geotechnical Review Panel made a number of recommendations based on the Mount Polley incident. Most of the recommendations are already in place at Gibraltar, and have been for many years. The method of separating sand and water using cyclones has been the primary method for years at many BC mines, including Gibraltar, and Taseko believes it provides the highest level of dam integrity. In addition, unlike Mount Polley’s earth and rock dam, the main Gibraltar dam is constructed from cycloned sand and the majority of the perimeter of the pond is original ground.

Tolko is a leading manufacturer of a wide range of forest products for customers around the world.

For nearly 60 years, our family-owned company has delivered reliability, flexibility, efficiency and quality. We manufacture lumber, plywood and veneer, oriented strand board (OSB), unbleached kraft papers, co-products, and biomass power.

Tolko is committed to the well-being of future generations through responsible operational and environmental performance. Our Woodlands departments hold third-party certification on the forestlands they sustainably manage in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Tolko is a proud supporter and partner of the community of Williams Lake and the Cariboo region.
In August 2014, all BC mines operating tailings storage facilities were ordered to conduct a Dam Safety Inspection (DSI) by a third party qualified engineering firm. Additionally, the DSI was to be reviewed by an independent qualified third party engineering firm. The DSI which was performed at Gibraltar confirmed the integrity of the Gibraltar tailings dam and found no safety or structural concerns. The third party review confirmed the DSI results with no additional recommendations.

**Project Updates**

**Florence Copper Project, Arizona, U.S.A.**

In 2014, Taseko acquired a copper project in the state of Arizona. Called the Florence Copper Project, it represents the first project investment made by Taseko outside of Canada. Located near the small town of Florence, Az., the advanced stage development project holds significant promise. Unlike a typical open pit mine which can require large areas of surface disturbance, the method of copper recovery proposed for the Florence project, called in-situ-copper recovery (ISCR) requires practically no disturbance. ISCR is based on technology in which copper minerals are dissolved from an underground deposit by introducing low pH water solution. The water containing the dissolved minerals is then pumped to the surface where it is converted to sheets of copper plating. The project is currently in the permitting phase and Taseko hopes a production test facility will be up and running this year.

**Aley Niobium Project, Northern BC**

The Aley Niobium project, 140 km north of MacKenzie BC is continuing through the provincial Environmental Assessment (EA) Process. An agreement between the Federal and Provincial Minister’s of Environment has resulted in British Columbia taking lead responsibility for the environmental assessment process. After six years of exploration and development work on the project, including thousands of hours of metallurgical test studies, Taseko is pleased to have now entered into the Environmental Assessment phase of the project and looks forward to advancing the project.

**New Prosperity, British Columbia**

While we are busy with Gibraltar, Aley and Florence Copper, our desire to see New Prosperity move ahead has not diminished. Taseko has filed two Judicial Review applications in Federal Court – the first seeks to have certain panel findings set aside and the second petitions the court to set aside decisions made by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, the Minister of Environment and the Governor in Council because of “a failure to observe the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness.”

**Moving Forward**

Despite challenging economic times Taseko and its employees remain committed to operational excellence, committed to the health and safety of each other and committed to the communities of the Cariboo, in which more than 650 Taseko employee’s live.
The Graham Inn and Tatla Lake Manor located at Tatla Lake

Fishing, kayaking, hiking or just exploring are all part of the Chilcotin wonders

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Rodeo Season in Cariboo Country

Williams Lake is a great tourist city with many fun and interesting events happening all year round, especially during the summer.

With wide open spaces, crystal clear rivers, hiking and outdoor vehicle trails abound - our region offers visitors an amazing space to explore and connect with nature.

Be sure to visit the shops and businesses where you will certainly find some unique treasures found nowhere else. Dining in the Cariboo-Chilcotin is also quite an experience from small diners offering you home cooked meals, to fine dining establishments found in spa retreats and resorts.

In the summer, our world famous 89th Annual Williams Lake Stampede is infused with a sense of history and pioneer spirit.

This year the stampede is taking place from June 26th to 29th.

I am looking forward to joining with local businesses and residents to welcome visitors to the city for the Canada Day Long weekend and celebrating the cowboy spirit at the Stampede.

The Stampede is a yearly celebration in Williams Lake, drawing top cowboys from across the continent to compete in a wide variety of events supported by the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association. Local residents and visitors alike will enjoy events including bull riding, steer wrestling, team roping, and barrel racing, as well as the Williams Lake Stampede’s signature event, the Mountain Race.

Visitors to Williams Lake will benefit from the many amenities offered by our local businesses. With the Rodeo Grounds so close to the centre of town, it is easy for guests to travel on foot through our community, exploring the many local businesses offering food, gifts and art, clothing, sporting goods, and more. With so much variety, visitors will have a rich experience in our region, both within and beyond the rodeo gates.

As the provincial representative for the Cariboo-Chilcotin, I am proud to work with local businesses, promoting economic development in Williams Lake and other communities throughout the region. I am constantly impressed by the dedication of local entrepreneurs, and am so proud of the many successes that local businesses continue to have.

Events like the Williams Lake Stampede bring visitors to the City, and with them, economic investment. I hope that all businesses in the City have a prosperous rodeo season.

by Cariboo-Chilcotin MLA Donna Barnett
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Introduced in 1970 specifically to address the needs of small-to-medium sized firms, the Chambers Plan serves over 25,000 businesses from coast to coast.

Hugh Gage is the exclusive advisor representing the Chambers Plan Employee Benefit Program in the Williams Lake and 100 Mile House Region.

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Hey, what’s happening with you, our members! Here’s some chatter...

The **Station House Gallery** invites everyone to the new exhibition from June 5th to 27th at the Station House Gallery. Tea culture is defined by the way tea is made and consumed; by the way the people interact with tea, and by the aesthetics surrounding tea drinking. For the month of June, fiber artist Maureen LeBordais introduces a multi-artist, multi-media exploration of all things tea. On display are works by Joan Beck, Sharon Cahn, Liliana Dragowska, Barbara Fraleigh, Beth Holden, Heather Kerr, Leslie Lloyd, Maureen LeBourdais, Barbara Newhouse, and Cat Prevette.

In the next couple weeks the Chamber will be sending out information on a **new Purolator member benefit** - stay tuned! Just one of the many benefits offered through the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce.

Shelley Thomson, Community & Aboriginal Relations Manager from Fortis BC appeared before the CRD Board to provide an update on the Williams Lake Lateral Pipeline Project located on Fox Mountain. She assured the Board that the upgrade is necessary due to an increase in population density and code upgrades, and not because of any existing safety issues. The goal of this upgrade is to provide a safe, reliable service for area residents and construction is scheduled to begin in August of 2015.

Happy wedding anniversary to Bernward and Gisela Kalbhenn at the **Clearwater Lake Lodge** ....on their 52 years of marriage; also Happy 22nd anniversary for the operation of the lodge.

After 30 years at the airport Sharon Neufeld from **Central Mountain Air** is retiring mid AUGUST. She’s very excited about having more time for family and leisure. Sharon tells us that she will truly miss seeing passengers from all over the world. She says she has been blessed by those “once a year” hugs from such dear folks as they come back to visit the Caribou. CMA will continue to have a great team of Tami, Danelda, Linda and Carrie along with newcomer Tami Lendvoy. Good Luck Sharon and drop in for a coffee sometime!
Exciting events in our region –
Just a few to help you plan your holiday time

• Farmers Market Every Friday until Thanksgiving in Boitanio Park from 9-2pm ASK US WHERE

• Performances in the Park every Thursday for July and August in Boitanio Park starting at 6pm

• Special Events throughout the summer at Thunder Mountain Speedway including Crash to Pass on Stampede Weekend

• 31st Annual Chief Will-Yum Father’s Day Pow Wow at Chief Will-Yum Campground on June 20-21.

• 89th Annual Stampede from June 26th- 29th

• Celebrate Canada Day in the Park on July 1st or Dominion Day at Barkerville where many events for the whole family will be happening.

• Arts on the Fly in Horsefly from July 10th – July 11th

• Bella Coola Music Festival July 18th – 20th

• Williams Lake Art Walk happening all August through downtown Williams Lake.

• 57th Annual Williams Lake 4H Show and Sale – August 15th – 20th

• BC Barrel Races Provincial Finals September 4th – 6th at the Williams Lake Stampede Grounds

• Williams Lake 38th Annual Harvest Fair September 12th- 13th at the Williams Lake Stampede Grounds

• Fishing Derby’s all summer including Lac La Hache, Puntzi Lake, Big Lake and many more – ASK US WHERE

For a list of many more events check out www.tourismwilliamslake.com or if you would like to tell us about your event email us at visitors@telus.net
Brenda Grove-White, Manager of A&W tells us that they have the ‘cruisin to end MS day’ on Thursday August 20. $1 from every Teen Burger sold will be donated to the MS society.

Two special people who will be in retirement mode in the next few months are Lyla Floberg from the Williams Lake & District Credit Union and Anne Oliver from Oliver & Co. They both tell me they will be involved still with the chamber and community, great news to hear!

The CRD Board presented a “Key” to the Cariboo Chilcotin to Andre Chevigny of Pioneer Log Homes of BC honouring the significant impact their international business and reality TV show Timber Kings has had in creating exposure and notoriety for our region. In addition, they thanked Pioneer Log Homes for their support in partnering with the Cariboo Regional District during both the 2010 Olympics and the 2015 Canada Winter Games. The Key to the Cariboo Chilcotin is an award to acknowledge the contribution of an individual, group or organization to furthering the ideals of the Cariboo Regional District at a provincial, national or international level as a representative or resident of the Cariboo Chilcotin.

Congratulations to the Child Development Centre on their Grand Opening Celebrations for the Cariboo Autism Centre and the CDC’s Expansion recently. A huge project for Williams Lake and one that will benefit many.

The Williams Lake Toastmasters advises that they meet every Wednesday at 7 PM at the Salvation Army. You are welcome to attend and congratulations on meeting your goal of 20 members.

Leslie Prestwich Hub International Barton Insurance writes that she has moved to Victoria “so will no longer be attending the wonderful Chamber meetings.” We welcome Tania Elliott as her replacement.

Happy Spring to everyone from Jan and Dan Coates at Woodland Caribou Resort on Puntzi Lake. They have added a 17 foot Hobby Cat to their fleet of marine craft at Puntzi Lake. Dan was a custom boat builder in our previous life and they sailed and took their children sailing as part of their water education. Now the grandchildren are mastering the kayaks etc. so they felt it was time to educate them in the love of sailing on a very stable learning vessel. Dan is willing to take out guests, or for those who have sailing knowledge let them have a go at the helm.

The Williams Lake division of Cleanway Supply Inc has been operating locally since September 2010 and we are now pleased to announce that you can reach us on our new local number, 250-392-5326, (250-EZ-CLEAN). Our toll free number of 1-800-663-5181 is still available for our out of town customers. Please call us for all your Cleaning, Hospitality and Food Packaging needs.
BC CHAMBER RESOLUTION: SUCCESS!

After weeks of drafting, redrafting, phone conferences with the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce and the BC Chamber Policy Review Committee and the volunteer consultant from the valley, trouble-shooting, more redrafting, more consulting, and more redrafting with Scot Durward and Angela Sommer of the Williams Lake Chamber, the BC Chamber Policy Review committee agreed to support the policy………

On Monday, May 25, the BC Chamber of Commerce members meeting at the AGM in Prince George adopted the following:

THE CHAMBER RECOMMENDS: That the provincial government:

1. Change the existing governance policy to allow improvement districts equal access to infrastructure grants without ownership of their systems shifting to regional districts; unless a definitive report demonstrates efficiencies will be gained by amalgamation; and
2. Create a regionally based mechanism that will determine funding priorities for improvement districts and regional districts that efficiently takes into account the needs of all stakeholders.

While this is excellent news, we must now be patient and allow the BC Chamber process to unfold. We are very hopeful. Minister Oakes comes from a history of chamber work with Chamber across the province including working for the Quesnel & District Chamber. We are very aware that the provincial government pays close attention to recommendations from a respected organization such as the BC Chamber of Commerce representing businesses across the province.

Thanks to Rosemary Smart and other members who assisted with this process that started months ago in Williams Lake. Rosemary writes “A very special thanks to our local businesses willing to step up and be the lead applicant in this process, and to Scot Durward and the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce for all the hard work in bringing this issue to the BC Chamber of Commerce. And to all of you who brought your stories, your letters of support & encouragement, and your donations that have made this process so much easier.”

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Managing Director

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Another reason for international visitors to come to B.C.

Wine tourism is a growing and important part of Canada’s tourism industry attracting 3M annual visitors and driving $1.2B in spending for the national tourism sector, according to a joint report released by the Canadian Vintners Association (CVA) and the Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC).

“Canadian wine regions are world-class, not only because of the great wine, but also the hospitality, infrastructure and natural beauty, which we believe can be further promoted to would-be international visitors,” said Dan Paszkowski, President and CEO of the CVA. “Our wineries already welcome more than 3M visitors annually and are in a position to substantially increase the number of guests they receive.”

“Canada’s beautiful and accessible winery experiences strengthen our competitiveness in the growing global market for culinary tourism,” said Charlotte Bell, President and CEO of TIAC. “Discerning travellers want high-quality authentic experiences and are finding what they are looking for with Canada’s award-winning vintages, local culinary treasures and beautiful geographic settings,” concluded Bell.

With international travellers spending on average 3 times more than domestic travellers, TIAC is looking to boost international travel to meet the global growth rate of 5%. The CVA supports international winery tourism as a mechanism to support local jobs, while also creating demand for wine exports. For example, China is Canada’s fastest growing tourism source country, as well as the top export market for Canadian Icewine (valued at $6.7M in 2014).

“World class wine products position our businesses to take advantage of growth opportunities and increase their revenues. To ensure these businesses remain competitive, the Government of Canada has also taken steps to attract more American visitors to destinations across Canada, including to this beautiful region,” said the Honourable Maxime Bernier, Minister of State (Small Business and Tourism) (Agriculture).
Gibraltar Mine Tours 2015

The Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Taseko Gibraltar Mine is pleased to return our summer Gibraltar Mine Tours. Tours are available free to the public! Please take note that the tour takes place in an active mine site and certain dress is required for your safety. **Long pants, closed toed, flat shoes, and 4” sleeves are mandatory to attend the tour** (no sandals, shorts, or tank tops/muscle shirts allowed). People not wearing the appropriate clothing will not be allowed to board the bus. Gibraltar Mines will provide all other necessary safety gear on location. It is imperative that everyone on the tour listens carefully and follow all instructions from the mine tour guide. Because of this, the **minimum unaccompanied age is 16, and ages 13-15 must be accompanied by an adult. No one under the age of 13 will be permitted on the tour.**

Please bring your own snacks/lunch and beverages as there are no restaurants or concessions on site.

**2015 Tour Dates are:**
July 8, July 22, August 5, and August 19

The bus will leave the Tourism Discovery Centre at 10am sharp and return at approx. 4pm

*These tours are very popular and space is extremely limited (maximum tour capacity is 14). Please phone the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce at 250 392 5025 to reserve your spot today!*
BC Chamber of Commerce AGM
Many resolutions affecting businesses adopted

Vancouver, May 29, 2015
Business leaders from across B.C. met in Prince George to set an aggressive new policy agenda for the BC Chamber of Commerce’s advocacy efforts to the Province calling for a more transparent approach to taxation in B.C., innovation in regional solid waste management; and community and local government policies on rebalancing municipalities and regional districts, and for a provincial role in municipal restructuring, amongst others.

This unique grassroots policy-building forum brought together chambers from all corners of the province where they vigorously debate and adopt new policies affecting business operations throughout the province. Policies that are adopted become part of the BC Chamber’s advocacy agenda.

This year, delegates voted on nearly 50 proposed policies.

Policies voted into force include:
• Promoting Innovation in Regional Solid Waste Management
• A More Transparent Approach to Taxation in B.C.
• Rebalancing Municipalities and Regional Districts
• Provincial Role in Municipal Restructuring
• Making Tourism funding more secure

It doesn’t have to be all work as Ken and Cynthia experienced at the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM in Prince George!
Our promise is to help realize the collective potential of the region and its people, our company and its workforce.