

President's Report, 2010

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*The Chamber will promote
the commercial, industrial,
agricultural, recreational,
civic and cultural welfare of
the people of the district.*

This year the Slocan District Chamber was active in a variety of projects, thanks to the continued support and participation in of our Directors and staff.

The Visitor Centre season was extended because we had a slightly larger grant this year from Tourism BC. The May Days pancake breakfast was another success. We continued with our campaign to keep the area cell-free and supported efforts in keeping the hospital heli-pad.

As for new initiatives – a marketing workshop was sponsored and offered locally. In addition, a website committee was formed to revitalize our web presence and we've also made plans to produce a Newsletter.

Several other community initiatives also helped in re-evaluating and recognizing our community's commercial, industrial, agricultural, civic and recreational values and drivers. This year we are well equipped for taking action and will focus our efforts towards putting these ideas into motion.

The Chamber of Commerce continues to be a strong local voice with influence in civic, provincial and federal matters and I would like to thanks all the members and volunteers who continue to work with us to reach our common goals. Please show your support by becoming a member and attending our monthly meetings to represent your community's collective ideas.

Nikta Boroumand
President

Manager's Report

I want to take this opportunity to report on the operation of our Visitor Centre (VC). As you can see from our financial statements, the VC represents well over half of our expenses each year. And when you add the publications and web site, in reality most of our budget is Tourism-related.

In April 2010 Tourism BC was transitioned back into the Government after having been a crown corporation for 13 years. And then last October there was a cabinet shuffle that moved it from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Arts, to the new Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Investment. Suffice it to say that changes are on the way.

They pay us an annual fee to operate the VC. It had been \$5,000 up to 2009 when it went to \$6,200, then \$10,000 last year. Now in 2011 we are due for \$5,000 again. The blips in 2009 and 2010 were about the Olympics.

We are at the minimum level of funding. To go to the next current level of \$10,000 we would need 5,000 visitor parties, and we only have about half that now. Tourism BC says: "Work is in progress to redefine the calculation model to better reflect the activity at the Visitor Centres with less emphasis on the stats."

This year the minimum required season was changed from 2 months to 3 months. So our VC costs will go up by about \$3,500. How will we pay for that? Most Chambers in BC have minimum membership dues of \$150 - \$200. Kaslo only charges \$80, we charge \$60. Will our Membership appreciate an increase in dues?

Jeff Bustard
Manager