



Chamber Chatter

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July 2010 Current News and Events

Business of the Month Hidden Valley Garden

We purchased the property that we now call Hidden Valley Garden in 1992.

Three acres of Saskatoons and about 1000 Colorado Blue Spruce were planted in 1994 and 1995. The plan at the time was not completely thought out but perhaps because of our roots, we always believed we would enjoy participating more directly in agriculture.



In 2005, we decided to quit working full time and that year we put in an acre of Raspberries and about 2 acres of vegetables. We started to invite people out to pick their own fruit and vegetables and sold

at the Sylvan Lake Farmers Market as well.

Each subsequent year we have increased our garden to accommodate more customers at our place and at the farmers market.

For 2010, we will have about 5 acres of garden, an acre of raspberries and 2.5 acres of saskatoons.

We also have established a bed and breakfast in our home, which will have 3 rooms available this year and are open year round.

We enjoy producing fresh produce for our customers as well as providing a hands-on opportunity for education in the "where does my food come from" discussion.

The earliest opportunity for visits to the garden/orchard are about mid May when the Saskatoon blossoms are out and we open up the u-pick in late June for harvesting of vegetables.

We are located 3.2 km north of the intersection of Highway 20 and 11A. Turn east on Twp Road 39-2, turn south into Kayton Estates and follow the signs to Hidden Valley Garden. Our phone numbers are 887-3778 or 392-5968.

We thoroughly enjoy our little Hidden Valley only 4 km from Sylvan and believe it is a pretty special corner of the world.

Welcome to our Newest Members

Sylvan Lake Admirals Senior Mens AAA Hockey Club

Urban Dirtworks Inc.

Candy Kingdom and Friends

Wal-Mart Supercentre

Cabin Fever - Indoor Family Fun Centre



PROMOTE your business with our Member to Member Discounts

The Sylvan Lake Chamber of Commerce would like to help all chamber members promote their business by expanding our current member to member discounts.

If you would like to forward your member to member discount, we will be pleased to have your business showcased on The Chamber website as well as added to our new member to member packages.

If you have a discount/coupon that you would like to offer other Sylvan Lake Chamber of Commerce members please feel free to contact the Sylvan Lake Chamber.

We look forward to hearing from you!!

Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan

Canada's #1 benefits plan for small firms can provide your business with a comprehensive and competitive health, dental, and disability program customized to meet the needs of your employees! Regardless of the size of your firm we can find a plan that is right for you! Visit our website today to find out why Chambers Plan is Canada's #1 [employee benefits](http://www.chamberplan.ca) plan for small firms!
www.chamberplan.ca

August Events

No Events Scheduled

Employer Workshop: Top 10 Reasons to Call Your Employment Lawyers BEFORE You Think You Need Them

Colin Fetter is the Partner, Practice Group Leader – Employment & Labour at BROWNLEE LLP in Edmonton. Colin acts as counsel for Employers across Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut before all levels of the Courts, the Alberta Labour Relations Board, Boards of Arbitration, Boards of Reference, Occupational Health and Safety Council, and the Alberta Human Rights Commission and where his focus is proactive Employee Management. During this workshop, Colin will discuss a number of topics, such as fixed term contracts, probationary periods, discipline in the workplace, severance/notice clauses, drug & alcohol testing, disability and human rights among others. This workshop will bring into perspective what every employer should know!

Event: EMPLOYMENT LAW
When: SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Includes registration and refreshments.

Where: Red Deer County Centre

38106 Range Road 275

Red Deer County

To register, please call or email

Jennifer Dennis

Red Deer County Centre

403-350-2150 ext 286

jdennis@reddeercounty.ab.ca



1st ANNUAL CAR RALLY! PUT YOUR BUSINESS ON THE MAP! ★

WHERE: At your office/store location in Sylvan Lake. If your business is outside of Sylvan Lake or you have no physical location, we will match you with a sister business who will assist you with putting your business on the map.

WHEN: September 17 - 24, 2010 - Sylvan Lake Chamber of Commerce Week Winner to be drawn from all participants who complete the Car Rally at 4:00 p.m. on September 24, 2010, at the Tourism and Information Booth (Chamber Office)

COST: \$52.50 per business (GST included)
*Membership must be in good standing

HOW: Your business will be indicated with a red star ("★") on a map of Sylvan Lake. Participants will have one week to collect either a business card or other distinctive item of your choice (poker chip, plastic fork or get creative!) from your place of business. The winner will receive \$500 in "Chamber Bucks" that may be redeemed at any Chamber business that participated in the Car Rally within 6 months (directly reimbursed by the Chamber).

*Optional: Each business may offer coupons, draws and promotions on-site

DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2010 - PAYMENT/REGISTRATION

For more information contact the Sylvan Lake Chamber of Commerce at 403.887.3048.

The Canadian Economy

According to the International Monetary Fund, Canada's economy shrank by 2.6% in 2009 but will grow by 3.1% in 2010 and 3.2% in 2011, better performance in each case than the average of other advanced economies. Some commodity prices have recovered and global trade has steadied. There are signs of recovery in retail sales, consumer confidence and housing markets.

Slow Growth in Employment

Employment in Canada reached an all-time high in October 2008 but declined 2.3% (or 400 000 jobs lost) by October 2009. The manufacturing sector, which has suffered employment losses since 2002, has not fared well. From October 2008 to October 2009, the industry lost 218 000 jobs, particularly in fabricated metals, transportation equipment, paper and printing and furniture manufacturing. The construction industry lost 73 000 jobs, most of them during the same period. The natural resources and transportation and warehousing industries also posted losses, while employment rose in information, culture and recreation finance, insurance and real estate.

Return of Consumer Demand

Although retail sales in Canada had not yet recovered to 2008 levels by the fall of 2009, consumer retail spending rose month by month over the course of the year. If this trend continues, it could mean a return of consumer confidence and an increase in consumer spending that would open up opportunities for retailers and their suppliers.

Alberta Career and Industry Outlook-
Government of Alberta, Alberta Employment and
Immigration

