



# Mission Chamber of Commerce BusinessTRACK

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JUNE 2018

## THE MISSION REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS HITTING THE STREETS JUNE 25<sup>TH</sup>–29<sup>TH</sup> TO TAKE THE ‘PULSE’ OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

The third annual Mission Chamber Business Walk will take place from June 25-29th. Volunteer teams will be going door to door visiting various businesses throughout the community. Owners or managers will be asked to answer a few questions about their business and have a chance to have their voices heard.

*“Reaching out personally to our business community is at the forefront of the Chamber’s mind. We are here to learn the impact of political, social, and community influences that affect our business faction, and to learn how we can overcome hurdles through advocating on your behalf. Listening to our business people is so incredibly important, and essential to discovering new ways to help enhance the business experience in Mission.”*  
— Andrea Walker, President, Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Business owners and managers are encouraged to be at their business on the days of June 25th–29th from 9am–12pm or 12–4pm to ensure they have a chance to participate in this event.

By taking the time to answer a few questions and connect with the volunteers, local businesses will be providing information that is essential to area support agencies. The data collected will be used to develop programs and services that will better support the Mission business community. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

*“We are here to serve the business community; the results of the survey will help us in aligning the right business support to the needs of the business community.”* — adds Kristin Parsons, Executive Director, Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The Mission Regional Chamber’s Business Walk will take place June 25-29th from 9am–12pm and 1pm–4pm daily and an extra day will be added for home based businesses. For more information or to request a personal visit please contact [execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca](mailto:execdir@missionchamber.bc.ca) or call 604-826-6914.

Proudly presented by the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Community Futures North Fraser, Mission Downtown Business Association, Mission Community Skills Center Society, Mission Economic Development and the Mission City Record.



## BUSINESS WALK 2018

## MISSION CHAMBER PASSES POLICY AT BC CHAMBER AGM



**KAMLOOPS, BC MAY 26TH, 2018**—A policy calling for the a minimum notice period for BC utility rate increases has passed at the BC Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and Conference in Kamloops.

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce authored this policy after receiving concerns from members about the recent BC hydro rate on new connections increase in 2017, which saw a 70-day notice period with little communication to end users about the rate changes.

“Our members are concerned when BC utilities can implement significant rate increases to business with little notice or adjustment period, particularly when the current wait time for the BC utilities to provide services for development is far longer than the notice period of increases given,” said Andrea Walker, President of the Mission Chamber. “Our members are asking for a fair approach to increases that give businesses an opportunity to adjust and absorb these increases into their business costs.”

The Mission Chamber BC Utilities policy received two-thirds of votes to pass and is now official BC Chamber policy and will be advocated by the BC Chamber to appropriate levels of government over 2018-19.

Along with the BC utilities policy, the Mission Chamber also co-sponsored and supported the following policies:

- Engaging Business and Community on Election Reform
- Anti-Canadian Tariff - Pressing the Pause Button on BC’s Proposed Speculation Tax
- Minimizing Undue Negative Impacts of Employer Health Tax
- Protecting Funding for Tourism Marketing Programs and Projects
- Stabilizing Minimum Wage Hikes
- Stop the Harmful Tax Changes on Private Corporations
- Enhanced Push for Inter-municipal Mobile Business
- Online Municipal Voting
- Promoting Innovation in Regional Solid Waste Management

- Property Transfer Tax Reform - Addressing BC’s Housing Affordability Challenge
- Protecting the National Economy by Managing the Lower Fraser River

“The Mission Chamber is proud to see our policy pass and receive support from our peers across the province,” said Walker. “It was an incredible experience to work with Chambers around the Province on issues affecting all regions, issues that often reached beyond the immediate business issues and touched on housing, health, education and voting. It’s exciting to collaborate and create relationships and opportunities for our members.”

The BC Chamber AGM and Conference is held in a different BC community each year. The event is the largest annual business policy forum in the province. Every year, member Chambers of the BC Chamber develop and submit policies for the consideration of their peers. This year, 57 policies were up for debate at the BC Chamber of Commerce AGM.



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## JUNE 2018 President's Report

It's post-AGM time! What a great experience to attend BC Chamber AGM alongside our Executive Director, Kristin Parsons and Government Affairs Committee Member Lesa Lacey. Not only did we forge incredible strength as a team, but we are blessed to represent our members voice in policy creation.

Policy and advocacy is the core of the valuable work we do as a Chamber. It's how we can use our voice to affect change, many of those possible changes having direct community impact. While the Chamber offers many benefits to members, it's the advocacy and policy that is the ultimate legacy we leave behind, and not only for the business community, BC Chamber policy often reaches past just serving business, and serves a greater social value.

We presented one policy at BC Chamber AGM, and it was passed. It calls for longer and better notification periods from BC

Utilities to contractors regarding increases. We don't want to see last minute increases hurting our builders or passed on to already taxed homebuyers. Our policy wasn't the only policy around housing, it was a hot topic — along with taxes, minimum wage increases and energy.

While the BC Chamber Policy document is a long one, it's worth the read and sharing your concerns with us before AGM 2019. You can find a copy of the BC Chamber policy manual on our website at [missionchamber.bc.ca/pages/GovernmentRelations](http://missionchamber.bc.ca/pages/GovernmentRelations). The newest version of the manual will be updated by late July.

To round out our month, our 3rd annual Business Walk is back for the week of June 25-29th, staff, board members and our community partners will be out in the community hitting the pavement to talk with businesses about what is happening, helping and hurting your business. This is



Andrea Walker  
PRESIDENT

a great chance to chat with us about what's affecting your business. We look forward to connecting with you.



The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) has been hard at work for 125 years supporting local businesses through Advocacy, Benefits, and Connections. These key elements of our mission statement will never change, however, the Chamber, its Board, and Staff have changed a lot over the years (to say the least). In 2016 the Board created a three-year Strategic Plan, and it was through this process that identified a need for a new "brand" and logo that will more closely align with the direction of the MRCC & Board. Working closely with a marketing company this is where the real work began.

Fast-forward to June 19th, the 125th Anniversary and Member Appreciation event. This is where the Chamber will unveil its new brand and we are extremely excited to finally share it with our members and the community.

Please join us on June 19th for the celebration and the first look at the new logo and brand.

*"It's been a great experience to reflect on the history of the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce while creating a new vision for the future that respects all that has been achieved"*

— President, Andrea Walker

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## BusinessTRACK



### CHAMBER EVENTS

June 19th

#### MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE & MISSION CHAMBER CELEBRATES 125TH ANNIVERSARY!

Place: Mission Chamber Picnic Lawn,  
34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission  
Time: 11:30am-2:30pm  
Price: FREE

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce hits a milestone year, celebrating 125 years of representing Mission businesses! To celebrate, we are combining our annual member appreciation chili cook-off with our 125th anniversary celebration to bring to the community together in one action-packed afternoon. Learn more about your Mission Chamber's history, speak face-to-face with our member-exclusive benefit providers, win games and prizes, and participate in the great chili challenge! Enter a team to show off your chili-master skills or choose your utensil and judge which bowl makes your taste buds sing. To register a chili team or for more info, visit [missionchamber.bc.ca](http://missionchamber.bc.ca)!

June 25-29

#### BUSINESS WALK

Volunteered Business Leaders will be visiting all local Mission businesses to take the "pulse" of the business community. We look forward to visiting you!

June 27th

#### LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RBC

Place: Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, 34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission  
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm  
Price: FREE for Members

Celebrating 125 year of Chamber in Mission with FREE small business education for a year for members! Presented by RBC, Meyers Norris Penny (MNP Accounting Firm) will be speaking on the topic of Understanding Business Financials

June 28th

#### CHAMBER 101 TRAINING

Place: Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, 34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission  
Time: 9:30am-11:00am  
Price: FREE for Members

A training program designed for new and existing members to learn how to get the most out of their Chamber Membership. In this training session, you will learn how to: update your business info and manage your visibility; navigate the Chamber website; upload and promote your business's events; utilize the marketing opportunities offered by the Mission Chamber of Commerce; access exclusive Chamber benefits and discounts

July 25

#### LUNCH AND LEARN WITH RBC

Place: Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce, 34033 Lougheed Hwy, Mission  
Time: 11:30am-1:00pm  
Price: FREE for Members

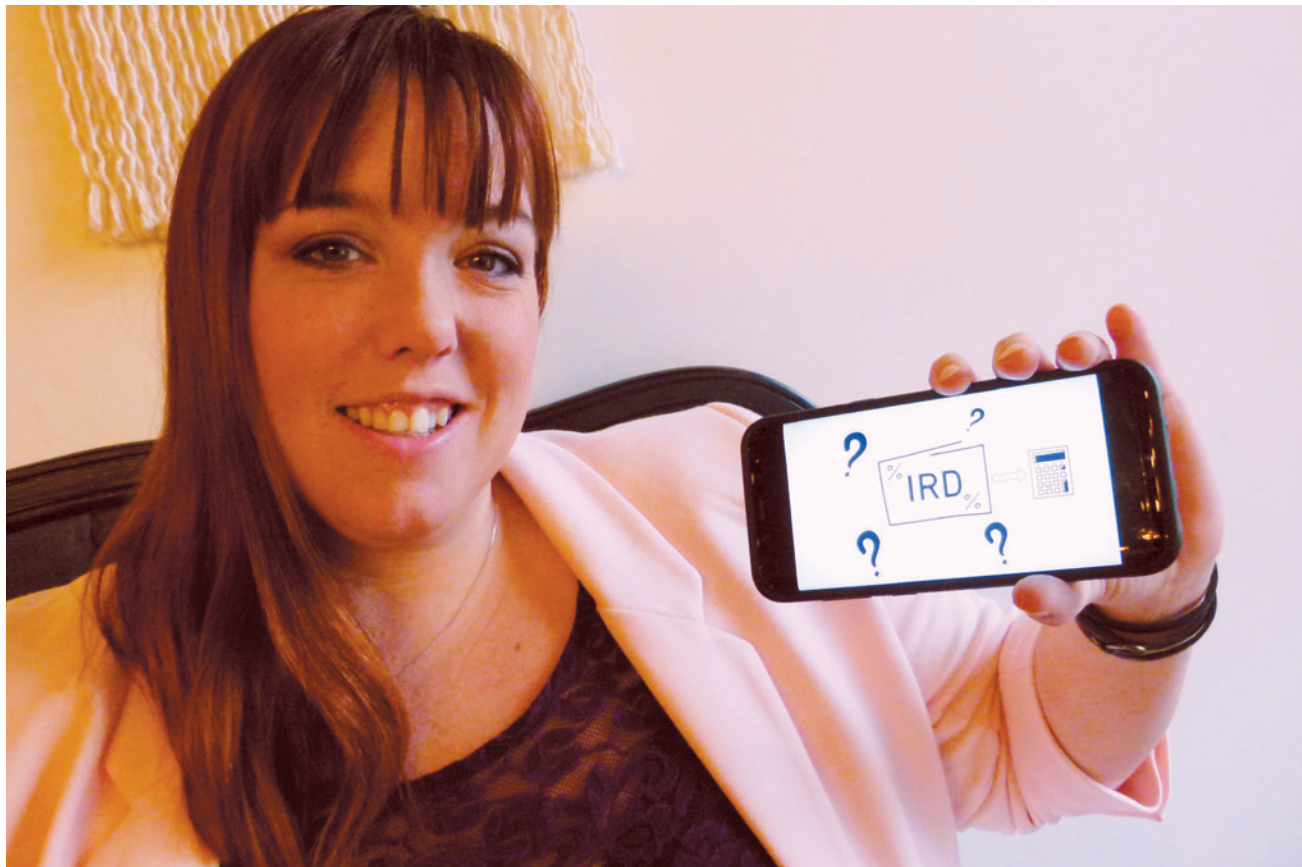
Celebrating 125 year of Chamber in Mission with FREE small business education for a year for members! Presented by RBC, Meyers Norris Penny (MNP Accounting Firm) will be speaking on the topic of Sole proprietorship vs Incorporation

September 14

#### NIGHT GOLF TOURNAMENT

Place: Cedar Ridge Golf Course & Driving Range, 9500 Clay St. Mission BC V4S 1G2  
Time: 5:30pm-10:30pm  
Price: \$95 member \$105 Non-Member

Join the Mission Chamber of Commerce for our 3rd Annual night golf event on Friday September 14th for a night of golf like you have never seen before!! It is not your traditional golf tournament, lights are out, costumes are encouraged and the theme of the evening is FUN FUN FUN!!! The Night golf event features 9 holes of super cool night golf, glow balls, glow sticks, prizes, food and beverage, music, and more! Discount for Foursome, make sure to enter PROMO code "Foursome" and receive \$5.00 OFF per person. Register before August 15, 2018 receive \$5.00 OFF per person



HitchFlix Media owner Kelli Gallant shows whiteboard animation video she creates as part of her repertoire of visual business services. HitchFlix is the 2017 Mission Chamber Business Excellence 'Power of Small' Award sponsored by RONA FVBS.

## Spotlight on Business Excellence: National, local clients enjoy attention to detail in specialized videos created by HitchFlix Media

by RICK RAKE,  
*Click Media Works*

Kelli Gallant, owner of HitchFlix Media in Mission, knows the importance of communicating by video and is very aware 75 per cent of internet viewing time will be video-based by 2020.

"With video we have seven seconds to attract the attention of the viewer. Even in producing videos 15 to 90 seconds long, it is my job to deliver a quality marketing tool that communicates my clients' message and business goals and ensure the video is seen by managing its distribution," said Gallant who launched her Mission company in 2015.

From effectively and single-handedly serving big national companies like Lordco, Canadian Mortgage Experts and MCAP to local realtors and those teaching young entrepreneurs, it is no

wonder HitchFlix Media is the 2017 Mission Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence 'Power of Small' Award winner.

"My clients are impressed by the quality, content and value of what I do, especially considering I am able to offer a variety of services from live-streaming, course and corporate videos to whiteboard animation to the same degree that much larger video marketing/production companies can do," she said.

With support from her husband, Tyler, Gallant's company has created hundreds of videos for businesses across Canada.

"We're built on creative thinking, technical know-how and a love of what we do."

From the small town of Windthorst, Sask., population 200, Gallant went to Ottawa to study broadcasting at Carleton University and became an on-camera reporter, video shooter and master

control operator for Delta Cable TV. She soon fell in love with taking the time to tell stories visually.

"I like to compose the shots, get the right script, hire the right voice-over and incorporate royalty-free music."

Her work with BC Outdoors Sport Fishing show over seven seasons brought her and her family to Mission when it moved here.

Now Gallant can produce live video feeds, created video for Facebook ads and coordinate video sales meetings for clients. For email marketing campaigns, Gallant knows they garner higher click-throughs when they include a video.

Her immediate plan is to expand her team and educate Mission Chamber members on the value of video. To see more about HitchFlix Media services, click on [hitchflixmedia.com](http://hitchflixmedia.com).

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## BusinessTRACK

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## BOARD GOVERNANCE

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Some of the strategies and best practices you will learn in this dynamic and highly engaging workshop include:

- Framework Principles
- The Seven Components of Governing
- The Board/CEO Partnership
- Sample Terms of Reference for Committees and Boards
- Board & CEO Roles, Responsibilities & Authority
- Developing Board Agendas & the Consent Agenda
- Monitoring
- The Importance of Policies
- Succession Planning
- Executive Director Performance Evaluation

**DATE:** July 7th, 2018

**LOCATION:** Cedarbrooke Retirement Residence - THEATRE Room

### REGISTRATION

**& BREAKFAST:** 8:30 am

**TIME:** 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**FEE:** \$75 for Chamber

Members &  
Not-for-Profits

\$99 for Non-Members

For more information or to register for this workshop, please contact

**KARA PAVITT**

**EMAIL:** membership\_services@missionchamber.bc.ca

**PHONE:** 604-826-6914

**WEBSITE:** missionchamber.bc.ca

2018 CHAMBER TEAM

## "Membership has its benefits!"



**Kristin Parsons**  
Executive Director



**Jo-Anne Chadwick**  
Office Administrator and Tourism Services Manager



**Donna Gibson**  
Event Coordinator



**Kara Pavitt**  
Membership Engagement Coordinator



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you what simple, affordable, and transparent pricing looks like. Request a quote... If they can't beat your current processing fees they will give you \$1,000 pre-paid MasterCard! Join the Chamber to gain access to these savings!

First Data is one of the many benefit providers at the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce. There are also travel discounts, fuel savings, realtor offers, and so much more. The Chamber represents Advocacy, Benefits, and Connections in our Mission Community, supporting the backbone of business success.

Contact Kara Pavitt at the Chamber to learn more.

Email: [Member\\_Services@MissionChamber.bc.ca](mailto:Member_Services@MissionChamber.bc.ca) Phone: 604-826-6914

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# MISSION REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ADVOCACY BENEFITS CONNECTIONS



## 125 YEARS OF SUPPORTING BUSINESS IN MISSION

Celebrating its 125th birthday in 2018, the Mission City and District Board of Trade was created in 1893 with first President, Harry Brown French. The newly created Board of Trade immediately took out advertisements in all newspapers within a 300 mile radius, offering a package of free land, free water, free power, property tax exemptions and, most extraordinary of all, the Board also offered to construct factories, mills or other commercial buildings for potential industrialists at no cost whatsoever!

A local hub for business, your Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce consists of a team of business professionals dedicated to growing our community through three key pillars: advocacy, benefits and connections. 2018 marks 125 of representing businesses in Mission, and we are celebrating!

The Chamber has provided and supported many memorable community events, such as: the Business Excellence Awards, the Soapbox Derby, the Bald Eagle Festival, and the Fraser Valley Trade Show. As the second oldest Chamber in BC, we are proud to share our success with our members and the community.

This year, we have combined our Member Appreciation, Chili Cook-Off, and Anniversary celebrations all into one spectacular day! Join us for an afternoon filled with fun, games, and laughter as we show our appreciation for Mission's continued support of the Chamber.



The Great Mission Land Sale

### JUNE 19-125TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Enter as a Chili Master with your team or attend as a taste tester. This event is free for all to attend! Come for games, activities, prizes, and get to know more about your Chamber.

Where: Mission Chamber Picnic Lawn  
34033 Lougheed Hwy

Time: 11:30 am-2:30 pm

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# CELEBRATE 125 YEARS WITH US!

✧ HELPING GROW MISSION BUSINESS SINCE 1893 ✧

## MISSION REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### ADVOCACY - BENEFITS - CONNECTIONS

**J**OIN the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce in celebrating their 125th year of supporting business in Mission! 2018 marks 125 years of representing businesses in Mission, and we are celebrating! Join us for a completely FREE fun-filled, family friendly afternoon with games, prizes, lots of good food, music and get to know more about your local Chamber.

As the second oldest Chamber in BC, we are proud to share our success with our members and the community. This year, we have combined our Member Appreciation, Chili Cook-Off, and Anniversary celebrations all into one spectacular day!

Pick your utensil and vote for your favourite chili contestant, then help us blow out the candles on our 125th birthday cake!

Several of our Chamber Discount Benefit Providers will be onsite to share some of the great business savings you can receive through the Chamber by being a member.

Compete in a sack race hosted by the Mission leisure Centre, win prizes by spinning the wheel with Country 107.1 and Star 98.3, and

Learn more about your Chamber's history and have the opportunity to speak with Executive Director, Kristin Parsons, about what the Chamber is working on for the future.



### LOCATION

Mission Chamber Picnic Lawn  
34033 Lougheed Highway

### DATE

Tuesday, June 19th, 2018

### TIME

11:30-2:30

*This is a FREE event to attend,  
come celebrate with us!*



A family affair, challenging stiff competition for best chili at the Annual Member Appreciation Chili Cook-Off. Pictured: David Sawatzky (Past President) and family.



Our Mission mascot, the Sasquatch, keeping a watchful eye over the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce.



Armed with fire extinguishers and a half-empty bottle of Pepto Bismol, the chili taste-testers prepare their tasting trays for judgment day.

GAMES • PRIZES • CHILI COOK-OFF • BENEFIT PROVIDERS ON-SITE • MUSIC • CHAMBER HISTORY

*To enter your Famous Chili into our contest or to attend this event please register at [missionchamber.bc.ca](http://missionchamber.bc.ca)*





The Great Land Sale of 1893.

Courtesy of the Mission Community Archives

## A. ADVOCACY THROUGHOUT HISTORY

**A**s the voice of business, we advocate for the issues of our members to governments, making a better business environment.

The Mission Chamber has a long history of advocacy with local, provincial and federal governments. Throughout history, the Chamber has strongly supported the Mission Memorial Hospital and other projects such as the Mission Bridge, Toll Free Calling, helping create employment, and bringing the West Coast Express to Mission.

### People sold on chamber

79 new members signed up in 1993.

By Doug Thorpe  
CHAIRPERSON, 1993 MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The membership committee began 1993 with a lot of tasks to accomplish and ideas to research. Our main goal of increasing membership by 25 per cent to a total of 250 members by Dec. 31 was not reached. This was mainly due to an unusually high number of 1992 members (62) who did not renew in 1993.

But the good news is that as of Dec. 12, the new total is 219. We had a whopping 79 new members sign up in 1993. The committee has created a new marketing brochure/application form which should help to increase awareness and membership in 1994. Two other programs our committee has been working on are the membership discount program and the Co-op advertising plan to better promote our group insurance plan.

We have been constantly looking for the ideal location for our monthly luncheon and, based on comments from our membership, we are in the right direction, but still have room for improvement.

We had fun organizing our Picnic in the Park and our Chili Cook-off. In 1993, our committee accepted the responsibility for selecting guest speakers for our luncheons.

We would like to thank all those people who have provided us with suggestions of topics and individuals, and encourage anyone with ideas to submit them to the chamber office for the committee review.

This year, I'm standing down as chairperson of the committee to take on chamber presidency. I would like to ask any of you who would be interested in sitting on the committee or even chairing it to contact Loreita or Deanna. One of our goals last year was to increase our committee strength to eight members. We never made it past six and currently stand at four, so step forward, like part and have some fun.

On behalf of Lloyd Rash, Verne Munroe, Bob Harris, James DeRoe, and myself, thank you again for your support and encouragement.

### Chamber before CRTC

Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce will be among interveners appearing before the Canadian Radio Television-Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) six weeks from today in Vancouver.

At least two representatives will state the Chamber's position on the application by B.C. Tel to include Mission into the Greater Vancouver toll-free calling area. If approved by the CRTC, the B.C. Tel plan would see Mission included into what is described as Zone Four of the proposed new toll-free area. That would mean basic residential single-line telephone service would increase from about \$12 per month to \$22.35.

Mayor Kevin Redl said representatives from B.C. Tel will appear before council's administration and finance committee on March 15th.

## Rollin' up the river

By Glen Schaefer  
Staff Reporter

A deal that would see double-decker commuter trains run between Vancouver and its northeast suburbs is just weeks away from being sealed.

The plan calls for five trains each morning, 15 minutes apart, to run between Mission and downtown Vancouver, with stops at Haney, Pitt Meadows, Port Coquitlam, Coquitlam and Port Moody. In the afternoon, live trains would head back to the 'burbs.

A bus ride from Coquitlam to downtown Vancouver takes 55 minutes. The trains are expected to be at least 20 minutes faster.

Glen Clark, minister responsible for BC Transit, yesterday confirmed details of a joint proposal by the provincial government and

### Deal for Mission-Vancouver train route just weeks away

Canadian Pacific leaked to The Province. "It looks right now like it'll be CPR crews (running the trains) and BC Transit will do the ticketing and stations," Clark said.

The Greater Vancouver Regional Transit Commission got a closed-door briefing on the route last month.

"(But) so far, we haven't been a part of any of this. We're just asked to pony up at the end," said Richmond Mayor Greg Halsey-Brant, a commissioner.

Halsey-Brant thinks that because the com-

mission pays 68 per cent of transit operating budgets, it should have had a part in talks between CP and BC Transit.

Track upgrading will cost as much as \$65 million, and BC Transit also will have to spend up to \$28 million for stations and parking lots. Equipment to operate the rail system would be leased at an annual cost of \$5.8 million. Taxes and interest charges will push the total capital costs as high as \$103 million.

Port Coquitlam Mayor Len Traboulay, the commission's chairman, calls that a bargain,

comparing it to the \$150 million cost of pushing SkyTrain 4.4 kilometres from Scott Road to King George Highway in Surrey. "In the northeast sector, John and Jane Citizen can hardly wait for this service."

But Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen isn't a supporter. "It's a heavily subsidized system," Owen says, arguing that fares won't come near to covering per-ride costs he puts as high as \$15.

Per-ride costs for buses average about \$2.50. Bus fares from Coquitlam to downtown Vancouver are \$3. Proposed fares for commuter rail would be \$4.

Clark said the service will attract new bus-

ness riders who don't want to ride buses. Negotiations are down to technical details like track improvements, he added. The trains could be rolling within 18 months of approval.

Celebrating its 125th birthday on June 19, 2018, the Mission City and District Board of Trade was created on June 19th, 1893 and held their first Board meeting on Aug 5th, 1893. It's first president was Harry Brown French who led the newly created Board of Trade in immediately taking out advertisements in all newspapers within a 300 mile radius. The Board of Trade offered packages of free land, including free water, free power, property tax exemptions, and most extraordinary of all, the Board also offered to construct factories, mills, or other commercial buildings for potential industrialists at absolutely no cost.

A local hub for business, the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce consists of a team of business professionals dedicated to providing the highest level of relevance to meet the needs and interests of our members by adhering to our three key pillars: advocacy, benefits, and connections. 2018 marks 125 years of representing businesses in Mission, and as the second oldest Chamber in BC, we are proud to share our success with our members and the community. Here is just a brief example of some of the history of the Chambers work in the Mission community. To learn more about our history, join us for our big celebration on June 19th, 2018 or contact the Chamber at 604-826-6914 or [info@missionchamber.bc.ca](mailto:info@missionchamber.bc.ca)

ASER VALLEY RECORD — WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1993

B3

## Coping disaster

The Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce is conducting a day-long seminar on "Business Recovery - Disaster Planning" next Wednesday, March 10.

Experience has shown that even a moderate disaster will put many commercial enterprises out of business and will cause severe hardship for many others. The planners of this event suggest that there are few things more important to the recovery of a com-

munity than the rapid startup of local businesses.

Helping to achieve that goal as quickly as possible is the object of the seminar that will feature Doug Elliott, the Emergency Program Coordinator for the District of Matsqui, representatives of the Provincial Emergency Program, the BC-Yukon Division of the Canadian Red Cross and BC Tel.

The registration fee is \$20 with lunch included.

## Chamber wants to help create employment

The Mission chamber's business and government affairs committee is supporting a program of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce called Aim for a Million.

The Canadian chamber is enlisting the aid of its 500 members to create a climate to create one million new jobs.

Part of the program is a cross-Canada survey of local

businesses asking: "What would it take for you to hire more people?" The survey is to be completed before the end of February and it's hoped barriers to job creation can be identified. Aim for a Million is one of the largest campaigns undertaken by the Canadian chamber. The final report is expected in April.





## B. BENEFITS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

The Chamber is known for offering valuable savings and innovative services that enhance our members' competitiveness. A popular benefit of being a member is the Chamber Plan (travel, medical insurance) along with numerous educational opportunities and savings at local businesses.

## MEMBERSHIP: Benefits of belonging to chamber are numero

bership is for you.

- Identification and involvement with a strong and effective business organization.
- Chamber operated business information office and Travel Infocentre which responds to hundreds of inquiries annually.
- The chamber is a voice for business.

- A member can raise issues of concern for consideration by committees, executive and directors.
- Networking opportunities at chamber lunches, breakfasts, etc.
- Through attendance at chamber lunches and other chamber events, you can introduce your business or service to other members and guests.

- Chamber monthly luncheon meetings held each month. Interesting guest speakers address topics of interest to the business community.
- Seminars and events organized for the benefit and enjoyment of members.
- You will receive a copy of the chamber's monthly bulletin Talkabout.
- You may use the Chamber Business

- Any member in good standing who has been nominated and seconded by a member in good standing, may stand for election to the chamber board of directors.



*Courtesy of the Mission Community Archives.*

The Shop Local campaign in 1994 was spearheaded largely by the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce as Stephen Pomeroy, the chair at the time, released multiple articles in support of the campaign. The Chamber recognized the importance of supporting the local economy and were able to gain the support of the Fraser Valley Credit Union of \$1 Million available in loans to Mission Shoppers for the program.



*Courtesy of the Mission Community Archives*

The President's Ball was another event held by the Mission Regional Chamber of Commerce at which the executives were sworn in. Pictured above is the inaugural ball in 1980.



C.  
CONNECTIONS  
THROUGHOUT HISTORY

We are an organization that strives to provide our members with strategic connections that will help strengthen their businesses.

A great example of the history of our connections was our Strawberry Festival. The Board of Trade saw an opportunity to help boost the berry industry while helping advocate and raise funds for the Mission Memorial Hospital. Special trains ran from Vancouver and other communities west of Mission to help foster connections between communities for this very popular event. The festival lived up to all its glory as it raised \$2500 for the hospital (\$33,608.25 in today's value).

The Chamber has provided and supported many memorable community events, such as the Citizen of the year awards, Business Excellence Awards, the Soapbox Derby, the Bald Eagle Festival, and the Fraser Valley Trade Show. These events have served as ways of advocacy while providing our members with benefits and allowing for connections to be formed within and beyond our members and community.

