



BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- 2011-2012

Executive

Past President: Mr. Harry Ziel

Harry is the Principle of H.B. Ziel & Associates

Harry will be retiring this year as President as he is moving his Company to Calgary. After many years of commuting to High River for early morning meetings of the Board we wish Harry great success and are very grateful for his valuable contributions to the Chamber. Harry will be missed at our boardroom table.

President: Ms. Yousra Jomha

Mortgage Broker at Western Mortgage Services Inc.

Yousra M. Jomha is the owner of Western Mortgage Services Inc. She was born in Lebanon, but was raised in Northern Alberta as the eldest of seven siblings. In 1980, she returned to Lebanon to study the culture and language and, unfortunately, the devastating effects of war. Back in Canada, Yousra is married and has raised four beautiful daughters, the eldest of who is hearing impaired. This has given her great passion for helping others, whether it is in the Alberta Children's Hospital hard of hearing Center or in the local high school, helping kids understand the intricacies of the financial world. Yousra currently lives and works in High River where her highly successful company, Western Mortgage Services, consistently earns awards and accolades from CMP, BBB, AMBA and various other organizations. Most recently she was awarded the prestigious AMP Broker of the Year Award at a ceremony in Montreal and is a lifetime member of Cambridge Who's is Who - The current CEO of this Company is Donald Trump Jr.

Vice President Mr. Tom Taylor

Sears High River

Tom is a retired fire captain from Calgary with 30 years of service. Tom has been involved in the Blackie Community – Canada Day celebrations – for the last 5 years. He and his family recently moved to High River and has spent most of his time concentrating on getting the Sears in River up and running. Most recently he won an award from Sears Corporate for his outstanding efforts.

Treasurer: Ms. Cheryl Merritt

Royal Pane Window Cleaning, one of the owners of Arrow Cab

Since moving to High River six years ago, Cheryl has served four terms on the Board. She has, through her company, sponsored many community projects and has volunteered her time with the following organizations: The High River Chamber of Commerce, The Foothills Youth Foundation, High River Agricultural, Dolphins Swim Club & the Clean-up High River campaign. She is a proud supporter to Angie Brown of the AIM Society in her successful quest for Gold in the Special Olympics. Her youth involvement includes: NDC Concert Band, NDC Safe Grad. Cheryl believes that the Youth of High River are our future and we need to invest in them. She has also represented the Royal Bank as one of the Olympic Torch Bearers in 2010. Cheryl tells us: "I get the "Man on the Street" views of what High River residents want, what they think. I then bring these views back to the Chamber boardroom table. I am in the position to listen to opinions that might otherwise go unheard or unexpressed as I interact with them through my business. I like to encourage people to step up and make a difference."

Directors

Mr. Clair Noad

Owner of Moovie Ranch

Clair has served on the Board of Directors for nine years and has been a pillar in our community since 1959. During his younger years; prior to going into business for himself he spent 20 years as a Parts Manger – 10 years as Senior Parts Representative for the CASE Dealerships in Canada. Clair was involved with Agriculture and raised purebred cattle until 1992. Clair's volunteer work includes coaching minor baseball for 4 years, minor hockey for 5 years and minor softball for 12 years. Clair has enjoyed being on the Board and has been a great community resource for the Chamber.

Mr. Alan Bourne**TD Canada Trust**

Alan has lived in High River for the past two years, he grew up in Cayley. He has served one term on the Board and represented the Chamber on the George Lane Park Committee this past year. Alan has been with TD for the past year as the community Manager for Business Banking. He has eight years of experience in banking. Prior to this current position he spent over ten years as a grain buyer.

Mr. Rick Ridsdale**Sales Consultant for the Eagle 100.9**

Rick has served one year as a board member during his term on the Board, Rick has kept the board up-to date with monthly reports on the Chamber's Travel Alberta marketing initiative. This initiative was developed by the Chamber seven years ago and helps to fund and market all of High River major events allowing us to get the word out to those living in and outside of our region. Some of these events include the Little Britches Parade & Rodeo, Guy Weadick Days, Show n' Shine, Farmers Market, Santa Parade, Trail End and others. Rick enjoys serving on the Board because it keeps him informed on what's happening in the business community.

Ms. Ann Boldt**Servus Credit Union**

Ann has lived in High River for over thirteen years and has worked at Servus Credit Union for eleven of those years; four being with the Commercial Business Banking Centre. She tells us: "I have been a board member for three years. I enjoy being involved in our community and find being on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce helps me keep in touch with upcoming events and provides me with opportunities to volunteer and meet people. She is the chairperson for the Servus Credit Union / AM1140 pancake breakfast which is the kick off to "Guy Weadick Days" Rodeo and Chuckwagon races and we are proud to have such a strong attendance and community support at this event. Ann like other staff at the Servus Credit Union volunteer for many boards in the High River Community such as: The High River Rotary, Literacy for Life, United Way, AIM and the Museum of the Highwood, so being connected with the Chamber is just a perfect fit for her.

Mr. Barry Maruk**Power of Print**

Barry is the founder of the Power of Print. Barry apprenticed as a lithographer with Graphic Arts Western in the 1950's and later started his own company, Kaleidocolor, in Calgary. He became a respected member

of the print community as well as a member of the Internationally Acclaimed Craftsmans Club, winning many certificates for quality productions over the following 28 years. Barry has brought his expertise to High River as the owner of our town's newest printer. Barry's two sons are both involved in the Print Industry. Rich is President of Ivy Design and Steve is the Graphic Supervisor of Hood Packaging. Barry also enjoys soccer and golf at the Highwood Golf and Country Club. Barry has served one term on the Board and have enjoyed participating in the High River parades and the luncheon program.

Mr. Leighton Milliken

Branch Manager, Scotiabank

Leighton tells us: "I am the branch Manager for the Bank of Nova Scotia in High River. I have served as a Director for one year on the Chamber of Commerce board. I am married with 3 children and 1 grandchild. The Chamber has been a great experience and has allowed me to meet some really exceptional people in High River. As well, the Chamber has given me and my employees a forum to help make our community one of the best in the country. Scotia is proud to support many Community initiatives through our sponsorship programs."

Monty Stafford

Home Hardware, High River

Monty was raised outside of High River but attended school in High River. Monty is the owner of the High River Home Hardware store and has volunteered his time in many community projects by supporting them through valuable sponsorships and with cash donations. Each year Monty has purchased a tarp at the World Professional Chuckwagon races to support the High River Agricultural Society and has hosted many clients from the community at his hospitality tent during "Guy Weadick Days ." Monty and his staff has actively participated in our parades and for these efforts have won either first place or second place. Monty hires most of his staff locally who manage the store and many of them volunteer in the community. He personally is a great supporter of our local hockey teams. Monty has never served on our Board but will be a welcomed new addition.

Ms. Wendy Davidson

The Marketing Genie

Wendy is a long time resident of High River, and has worked in various fields of the service industry in the area. She was also a volunteer with the High Fish & Game Association as treasurer & event coordinator for six years, and still remains an active member. For eleven years she owned and operated a home based travel franchise in High River, participating in several High River Chamber of Commerce trade fairs and local events. It was through her struggles at growing her business that led her to studying under a world renowned business coach as well as learning from countless other well known experts. It was then

she realized her true passion for helping small & medium businesses gain the knowledge and strategies to design & operate a financially successful business model, thus founding "The Marketing Genie". Wendy is a new member of the High River Chamber of Commerce and brings many new ideas to contribute to the membership.

Town of High River Representative

Councillor Mr. Chuck Boutland

Chuck is appointed by the Council. Chuck Boutland was the owner of the local Sobeys and was actively involved in many community fund raisers prior to selling the Sobeys and being elected to council.

Executive Director

Mrs. Lynette McCracken

Lynette has been the Executive Director for the High River and District Chamber of Commerce for the past 16 years. During this time, she has, through the direction of the Directors, helped to grow the membership of the Chamber from a small, though dedicated few to the growing membership of today. Also through the direction of the Board, Lynette has worked tirelessly to enhance High River business and special community events. In 2001 the High River Chamber of Commerce was awarded the prestigious award "Chamber of the Year" by the Alberta Chamber of Commerce this award was mainly due to the support that Lynette has given to the many organizations in our community by writing grants for them. This much need funding continues today and have included funding for the following organizations: The High River Agricultural Society, Rodeo Committees, Abbey field House Society, Lions Club George Lane Park improvements, Foothills Youth Foundation, Blackie Odd fellows, High River Tractor Museum Committee, Literacy for Life Foundation and the High River Handibus Society. Lynette also volunteers her time with all of these organizations: The High River Agricultural Society & rodeo Committees, Spring Ball Committee, High River Handibus Society, Foothills Youth Foundation and Literacy for Life Foundation and has served as the General Manager at several casinos during the year.
