

2017 QUALICUM BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL REPORT

2017 Projects - Accomplishments

Over the last year the Qualicum Beach Chamber of Commerce has been busy with small business advocacy and support, capacity building, and undertaking projects to the benefit of both the Chamber and the Visitor Centre.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

RDN Northern Economic Development Grant – Entrepreneurs Toolkit Workshops

In November the Qualicum Beach COC offered three workshops in Qualicum Beach and Bowser addressing small business finances, business communications, and expanding your market.

We strove to offer low cost accessible workshops that could help our business owners gain pragmatic skills to assist in making their business successful.

Society's Act Transition Workshop

In partnership with the Town of Qualicum Beach, the COC offered a half-day workshop in April for organizations incorporated under the society's act that needed to complete their transition application.

VISITOR CENTRE

The Inside Scoop 2017

With the assistance of a Destination BC grant, the QBCC once again teamed up with the PQBTA to deliver a second year of this trade show. There was an open invitation to the public for 2017 instead of strictly targeting the region's tourism providers and expanded advertising opportunities for our local businesses.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PROJECTS

Chesapeake Shores Reward Card

With the return of the successful Hallmark show Chesapeake Shores, we launched a reward card project for Chesapeake Shores staff. The project was designed to encourage local shopping by Chesapeake Shores Staff and proved to be very popular!

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2018

Business after Business	Jan 17
Community Awards - QB Civic Centre	Feb 21
Annual General Meeting - Arrowsmith Golf	Mar 21
Dinner - Butlers at the Mansion	Apr 18
Chambers Joint Meeting - QB Civic Centre	May 16
Summer BBQ - Rotary Park	Jun 20

Maker's Faire

An offshoot of the Maker Movement, our mini Maker's Faire was aimed at celebrating arts, crafts, engineering, science projects and the do it yourself mindset with the participation of our diverse and talented Maker community. It was very well attended by the public – look for more events of this type in 2018!



Bylaw Review and Shifting of the AGM

We shifted the date of our AGM this year so that it occurs in March instead of prior to year-end. Bylaw revisions should be complete in 2018.

Qualicum Beach Chamber Communications

Chamber staff focuses on ensuring Qualicum Beach events, activities and celebrations are front and center both locally and on Vancouver Island. This includes monthly interviews on local radio programs, advertising in the PQB News, three Chamber focused inserts in The PQB News, articles in the Business Examiner, and other publishing opportunities.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Board of Director's Sub-Committees

The Board of Directors is committed to community involvement. One aspect of this is participation on many Qualicum Beach event committees. Board and staff are involved in:

Official Community Plan	Community Awards
Airport Usage	Beach Days
Physician's Search Group	Oktoberfest
Parksville Qualicum Beach Tourism Association	
Development Cost Charges	



The QBCOC is also an active member of the **BC Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, and Vancouver Island Economic Alliance.**



Provincial Election Candidate Videos & Tea

The COC recorded interviews with each of the Provincial Election Candidates which we then posted on our website and social media. Interviews were followed by a meet and greet with the public hosted by The Gardens.

Christmas Tree Auction to help the SOS

In November we held a public tree auction and silent auction during our regular member meeting with the intent of donating 50% of proceeds to the Caring for Community at Christmas program run by the SOS. Almost \$2000 was raised at this event.

Qualicum Beach Downtown Business Association

Staff continues to work with the DBA on projects, capacity building and administration. Activities in 2017 included membership billing and communications, and assistance in applying for a successful grant from Human Resources Development Canada for a summer student.

KSS Scholarships

Every year the QBCC offers two secondary scholarships to Qualicum Secondary School students who are moving on to higher education. The students that received the scholarships in 2017 are:

Veronica Chmilar - \$500 – Community Member

Reese Koch – \$500 - Community Member

2018 Future Focus

Community Grants 2018

A \$1500 Community Grant will be offered in the spring of 2018. Look for application guidelines in early April.

Discovery Guide Cooperative Advertising

The Chamber will be sponsoring a Qualicum Beach Page in the 2018 Discovery Guide which is handed out to 100,000 people every year. This will allow for 9 Qualicum Beach businesses' to advertise on our page at a significant discount.

Community Awards

This annual event will take place on February 21, 2018. Please look on our website for nomination forms or drop into the office at 2711 Island Highway W. There will be a new category for Young Entrepreneur of the Year, nominate someone today!