



JUST THE FAX

Newsletter of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce

www.mordenchamber.com

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WE HAVE THE POWER TO KEEP MORDEN STRONG

Thank you to Lori Fehr, Man Sun/Agassiz Powersports

The Canadian Government has acknowledged that the economy is in a recession. We are very fortunate in Morden that our local economy remains strong. Farmers in our region have just enjoyed an exceptionally productive harvest, continued immigration is bringing a constant influx of new resources into the area, gas prices have dropped considerably, and jobs are plentiful.

The **Chamber** promotes confidence in our local economy by encouraging everyone to shop at home this Christmas season and year round. Keeping money circulating in our region benefits us all.

One of our most successful promotions is **Morden Moolah**, an initiative implemented in 2002 for businesses or individuals to utilize similar to gift certificates at ANY business in Morden. It is available in denominations from 5 cents to 20 dollars and **\$120,285.00** has been spent in Morden businesses to date!

We also promote new or little known services that are available in Morden. Many of us assume that some products and services are not provided here so we go elsewhere without even asking.

We all must make the choice to shop in Morden and keep our local economy as strong as we can.

IT'S CHAMBER MEMBERSHIP TIME

It is the time of year when Your *Chamber of Commerce* asks for your support by renewing your membership or becoming a Member. Business and community development are of prime importance to the Chamber and it is the **ONE** organization that is established exclusively to deal effectively with them. As a unified voice, the Chamber acts as a lobby group, or advocate investigating and taking action to make things happen.

By investing in the Chamber today, you are sharing your energies, ideas and resources for future economic growth and development. Your support for the Chamber can best safeguard **YOUR** investment in Morden. Please make your Chamber Membership a priority in 2009.

FREE SEMINARS FROM HEARTLAND COMMUNITY FUTURES

Heartland Community Futures Development Corp continues to offer free video conferencing business seminars in the Winkler Chamber Board Room. To register call **1-877-472-7122**. Each seminar is described on their website: www.cfheartland.ca:

Dec 15 – City of Winnipeg; **Dec 16** – Province of Manitoba; Government of Canada; Marketing Basics; Marketing Research; **Dec 17** – Advertising & Promotion; Developing a Marketing Plan; **Dec 18** – PST: An Introduction to Provincial Sales Tax; GST Information Workshop; **Dec 19** – CRA – Small Business Tax Information Workshop.

CHAMBER VOICE HEARD: PUT ECONOMY FIRST

Last week, in response to the drama on Parliament Hill, the *Morden Chamber of Commerce* joined with hundreds of other Chambers across the country who echoed the concerns of the **Canadian Chamber** regarding the political and financial crises to urge the government to “Put Canadians ahead of Politics”.

The Canadian Chamber issued a Press Release which outlined principles by which the Chamber and its network would expect any government to respond to this current economic situation. They sent a survey to its members and received over 5000 replies in 48 hours – the Voice of Business was heard loud and clear on the issues of political maneuvering and financial decline.

Your Chamber issued our own Press Release in concert and wrote letters to our MP Candice Hoepfner and the Party Leaders on your behalf. We advised that it is time to stop playing political games and concentrate on measures to immediately bolster investor and consumer confidence and restore economic growth. Canadians deserve no less from their elected officials.

We will continue to work with the Canadian Chamber and our fellow Chambers of Commerce to make an impact on the deliverables in the federal budget, scheduled to come down January 27th.

COMING EVENTS

- Dec 15 Town Council Meeting – Civic Centre
18 Open House – Morden Settlement Services Office – 1 to 3 p.m.
20-Jan Christmas Break for Morden Schools
5 Friends of Dance/Elks Club New Years Eve Dance – Rec Centre
31 New Years Eve Gala – Timbers at Minnewasta
Jan 12 Town Council Meetings & 26 – Civic Centre
13 **Chamber Exec Mtg – Morden Motor Inn**
20 **Chamber Lunch Series #1 – Speaker Gary Hannaford, CEO, Institute of Chartered Accountants of MB – Friendship Centre**
27 Morden Area Foundation Annual Meeting: Legacy of Chautauqua – noon – Friendship Centre. Call 822-5614 for tickets
27 Historical Society Annual Meeting – 7 p.m. Library

OF MEMBERS & MORE

We are excited to welcome another new business downtown: **Ecobits.ca** specializes in custom built computer sales & service, emphasis on service. Visit **Mike Maynard** and assistant **Sherald Heinrichs** at **276 Stephen St.** or call **822-1851**.

The vision of Morden as the home of the “**Unique Boutiques**” is getting clearer. In this past year we have seen new specialty businesses: **Klunky's Toys, Anastasia's Bridal Boutique, Kolos Grocery Store and Oldies and Goodies** join our appealing mix of retail outlets.

These are the types of businesses that bring tourists. Unfortunately Morden retail can't survive on tourists alone so we all must be sensitive to support each other whenever we can.