

COUNCILLOR'S CORNER



It is my hope to give a little history of the Blackfalds Chamber of Commerce in what I will call the “foundation years” and pay tribute to those individuals whose tireless dedication and commitment to the community live on to this day.

I was first elected to Town Council in 2001 when the Town had a population of just over 3,000. My passion for economic development drew me to be part of the Blackfalds Chamber, when it was

struggling to get off the ground. At that time, we asked the question: ‘Do you want to grow or die?’

That was when we committed to grow the Chamber by developing marketing materials and laying the foundation through the dedication of four members: Shirley Johnson from Servus Credit Union, Denise Nielson from Granden Auto, Stan Piebiak, Real Estate Agent, and Vick Swageert from Vic’s Concrete. These individuals worked long hours with their businesses and also served on various Town boards.

Their contribution as business owners and community members generated support via sponsorships to various sports teams and other programs; benefits for the community that are still there today.

Using the principles of attraction and retention, the Economic Development Board created the first annual Business awards to recognize local businesses and show appreciation for their contribution to Blackfalds. Each business was presented with a gift and added to business directories, information maps, and other initiatives; benefits of a Chamber membership. Stan Piebiak came up with the passport to Christmas program that still runs today and Shirley Johnson helped promote businesses on the radio in Coffee Talk News. Vick Swageert brainstormed Christmas lights at Tayles park in partnership with the Town which was eventually taken over by the Town and has grown to the successful annual event Light Up Blackfalds. Last but not least, former owner and operator of Granden Auto, Denise Nielsen, our “Volunteer Extraordinaire” worked tirelessly with passion and dedicated service to our community. Sadly, we lost Denise a few years ago, but her dedication and passion still live on and is forever memorialized at the Denise Nielsen Memorial Park just North of the Wadey Visitor Information Centre.

I would be remiss if I didn’t mention Dr. Candice from Blackfalds Chiropractic, one of the longest serving directors of the Chamber as well as Elsie Howard, a local home based travel business and proprietor of the former Grannies Looney Bin. With the unrelenting support of these members in the early days, the Blackfalds Chamber has been able to build on the successes from yesterday and make it a great advocate for our community and one of the secret ingredients of making Blackfalds great today!

Respectfully,

Will Taylor

Councillor



March 2020

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Regular Meetings

March 24 | 7:00 p.m.

April 14 | 7:00 p.m.

Standing Committee

March 16 | 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Regular Council meetings (RCC) are held on the second and fourth Tuesday every month.

Standing Committee meetings (SCC) are held the third Monday each month.

*All meetings are held in Council Chambers
Civic & Culture Centre
5018 Waghorn St.*



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