



# The Pelican

Your Best Source for Local Business News and Information | November 2020

Volume 2 - Edition 10

The Pelican is a community initiative made possible with funding and support from Community Futures Lac La Biche. Please forward comments or story ideas to [contact@cfllb.com](mailto:contact@cfllb.com)



Gene Wesley, General Manager, Community Futures Lac La Biche



Agri-food is the current buzzword to describe the business local food production and processing but the industry has always been an important part of the Lac La Biche community. This photo is from the early 1930s.

## Why do we need a Chamber anyway?

Good question. I'm sure many of you have thought about it. Perhaps a Chamber of Commerce is an antiquated idea that our society has outgrown? To answer this, I'll share my own experiences.

I joined the Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce many years ago when I started a limousine company. Later I became a Director. I joined because it helped network and promote my brand-new business and build my **BRAND AND REPUTATION**. Did it help? Yes, I did get business from people I spoke with at events, but in the end, word of mouth and excellent service were the keys to being busy. I found that in every group of 12 passengers, one hired me

within a year or two. So, did I drop out of the Chamber once I became busier? No. I stayed as a member because I liked to **MAKE CONNECTIONS** - meeting others who were like-minded and enjoyed having a reason to network occasionally. Being allowed to participate in events was worthwhile for me. I enjoyed being more informed.

So, why did I volunteer to become a Director? **ADVOCACY**. I became aware of things the Chamber was doing that I liked. Simply put, I wanted to help make a difference, lend my opinion and perspective, and be part of bettering my community; and I soon learned that everyone's input was important.

(cont. on page 2)

## Inside this issue



**Green Eden Soon To Be LLB's Latest Cannabis Venture**  
Page 2



**Red Oven Eats - Starting Small - Thinking Big**  
Page 3



**Chamber of Commerce Elects New Slate of Directors**  
Page 4

## GENE'S COLUMN (CONT.)

Over the years, I've heard people share concerns that the Chamber was trying to further the interests of an individual or select group. While a minority of individuals may have become directors to elevate their personal stature, I would say that even in these cases, the Chamber benefited from the expertise and perspectives that they brought to the table. In other words, directors on the Chamber have always wanted to do good for the community at large and had the best of intentions in mind.

So, what should happen moving forward? In my opinion, having no Chamber at all in Lac La Biche would be an embarrassment. Whom would outsiders call to find information about local services? Where would people go to network? Who would host business functions? I guess the answer is that a group of businesses and business-minded people would need to get involved to organize meetings and discuss direction. In other words, we would need to form something like a Chamber - and we've already done that. Through the sponsorship of special events, professional development, and joint marketing, the Chamber offers **A SENSE OF COMMUNITY**. For me, maybe the most important reason to want our Chamber to thrive is that its success reflects the success and dedication of our entire region.

Lastly, if those aren't enough reasons to join, attend meetings, and become involved, then remember that the Chamber offers an excellent **GROUP BENEFITS** plan, including automobile, life and medical insurance, and a variety of **DISCOUNTS** to its members from other retailers and service providers. Whether you have never been a chamber member or, like a few businesses that were a member but haven't participated lately, our Chamber needs you (and you need it). If you are interested in becoming a member of the Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce, visit: [llbchamber.ca](http://llbchamber.ca) to find out more. ■

## NEW CANNABIS STORE TO OPEN NEXT MONTH

A new cannabis store, Green Eden, will be opening in Lac La Biche in early December. Owner Carol St. Jean, whom many of you will know from Lac La Biche Registries, has been working for months organizing and executing her business plan. "When I started, I had so many ideas, and my thoughts were scrambled. It was a bit overwhelming. Fortunately, Community Futures was there to help me get organized and prepare my application to Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis (AGLC).

Green Eden will be located next to the Servus Credit Union at 10213-101 avenue. Although the Covid-19 pandemic set back the opening because of staffing restrictions and delayed fixtures delivery, everything is now on track. Green Eden will offer its customers a spacious, discreet environment for all their cannabis needs.



Inspired by her late father, who was familiar with the use of cannabis for various medicinal purposes in the Ukraine, Carol intends to offer a variety of products to meet the needs of the Lac La Biche region.

Carol advises anyone wanting to open a business in Lac La Biche to be prepared for a lot of work, both in the planning stages and operationally, once everything is up and running. "Despite the hard work, the reward in owning your own business is the people you meet and the lasting relationships you build." ■

### CANADA UNITED SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

GRANTS OF UP TO \$5,000 AVAILABLE

Created by RBC, Canada United is a movement to support local businesses in communities across the country.

The Canada United Small Business Relief Fund (CUSBRF) was established to help small businesses offset the cost of expenses to reopen safely or adopt digital technologies to move more of their business online.

#### SEE IF YOU QUALIFY AT:

<https://bit.ly/2ISZYdm>

#### and APPLY! FIND OUT MORE AT:

<https://occ.ca/canada-unit-ed-small-business-relief-fund/>

## Didja KNOW?

### Small Business in Lac La Biche

In 2019, 97.0% of businesses in Lac La Biche County were small businesses. The percentage of small businesses in Lac La Biche County declined -0.04% year-over-year, and increased 1.97% in the last five years. Lac La Biche County is the 18th fastest growing municipality in the province. ■

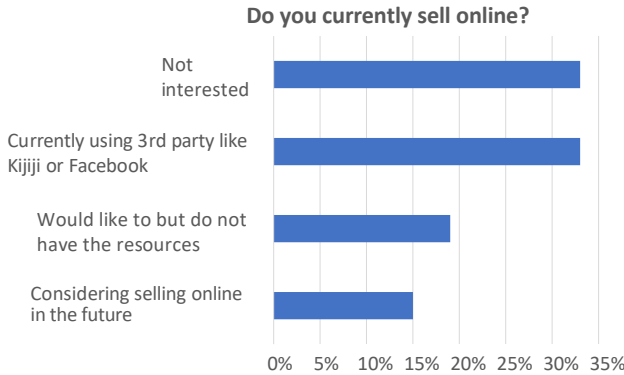
*Definition:* Percentage of total businesses that are classified as small, defined as businesses with between 1 and 49 employees.

For more information on Lac La Biche County or any provincial municipality, visit:

<https://regionaldashboard.alberta.ca/>

# Just Asking...

Regional businesses were asked about how much they are involved in e-commerce. Here's what they said:

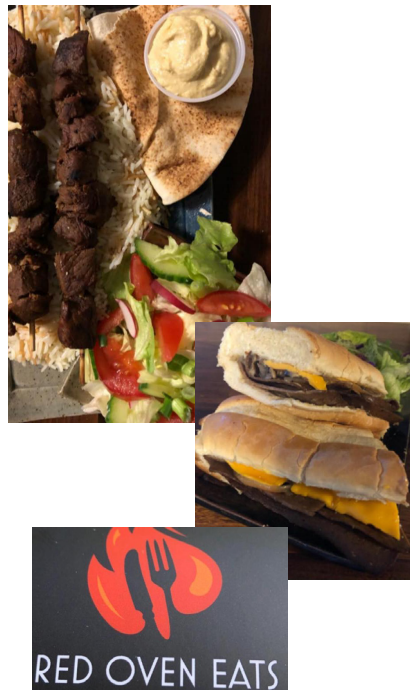


## RED OVEN EATS - STARTING SMALL, THINKING BIG

Red Oven Eats is the newest and probably the most innovative take on offering authentic Lebanese cuisine in Lac La Biche. After moving home from Edmonton more than three years ago, social worker and dental hygienist Lutfaya (Fe) Fyith desired to do something different. Starting by offering an occasional hot meal service for busy families, Lutfaya suggests that "one thing led to another." When her brother took over the Petro-Can on Main Street, there was an opportunity to use the kitchen, and that's where Red Oven Eats got its start.

Without any formal advertising other than social media and word of mouth Red Oven Eats has become a hidden gem. Open just three days a week from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM has allowed Lutfaya to look after her family and work part-time as a dental hygienist. More importantly, it has provided her the opportunity to learn about operating a business and the food service industry at her own pace. Indeed there are bigger plans for the future, but for now, she credits her success to-date to support from her family and keeping an open mind.

Her advice to anyone who wants to start their own business is to "be open to learning and new experiences. ■"



**Visit Red Oven Eats on Facebook for lunchtime specials or text/call Lutfaya at 587-983-6433 to pre-order.**

## Upcoming Events and Webinars



The BusinessLink offers a variety of **FREE** virtual training sessions, including:

**Ask a Lawyer** – Nov 4

**Doing business with the Government of Canada** – Nov 5

**Your First 30 Days: Setting Your Business Up for Success** – Nov 12

**Business Foundation Series: 3 Things You Can Learn from Your Customers** – Nov 17

**Ask an Accountant** – Nov 18

Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/o/business-link-2741783068> to register or find out more.

Visit: [www.llbevents.ca](http://www.llbevents.ca) to see what else is happening in the LLB Region



## RURAL BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK MEETS AT THE FROM SCRATCH CAFE

More than 20 businesses and organizations were represented at the RBSN meeting held at the From Scratch Café on October 21, 2020 at 8:00 AM. The meeting proved to be an excellent opportunity for business, local government, education, and other organizations to discuss both opportunities and matters of concern. Those attending brought updates and a variety of issues for discussion, including:

- Economic development and diversification
- Workforce development and training
- Oil and gas support
- Regional promotion
- Post-secondary opportunities and partnerships
- Staffing challenges
- Ability of businesses to obtain stock
- Issues related to administrating CERB and getting CERB recipients back to work.

The date and time for the next meeting will be announced soon. Stay tuned! ■

## FUNNY Things You Hear...

A successful businessman went to visit his new son-in-law. He said to him, "I love my daughter, and now I welcome you into the family. To show you how much we care for you, I'm making you a 50-50 partner in my business. All you have to do is go to the warehouse every day and learn how everything works."

The son-in-law said, "That's very kind of you but I hate warehouses. I can't stand the noise." "Oh, I see," said the father-in-law. "In that case, you can work in the office and take charge of some of the operations there."

"That's very kind of you but I hate office work too," said the son-in-law. "I can't stand being stuck behind a desk in an office all day, every day."

"Wait a minute," said the father-in-law who was getting a little annoyed. "I just made you half-owner of a huge money-making company, but you don't like warehouses and you won't work in the office. What am I going to do with you?"

"Easy," said the young man. "Buy me out."

## Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce To Work Harder to Engage Business Community

On Monday October 19th, 2020, the Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce held their Annual General Meeting. The following members were elected to the Board of Directors for 2020-2021:

### Executive:

President - Dave Phillips (Davebilt Construction)  
Vice President - Dallas Kappel (Royal Tree Services)  
Secretary - Chelsea Pretty (Lakeland Connect)  
Treasurer - Hazzle Costa (Costa Cafe)

### Board:

Director - Gail Broadbent (Gail J. Broadbent Professional Corp)  
Director - Maureen Penn (M. Penn Fashion Your Way / LLBCL)  
Director - David Schultz (Window Washing Warriors)  
Director - Tammy Tarrabain (Tarrabain Motors)  
Director - Lorin Tkachuk (LLB County)

Newly elected Chamber President Dave Phillips, owner of Davebilt Construction, is no rookie when it comes to business or working with his community. His 45 years in business and 43 years of board participation are significant milestones in any career, and he's not finished yet.

President Phillips shared that this year, the 99th year of The Lac La Biche & District Chamber of Commerce, is a pivotal point in its history. Moving into the 100th year, Phillips says, "We need to honour the past by telling our story and the story of our community." He emphasizes the importance of stabilizing relationships with local government and businesses, including encouraging past members to come back into the fold. Ensuring the Chamber bylaws are up-to-date and moving the chamber to a positive financial position will also be key priorities for Dave and the newly elected directors. ■



Put your business on the map and be part of the App by registering it on the Lac La Biche Region Business Directory at: [www.llbbusiness.com](http://www.llbbusiness.com)

Download the phone App on iTunes or Google Play. Search "Lac La Biche Region."

Telephone contact: 780-623-2662

E-mail: [contact@cfllb.com](mailto:contact@cfllb.com)

[www.cfllb.com](http://www.cfllb.com)