

May 15, 2010

Alberta's Chambers of the Year

Lethbridge, Taber, and Elk Point have been named 2009 Chambers of the Year by the Alberta Chambers of Commerce (ACC). The chambers were honoured in front of their peers on May 15 at ACC's 72nd Provincial Conference and Policy Session in Lethbridge.

The **Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce** (membership category over 300) displays leadership at the local, regional and national level. It is involved with many initiatives to enhance its southern Alberta city, with the ultimate goal of fostering a positive environment for its business members and community as a whole. Its many services include networking opportunities, a successful awards program, and education programs. The Lethbridge Chamber has long been a force in local and provincial policy development, and its strong relationships with municipal, provincial, and federal elected officials give it strength when advocating for its city and region.

The **Taber & District Chamber of Commerce** (membership category 101 to 300) is an important player in the fabric of its community. It is involved in the parade, Communities in Bloom and Midnight Madness, and its business awards dinner is a perpetual sellout. It has also teamed up with other agencies to attract families to their town with creative website videos entitled *Jack & Diane Go To Taber*. But the chamber's trademark is Cornfest, an event that celebrates the region's famous annual crop.

The **Elk Point & District Chamber** (membership category up to 100) will soon open a \$500,000 visitor information Eco-Centre fuelled by wind and solar power. The Eco-Centre is a replica of the community's original CN train station, which will become a destination for users of the historic Iron Horse Trail. It will also act as a regional education facility as the chamber is partnering with Lakeland College to hold workshops and seminars on green technologies.

The Alberta Chambers of Commerce is a federation of 124 community-based chambers of commerce representing more than 22,000 businesses.

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Photos of the award recipients are available by contacting tkemball@abchamber.ca.

For comment from the Alberta Chambers of Commerce, please contact:

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A photograph of a two-story red barn with a grey roof and white trim. In the foreground, there is a tall silver wind turbine on the left and a large blue solar panel on the right. The background shows a blue sky with white clouds and some trees. The text "Visitor Information Eco Centre Wins Award" is overlaid in the center in a blue, italicized font.

*Visitor Information
Eco Centre
Wins Award*