



## British Columbia Chamber Executives

### BCCE Newsletter - May 2015

#### BCCE Directors

##### Executive

**President:**

Allan Asaph, Executive Director  
**Abbotsford Chamber of Commerce**  
[allan@abbotsfordchamber.com](mailto:allan@abbotsfordchamber.com)

**Vice-president:**

Kim Burden, Executive Director,  
**Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce**  
[kim@parkvillechamber.com](mailto:kim@parkvillechamber.com)

**Secretary:**

Fieny Van den Boom, Executive Director  
**Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce**  
[fieny@chilliwackchamber.com](mailto:fieny@chilliwackchamber.com)

**Treasurer:**

John Devitt, General Manager,  
**Penticton and Wine County Chamber of Commerce**  
[manager@penticton.org](mailto:manager@penticton.org)

**Past President:**

Maureen Czirfusz, Executive

#### 2015 BCCE Conference & AGM Cove Lakeside Resort, West Kelowna

The Conference Committee have been hard at work planning the 2015 BCCE Conference to be held at the Cove Lakeside Resort on beautiful Okanagan Lake. The Conference theme this year is "Leadership". They are guaranteeing a great learning experience as well as a weekend of fun and relaxation. [REGISTER HERE](#)  
To book your room call 1-877-762-2683

#### Bursary Applications to Attend Chamber Events

In order to provide opportunities for all Chambers to participate in and benefit from Chamber focused events the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, the BC Chamber of Commerce and your BCCE offer bursaries to help cover the costs of attending. **In addition the ACCE is offering a bursary to Canadian Chamber Executives for their August Conference in Montreal. Contact me at [kim@parkvillechamber.com](mailto:kim@parkvillechamber.com) for an application form.**

For Canadian Chamber and BCCE Application Forms follow the link below:  
[BCCE Bursary Applications](#)

#### BC Chamber Conference & Joint BCCE Training Session May 24 - 26 Prince George Conference Centre.

The BC Chamber Conference is always a highlight featuring an excellent line-up of speakers and presentations providing valuable information and insight to Chamber Staff and

Director ,  
**Houston & District Chamber  
of Commerce**  
[manager@houstonchamber.ca](mailto:manager@houstonchamber.ca)

## Directors

Bruce Carter, CEO  
**Greater Victoria Chamber of  
Commerce**  
[bcarter@gvcc.org](mailto:bcarter@gvcc.org)

Susan Clovechok, Executive  
Director,  
**Columbia Valley Chamber of  
Commerce**  
[susan@cvchamber.ca](mailto:susan@cvchamber.ca)

Patti Noonan, Manager  
**Armstrong Spallumcheen  
Chamber of Commerce**  
[manager@aschamber.com](mailto:manager@aschamber.com)

Trish Parsons, Executive  
Director,  
**Kitimat Chamber of  
Commerce**  
[tparsons@kitimatchamber.ca](mailto:tparsons@kitimatchamber.ca)

Louise Ranger, President &  
General Manager  
**North Vancouver Chamber of  
Commerce**  
[louise@nvchamber.ca](mailto:louise@nvchamber.ca)

Volunteers.

The opening session of the conference is put on by your BC Chamber Executives and the BC Chamber. This year the topic is "Branding". The session will include a panel discussion on better branding practices and a workshop. To register for the conference click [HERE](#)

## The Fingerprints of Chamber Leadership

*John Devitt*

*Bonnie Dancey, Chief Executive Officer South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce*

It is often said, "Once you've seen one Chamber, you've seen one Chamber." In our positions as Managers, Executive Directors and CEOs, we all bring something unique to our Chambers and have had experiences unique to each of us.

Bonnie is one of the BCCE's most experienced CEO. She has 22 years of experience as the CEO, first as the CEO with the Osoyoos Chamber of Commerce for 10 years, and now service as the CEO of the South Okanagan Chamber for the past 12 years.

### **1. What is the unique skill set, or 'special sauce' you bring to this position that no one else can?**

*Patience. An insurmountable amount of patience. I think when you work with a Board of Directors; it is the most valuable attribute. In all those years with all those Boards, patience is what I bring and has kept me here.*

### **2. What is the biggest challenge you've faced in your role?**

*The biggest challenge I believe was when a Chamber was being taken over by an Economic Development Association. It turned into a legal battle that ensued between the Chamber Board and the town. As the staff person, I was torn and yet, you have to follow what your Board was doing. There were volatile personalities involved. My patience certainly helped me through.*

### **3. What is the biggest success you've achieved in your role?**

*I think the amalgamation of the three chambers Osoyoos, Oliver, and Okanagan Falls. It was a 6 month process of going through meetings and discussing how things were going to happen. It worked out well in the end. The members benefit from having a larger trade area amongst themselves. There are challenges we still face, the towns don't really get it, but the members do. Chambers tend to lead the way, and it takes a little while for government to catch up. We started this*

*process in 2007, I think the local area governments are starting to see they should be doing the same thing and working in a regional context.*

**4. If you could ask for one piece of advice from your fellow managers, what would it be?**

*My biggest struggle is that no matter what the size, as Chambers, we all do basically the same things. We're all overworked and over interrupted every day. Smaller chambers struggle with staffing to balance the workload. I would love to hear everyone's opinion on how they cope and deal with the workload.*

**5. If you could share one piece of advice with your fellow managers, what would it be?**

*I would tell them to give their Board its glory. Every accomplishment should go to the Board. That's important for longevity in the role. It has worked for me. I am quite willing to give the Board the glory for everything we do, regardless of their involvement.*

**You can contact Bonnie directly to say hello and share wisdom:**

250-498-6321 ext 201

[manager@sochamber.ca](mailto:manager@sochamber.ca)

## Join the BCCE Facebook Group

A new communication tool has been added to the mix. I am sure we re all

familiar with the way Facebook works. The address for the BCCE Group page

is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1527614727506504/> and as this is a closed group you need to ask the Communication Committee if you can join and OF COURSE YOU AS A BCCE MEMBER CAN.

## Your Submissions are Welcome

Your Communication Committee are looking for your contribution to this monthly newsletter.

If you have a Chamber Program you would like to highlight submit to Kim Burden [kim@parksvillechamber.com](mailto:kim@parksvillechamber.com)

To help our members get to know each other we will be running member profiles. To submit your profile contact Marie Birkbeck - [info@valemountchamber.com](mailto:info@valemountchamber.com)

If you have a super tip for the Tip of the Month contact John Devitt - [manager@penticton.org](mailto:manager@penticton.org)

## BC Chamber Executives Societies

## Resources

The British Columbia Chamber Executives Society offers education, resources, and networking support among managers of Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in British Columbia.

The Chamber Manager position is unique and the BC Chamber Executives aims to make you and your chamber a success.

If you are an experienced chamber manager ready for an update or a new manager just appointed, just lock the door, take the phone off the hook, take 15 minutes and review the helpful information found [HERE](#)