

2022 SPRING EDITION



Williams Lake & District
**CHAMBER of
COMMERCE**

NEWSLETTER



***THE VOICE
OF BUSINESS***

MEMBER SPOTLIGHTS:

- Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society
- Margetts Meat Market
- Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin
- Taseko Mines
- Windsor Plywood

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Williams Lake & District
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President's Message

Welcome to all our new members and a thank you to all our current members for their ongoing support and commitment to the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce, we value everyone's participation. Your support allows the Chamber to provide its members ongoing services and benefits.



We are looking forward to the changing season and the activities that come with spring in the Cariboo. The staff at the Chamber and Visitor Centre are busy planning activities for Chamber members and welcoming visitors to the district. Some of the activities planned for our members are touched on by Talia McKay, our Executive Assistant in her message on page 3. Last year we had 18,046 travellers stop at the Visitor Centre, and we are looking forward to increased numbers in 2022 as gathering and travel restrictions are eased.

As you know Covid restrictions prevented us from having our regularly scheduled monthly general meetings and business lunches. We have initiated those luncheons again and we are planning a variety of interesting guest speakers this year. The lunches are held on the last Thursday of every month except August and December. They are a great opportunity to hear speakers discuss a wide range of topics that can be of local interest but also cover topics that are beyond our region. The monthly meeting is a great way to meet and network with others in the community. We will see you there!

I look forward to working with everyone for the remainder of the year.

Dave Walgren

President, Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

Businesses working together to make our community even better

The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

is "The Voice of Business": Businesses working together towards economic and social well being to make our community a better place to live. We promote the well being of business and foster a work, shop and play at home atmosphere.



Talia's Take

I always look forward to the change of seasons, getting outside with the longer days and continuing to explore our area and trails! With nicer weather and longer days, we look forward to the 2022 tourist season and what's to come here at the Tourism Discovery Centre. Our doors are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 – 5:00pm. Starting in June, we are open 7 days a week 9:00am – 6:00pm!

We welcome anyone to stop by and check out what's new in the Gift Shop, walk through the Museum, grab a coffee or a cold drink, say hi or hit the trails behind the Tourism Discovery Centre. In this newsletter, there are a few coupons to take

advantage of here at the TDC. If you're looking for ideas on things to do in the area, there are staff that are eager to help you plan your adventures or suggest new ones.

We continue to host monthly Chamber Member lunches on the last Thursday of each month, excluding August and December. For anyone interested in becoming a chamber member or have questions please reach out.

We have an exciting year planned with events such as Junk in The Trunk, Spring Gear Swap, and the 5th Annual Golf Tournament, just to name a few. Stay tuned for details and follow us on our Facebook and Instagram page for updates on what is happening.

Instagram: [Williams_lake_visitor_centre](#)
 Facebook: [Tourism Discovery Centre](#)
 Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce

Talia McKay, Executive Assistant



Member to Member 2022

Any members looking to join the member to member program, or if you have questions about it, contact Talia at 250-392-5025 or talia@wlchamber.ca

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Mayor's Message by Mayor Walt Cobb

As we continue to work through the twists and turns of the pandemic, I know we are all looking forward to Spring, and more opportunities to get outside and enjoy our many parks and trails. With the Williams Lake Daybreak Rotary Club working on plans for a new bouldering park, we are excited to have another fun option for outdoor adventures.



<https://www.williamslake.ca/DocumentCenter/View/4006/Economic-Indicators-2021>. This report summarizes the major projects and incentives undertaken last year, and is a reflection of how resilient our business community is when faced with the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

All of the City's available funding through the third intake of COVID Hardship Grants has now been allocated. Twenty grants were awarded to non-profit organizations serving the Williams Lake community, for a total of \$25,000. We are pleased to be able to support these organizations that help make Williams Lake such an amazing place to live.

Investment continues in Williams Lake - it's wonderful to see new great additions to the commercial corridor such as the new Chuck's redevelopment on Mackenzie Avenue. I am also looking forward to construction of the River Valley Boardwalk connecting Williams Lake to the River Valley Trailhead, which is expected to break ground this Spring.

The City of Williams Lake's 2021 Economic Indicators are now posted on the website

The Business Façade program funded by Northern Development Initiative Trust will

cont'd. on page 5 >>>

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FROM PAGE 4...

continue this year, following the success of six projects in 2021. Applications will be open earlier this year (March 1 – 31) so businesses can get an early start in the Spring. We are pleased by the ongoing success of this initiative, which provides an incentive to business owners to improve the look of their commercial properties.

The Housing Incentive Program, launched by Northern Development Initiative Trust in 2019, is aimed at creating density in the very tight northern region housing market. The program provides a reimbursement to the developer once an occupancy permit has been issued, offering \$10,000 per door. The minimum project size is a four-unit development, with a maximum of \$200,000 in rebates available. A second project under this program was completed at the end of 2021 by local contractor Titan Construction. The four-plex development on Mackenzie Avenue added four three-bedroom units to the available rental stock in Williams Lake, and is a very welcome addition to our housing inventory.

The civil works required for the Cariboo Memorial Hospital Expansion Project will begin this Spring. We are very excited for this important development to kick off, and are looking forward to the many essential opportunities this will provide for our community.

The City was excited to receive a \$50,000 anonymous donation to the newly-established Williams Lake Endowment Fund at the end of 2021. While the Prince George Community Foundation (PGCF) holds and manages the

fund for the City, the City retains control of how the income earned annually will be spent in the community. Through the fund, the City of Williams Lake will be able to offer grants to community groups and organizations covering a broad spectrum of needs including recreation, health, the arts, the environment and education. In future years, the hope is these funds will come from interest earned from the endowment rather than the City's annual budget funded by taxpayers.

Phase 2 of the Williams Lake Regional Airport terminal building improvements was completed in 2021 with the support of NDIT funding. The passenger experience has been enhanced by façade work on the exterior of the terminal, a new timber framed entrance canopy, and interior upgrades. Thankfully, the airport has both airlines currently operating four flights per week, which is close to pre-pandemic levels. If you haven't been there lately, you are sure to be impressed by the improvements!

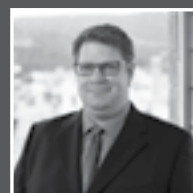
With the Daybreak Rotary Club stepping down from organizing the annual Williams Lake Stampede parade, the City is currently seeking interest from other community groups to host future parades. I would like to thank the Daybreak Rotary Club for their years of hard work organizing this amazing event, and hope we can continue this tradition for years to come. I am hopeful we will have a parade as well as a Stampede this year. Keep your fingers crossed!

Walt Cobb
Mayor, City of Williams Lake



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The Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce staff wore pink in support of Pink Shirt Day on February 23rd.



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society**

The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society, a Chamber member for six years now, is often confused with Scout Island and the Potato House, and while we work closely with both groups, we ARE quite separate.

The Conservation Society is probably best known for our work in the classroom through our Water Wise and Waste Wise education programs. If your children have ever come home lecturing you about recycling or turning off the taps, you can thank us for that.

Our programs, however, have had a very real impact on our communities. For instance, since the Water Wise program began 16 years ago, water consumption in Williams Lake has decreased by over 27.8% – and this is accounting for changes in weather patterns and population. Less water use means we're ultimately saving taxpayer dollars in the costs of water treatment and wastewater systems.

We also run many programs in the community – too many to mention here. One of our favourites is the gleaning program where participating farms let us glean extra vegetables at harvest time which are stored in our root cellar for donation to food banks during the winter. We also run social reuse programs for bikes, skates, and clothing, and we publish a Cariboo Chilcotin, Coast parks and trails guide. This is just a small sample of our work.

It is important to note that our mandate is to promote a healthy environment as the basis of a strong economy and vibrant society. We are NOT anti-industry, we are PRO sustainability.

We joined the Chamber of Commerce as a means to make contacts within the business community. We can help your business set up green workspaces; provide staff with in-house recycling solutions, compost coaching, and water conservation education; supply water wise and waste wise office



Businesses that sign up to be a Green Event Host will receive recommendations from CCCS staff for eco-friendly food packaging options, like the samples pictured here.

signage; and ultimately set you on a greener path.

We're especially proud of our Green Events program designed for meetings, events, and other gatherings that generate waste. If your business signs up as a Green Event Host, our staff can assess your waste streams; provide bins, signage, training, and promotional materials; and make recommendations for catering practices like using reusable dishware or

sustainable disposable products. After the event, we weigh every bin and provide you with post-event metrics. A past TRU gala generated almost 95 pounds of waste, but thanks to their participation in this program, only 8 lbs actually went to the landfill – a diversion rate of 91%.

The best part is that we offer all of these programs at no cost to your business.

The Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society can help you achieve your corporate responsibility goals, increase company morale, and provide you with some great PR opportunities as a green organization. For more information, please email Amber, our Program Coordinator, at coordinator@conservationsociety.ca.

Written by: Vanessa Moberg

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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **Margetts Meat Market**

Back in 1985, John and Maureen Margetts opened a small store downtown and over the years, moved three times before being presently located across from the stampede grounds. John's brother Steve joined him in 1986 and together they have made this locally owned spot "the best place to meat in town". Margetts Meat Market will be 37 this fall!

The store currently offers some custom cutting but runs mostly on the retail and wholesale side, offering home smoked sausage and in-house fresh frying sausage as well. Margetts Meats is proud to still

be dealing with most of the same suppliers as they started out with. Pork and chicken are supplied from the Hutterite Colony in Peace View, which keep customers coming back regularly. Alberta beef is always in the case and the fresh chicken is from Colonial Farms in Armstrong.

The store carries many local products including honey, bread and baking, coffee, homemade meals, spices, mustards, and garlic products. There is also a special stock of South African groceries. During the summer months local farmers bring in fresh produce! The store offers milk and dairy products from Avalon dairy as



The team at Margetts will help you find the right cut for your family

well as many cheeses and deli meats.

The butchers are more than happy to cut any special requests including juicy steaks for the BBQ or something for the smoker! The fish freezer is full of wild caught fish and many sea food options.

This local business is very appreciative of all the many customers from near and far and would like to thank everyone for being such loyal customers! Stop by and have a look around!

Written by: Pam Lussier



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin**

Every place you've been and every place you will go holds a rich historical past, and the Cariboo Chilcotin is no exception.

The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin Society, formerly known as The Williams Lake Museum and Heritage Society, was founded in 1987. The museum operated out of a building on 4th Ave, across from Kiwanis Park for many years before moving in 2017 to the Tourism Discovery Centre just off Highway 97 which is operated by the Williams Lake & District Chamber of Commerce. The move presented some challenges; however, the new location has given the museum the opportunity to cycle through their collection and create new exhibits, highlighting as much of this region's history as possible.

The museum is located on the main and lower floors of the Tourism Discovery Centre. It offers local information on our famous stampede, ranches and ranch families, indigenous peoples history, the PGE railway, industry, mining, and many more exhibits on Williams Lake and the Cariboo Chilcotin. The museum is also home to the BC Cowboy Hall of Fame. The BC Cowboy Hall of Fame cabin features all the inductees and showcases their accomplishments. There is a slideshow of current inductees, information about everyone in the hall of fame, trophies, buckles, cowboy gear, tack, and many pictures.

On average, the Museum gets around 2,400 visitors a year and they are always encouraging more people to come visit. The museum provides many tools to research the history in this region and offers a whole team of individuals who are willing to help anyone who walks in the door. The



Visit the Museum year-round. The friendly staff would love to see you!

museum is a non-profit organization and works hard to fundraise for its projects. The staff operates with a board of directors who ensure the museum has a bright future.

With the space the museum is currently in, they rotate displays and move new artifacts through the cases annually. The museums most

recent addition to their collection is an exhibit called "The Laketown". The museums project coordinator, Casey Bennett, organized a display that showcases old photos of downtown Williams Lake. These photos are dated back to the 1920's and were all taken by local photographers. This exhibit was possible because of the support from The Central Cariboo Arts & Culture Society (CCACS).

To see new exhibits and artifacts, the museum offers group tours for all ages. They also offer free admission to the exhibits and are open year-round. The Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin is where history of this area is stored for all future generations to enjoy. The museum is extremely thankful for the support this community has given them all these years and they are grateful to be a tribute to this region's past. Come visit the museum and find out how history connects us all!

For upcoming events and collection updates, find them on Instagram and Facebook or visit their website www.cowboy-museum.com.

Written by: Karena Sokolan

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **Taseko Mines**

Taseko's history in the Cariboo region is long-standing, having operated the Gibraltar Mine for nearly 20 years. If you're reading this article, you may be a supplier of ours, have a family member who works for us, or consider yourself a friend or supporter. If you are, you may know there have been some changes at our head office in Vancouver. But while names and faces may have changed, what remains the same is our commitment to the region and our focus on excellence.

For those of you I haven't met, my name is Stuart McDonald. In June of last year, I was named President & CEO of Taseko Mines, owner and operator of the Gibraltar copper mine north of Williams Lake, after serving previous terms as the Company's CFO and President.

In addition to my appointment, there have been other changes and additions to Taseko's senior management team in Vancouver. Some of those changes include the appointment of Richard Tremblay as Sn. VP Operations, and the addition of Sean Magee to our team as VP Corporate Affairs.

Our new executive, led by myself, has inherited some tremendous strengths from its predecessors. Taseko is well known throughout BC for our record of operational excellence, exceptional health & safety performance and environmental responsibility. It's a reputation based in large part on the exceptional performance of the site team at Gibraltar, the company's foundational asset.

We are also proud that Gibraltar continues to be largest employer in the Cariboo, supporting more than 700 full-time, well paid jobs. Taseko has created employment, contracting opportunities and other economic benefits for the people, families and communities of the Cariboo region, and will continue to do so for many years.

While Taseko remains fully 'Committed to the Cariboo,' we are also standing at the threshold of



Taseko Mines - Focused on Excellence

the next major phase in our company's development. There are a number of important milestones on the horizon that will transition Taseko to a multi-asset, mid-tier copper producer, and an industry leader in terms of operational efficiency and environmental performance.

The first is the arrival of Taseko's second operating asset, Florence Copper in Arizona. Once federal permitting is finalized, we will embark on an 18-month, ~\$230 million construction project to bring this unique, low-impact copper operation into production.

Bringing Florence to commercial production will be a major milestone, and transformative for our Company, with the addition of 85 million pounds of annual copper production at low cash costs.

The second initiative is pursuit of the Yellowhead Project in the Thompson-Nicola region of BC. Yellowhead has potential to produce 180 million pounds of copper per year for 25 years and will have an operating profile very similar to that of Gibraltar.

Taseko is actively engaged in discussions with local First Nations and communities as we advance planning for the Yellowhead Project and prepare to enter the Environmental Assessment process.

These are exciting times for our company. As we continue to grow, expand our production of copper and other metals that society needs for the transition to a low-carbon future, we have the potential to generate even greater benefits for our workforce, our business partners and our operating communities.

In doing so, we will continue to build our reputation as a leading copper producer across a range of key dimensions: operational efficiency; healthy and safe workplaces; innovative and environmentally sound operations; and a strong commitment to the local communities in which we operate.

Stuart McDonald, President & CEO

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT Windsor Plywood



Serving Cariboo Chilcotin for many years and looking forward to many more.

I was hired at Windsor Plywood in 1994. I started as a yard employee but wanted to work in the store. So, I became a salesperson, then assistant manager and finally manager. Being a manager made me want to become an owner. In 2005, my wife and I were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to purchase the store and become franchise owners.

Over the years, I have tried to stay involved in our community. I have played soccer and sat on their executive for a number of years. I was a member of the Williams Lake Construction Association board and I am currently a member of the Williams Lake Golf and Tennis Club board and enjoy being a part of that team. I have thoroughly enjoyed each association that I have been involved with and I look forward to any new endeavors that the future will bring. I also like to support local kids sports, schools and various non-profit associations when I can.

Our Windsor Plywood is a full-service building supply store. We carry everything including nuts and bolts, drywall, paint, lumber, flooring, mouldings, as well as windows and doors including a full-service door shop with 2 full time door technicians. We try to carry it all.

I have been fortunate enough to have employees that are loyal and hardworking, and I would like to express my extreme gratitude to them for their support throughout the years. We have been successful because we all work together as a team. I would also like to thank all my customers. It is because of their support and loyalty that Windsor Plywood Williams Lake has continued to grow. Finally, I would like to thank my family. My

wife, Trina, for her encouragement and support over the years, and our three beautiful daughters, Kendall, Brynn and Edyn, for their love and patience in having a business owner for a father.

I have watched our wonderful town grow over the years and I am more than excited for the future and what it will bring. I look forward to being a solid supporter of any future development and progress in our community.

I cannot say enough positive things about the Windsor Plywood family and the support that they provide to franchise owners. I have learned so much over the years and I look forward to continuing to learn. I tell my staff that the nice thing about this industry is that you never know everything, there is always something new to learn, and that that knowledge and diversity can open many different doors in the future.

Sincerely,
Daryle Halfnights
Owner/Operator



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Thoughts from Victoria

Hopefully by the time you're reading this newsletter, the birds will be chirping, and the snow will have melted. Which means spring is here!



Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the Williams Lake and District Chamber of Commerce general meeting in January. I am truly grateful to organizations like yours that everyday advocate for businesses in our community and collectively for the businesses in BC.

I know that I am not introducing anything new or shocking by saying this but, this has without question been the most challenging time that businesses have dealt with! The efforts you have all put forward to continue to serve us and continue to drive employment in this province does not go unnoticed!

I feel I can speak on behalf of the members of this great Chamber in thanking the volunteers of this organization who have continued to put the needs of businesses to the top of the list during these challenging times. They have continued to try different ways of promoting the Chamber but also have tried different avenues to keep us all connected.

Lorne Doerkson - MLA
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Lorne Doerkson
MLA for Cariboo-Chilcotin

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Todd Doherty, Member of Parliament, Cariboo-Prince George

Friends,

First, I hope this finds you all well. I know the last few months have continued to be trying for all, but despite these challenges, we remain even more resolute in our fight to bring your voice to Ottawa.

For two years now, Canadians have been living with pandemic restrictions. Two years of lockdowns and isolation have worsened Canada's mental health crisis and continue to hurt our most vulnerable. These restrictions have also resulted in the temporary and permanent closures of countless businesses across our region and throughout our country. There are businesses struggling to remain afloat; waiting for relief or a response to funding applications submitted in early 2021 and have yet to be approved.

This is simply unacceptable, this is not sustainable, and the people of our region deserve better.

We need a plan to get us out of the pandemic, to end federal restrictions and mandates so Canadians can get their lives back. Countries like Ireland, Sweden, Norway, Israel, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Spain, and Denmark, among others, are all removing restrictions and mandates, despite having lower vaccination rates than Canada.



Todd Doherty

Member of Parliament (Cariboo-Prince George)

1520 - 3rd Avenue, Prince George, British Columbia

Telephone 250-564-7771

Email: Todd.Doherty@parl.gc.ca



In February, I was proud to vote for a Conservative motion that called on Justin Trudeau to present a plan to end federal mandates and restrictions. I believe that, after two years and given the high vaccination rates in Canada, this was a more than reasonable motion to provide some much-needed hope. Unfortunately, our motion was defeated by the Liberals and their NDP partners.

The frustration over the continued restrictions amongst vaccinated and unvaccinated Canadians alike boiled over last month, as demonstrations emerged in Windsor, Emerson, Surrey, Coutts and in our nation's capital.

From the beginning of the demonstrations, before the trucks even arrived in Ottawa, Justin Trudeau dismissed those with legitimate concerns and frustrations with his government as a "small fringe minority"; people who held "unacceptable views" and questioned whether we should "tolerate" them.

On February 14th, 2022, without any attempt to engage meaningfully with demonstrators or understand their concerns, and without taking any steps to turn the temperature down, Justin Trudeau invoked the Emergencies Act for the first time in its history. At this point, blockades across the country were already removed.

As a result of the Emergencies Act invocation, Justin Trudeau gave himself unprecedented powers to freeze the bank accounts of his political opponents; Canadians who donated to support the demonstration. I spoke against this power grab in the House of Commons and was proud to join my Conservative colleagues and vote against it.

While the blockades may be removed, the frustration over Justin Trudeau's pandemic restrictions remain. Canadians want to get back to normal and deserve hope and a plan from their Prime Minister.

On top of pandemic frustrations, home prices continue to rise every month and since Justin Trudeau came to office, home prices in Canada have nearly doubled. Canadians are feeling the impacts of inflation at the gas pumps, the grocery store and on their home heating bill. Again, this is not sustainable, and Canadians deserve better. Conservatives will continue to propose reasonable solutions to tackle the inflation crisis and get government spending under control.

I know these last few years have been tough. We all want to get back to normal life and live free of restrictions. Our country is divided, and Canadians are hurting. This, too, is not sustainable and this too shall pass.

As we move out of the pandemic, we must look to the future with hope and optimism. Better days are ahead.

Todd Doherty, MP
Cariboo-Prince George



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~MAY - OCTOBER~



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Cariboo Regional District Camping



Site	Showers	Drinking H2O	Playground	Sani-Dump	Fires	Wi-fi	Boat Launch	Pit/Flush Toilets	Accessible	Picnic Areas
Bull Canyon Rec Site	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Pit	Y	Y
Nazko Lakes PP	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Ladies Creek Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Ghost Lake Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Tsylos PP	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Pit	N	Y
Tatloycoko Lake Rec Site	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	Y
Horsefly Lake PP	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	Y	Y
Cedar Point PP	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	Y	Y
Messy Owl Eco Haven	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	Sewer	N	Y
Woodland Fishin Resort	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	Y
Elysia Resort	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	Y
Barney's Lakeside Resort	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Both	N	Y
Crooked Lake Resort	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	Y
Plato Island Resort	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	Y
Bosk Lake N Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Crooked Lake Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Elbow Lake Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Horsefly River Rec Site	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Pit	N	N
Terra Nostra Guest Ranch	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Flush	N	N
Cariboo Bonanza	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	FEE	Y	Flush	N	Y
Fawn Lake Resort	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Both	N	Y
Sheridan Lake Resort	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	Y
Cottonwood Bay Resort	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Flush	N	Y
Loon Bay Resort	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Both	N	Y
Canim Lake Resort	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	FEE	Y	Flush	N	Y
South Point Resort	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	N
Kayanara Guest Ranch	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Flush	N	Y
Rainbow Resort	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Flush	N	N
Morehead Lake		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		N	
Mcleese Lake Resort	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Both	N	N
Chilcofin Lodge	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N		N	N

Resource found at www.explorecaiboo.com

For more information, local amenities, seasonal itineraries, and things to do
www.explorecaiboo.com #explorecaiboo

Chamber Chatter - What's happening!

“Spark into Christmas” was a huge success filling two truckloads of donations for the seniors in our community. This was our second time holding this event with the theme being “Winter Wonderland”.

People from our community came in and dropped off items from blankets to gift cards, puzzles and many more heart felt gifts. This included a very special lady who is over 100 years old knitting more than 30 pairs of slippers for the cause. Thank you, Williams Lake and Area!

Looking to make a big catch this spring? With an estimated 8,000 lakes to choose from in the Cariboo Chilcotin area, visitors and locals have



the option to rent our fishing gear for free at the TDC. Thanks to the “Go Fish” program, renters will have access to fishing rods, ice fishing rods, an auger, and many tackle boxes filled with all the basic supplies you would

need. Don't know how to fish or still learning? Don't worry! Every tackle box has an easy-to-follow guide with instructions on how to use equipment, common types of fish in British Columbia, and instructions on how to fish humanely and safely. Renting our supplies is an easy process - all you need is a valid freshwater fishing license, and we do the rest! If you don't have a freshwater fishing license, we can issue them right at the TDC. The staff here at the Visitor

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Chamber Chatter - What's happening!

Centre are more than happy to direct you to local fishing spots or to remote lakes for a weekend of quiet fishing.

Visitors from around the globe have been stopping in to check out the **Tourism Discovery Centre** (TDC). We've had visitors from Australia, Germany, Switzerland, and some from the southern States come in these past couple months. It is always interesting to hear their stories and to introduce them to Williams Lake and our surrounding areas. In previous years, during the summer months, visitors from all over the world would come and ask for areas to explore. In 2019, we had over 500 visitors from Europe in the span of 5 months. Not to mention the visitors from the United States, Mexico, Asia, and Australia which added approximately 467 visitors bringing that year's total visitors to 28,000! The staff at the Visitor Centre are once again extremely excited to welcome our global visitors in 2022 to our beautiful area which we all call home.

Don't forget about our 3rd annual **"Junk in the Trunk"** which is taking place on Saturday, April 9th. We are also hosting our first ever **"Outdoor Gear Swap"** on Saturday, April 23rd. Finally, our **5th Annual Golf Tournament** is set to take place on June 4th. If you have any questions about these or any other of our upcoming events, please call at 250-392-5025.

Written by Madalyn Watts



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The Williams Lake Cycling Club

Who We Are and What We Do



Photo: Scott Horley, unknown riders, Fox Fire trail, Fox Mountain trail network.

The Williams Lake Cycling Club (WLCC) has been in existence since 2005 but was predated by the Puddlebike Club that had existed since the nineties. The WLCC was born of necessity as there was pressure to maintain the rogue trails that volunteers had built or face losing those trails surrounding Williams Lake. In 2008 the club entered into a maintenance agreement with the Province of BC legalizing the trails, and in 2009 became partners with the City of Williams Lake. The legal trail status and the club's agreements allowed the city to use mountain biking in their attraction and retention strategies for professionals.

From the club's mission statement, its primary purpose is to maintain, enhance and develop a sustainable mountain bike trail network. Also,

part of that statement is to organize volunteers and to facilitate education in proper trail building and maintenance techniques while fostering the appreciation and enjoyment of the sport. One last element of the club's mission statement is to promote mountain biking in Williams Lake and area as a beneficial economic activity for local businesses. This statement was written at the club's inception and still holds true to this day.

Recent history and a pandemic have shown the value and necessity of outdoor recreation and if it can be truly world class, even better. Williams Lake has been dubbed the 'Shangri La of mountain biking' and with more than 150 trails and over 300 km of singletrack accessible from anywhere in town, what more could one ask for? How about no crowds and a trail diversity so rich, that the most difficult thing to do is choose which trail to ride?

To add to that dilemma, the WLCC is always working on new trails and doing targeted maintenance on specific trails. New for 2022 is a machine-built flow trail in the Fox Mountain network. Over \$230,000 was invested to create this 'flowy' trail that includes endless berms, turns, jumps and wooden features; it is going to be extremely popular and will be a 'destination' type trail. The club will also be doing heavy



cont'd. on page 21 >>>

FROM PAGE 20...

tuning and maintenance on other favourite trails in the Fox network, with Aflo Daddy and Mitch’s Brew getting most of the attention. Shuttlebunny will also see a new alternative, built to avoid the lowest section of the gully and to give younger riders an easier route to the bottom of Fox Mountain.

Hung, a trail in the Westside network will also be receiving a major face lift as the club will be dirt capping the rougher sections and building new technical trail features (TTF) along the route.

The club will be planning at least two trail maintenance days, one in the spring and the fall, and there is a chance monthly “Buff Mondays” will continue as well. This program, advertised on our Facebook (FB) page targets specific trails for a few hours of dedicated work. Our FB page can be accessed for all the latest updates and mountain bike events planned by the club.

One upcoming club event will be the grand opening of the new Fox Mountain flow trail. It is planned for the weekend of June 11, 2022 and will involve a ribbon cutting ceremony, the revealing of the trail name and a dunk tank that we are hoping will attract local dignitaries. More details to follow, but this is something you will not want to miss.

The WLCC would not be where it is now without its partners. As club President, I would like to thank the Williams Lake First Nation, upon whose land we recreate; Rec Sites and Trails BC, with whom the club holds its agreement; the City of Williams Lake and the CRD, who financially aid the club with annual maintenance funding; NDIT, who has provided more than \$600,000 for trail projects; New Path Forestry and First Journey Trails, who have done the majority of paid maintenance in the networks; Tolko Mills, the Credit Union, the Rotary Club, Williams Lake Wanderers club, and you, the fine citizens of Williams Lake who sustain the club and use the trails. You can support the WLCC and its endeavours by becoming a member at <https://spruceregistrations.com/wlcc/register> for find the club on FB or Instagram.

Written by: Shawn, WLCC President.



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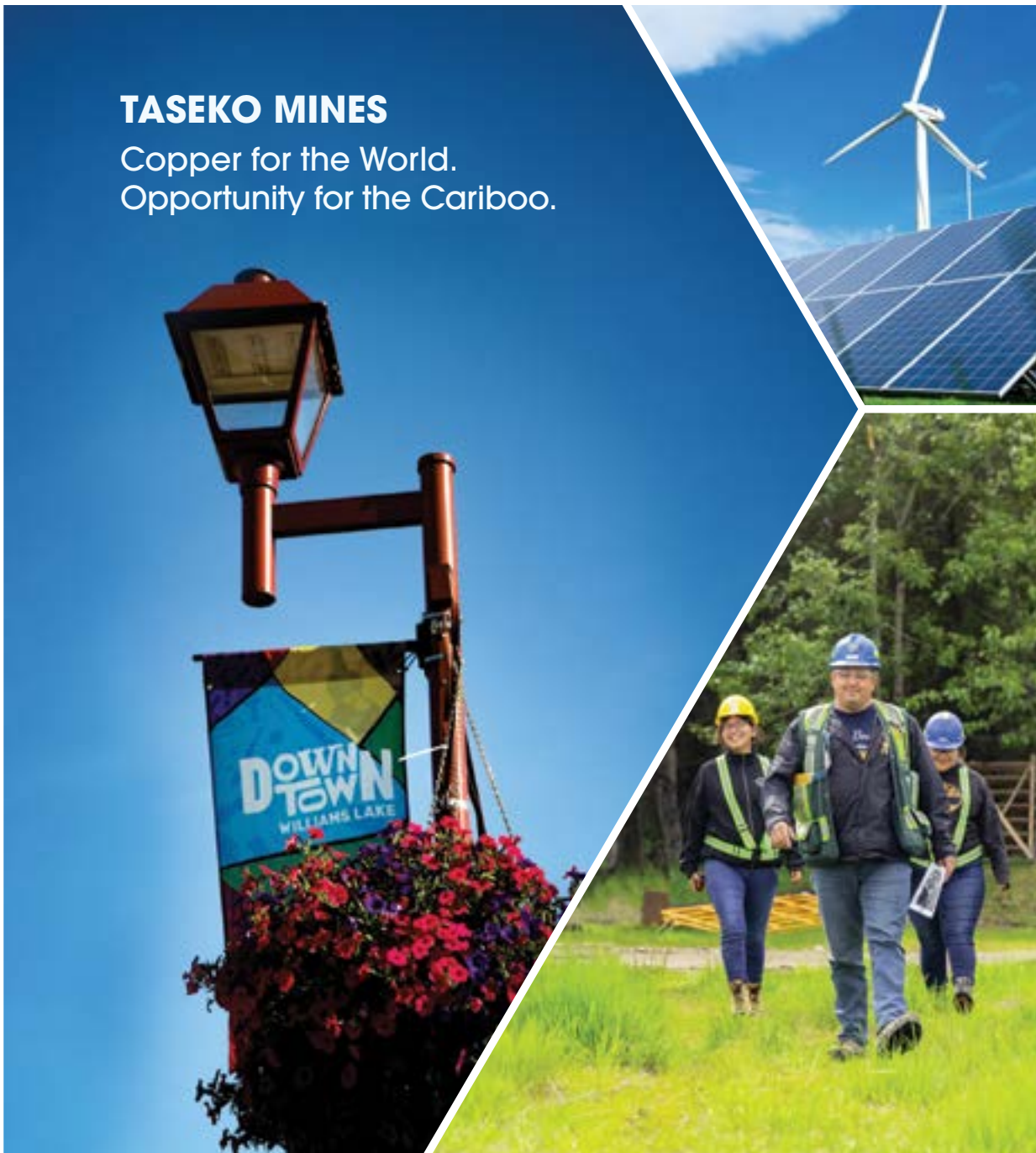
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