



JUST THE FAX

Newsletter of the Morden and District Chamber of Commerce

www.mordenchamber.com

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TOO LONG? TOO SHORT? JUST RIGHT?

Recently the subject of work week hours has been discussed. Manitoba's work week has been set at 40 hours for many years now – in today's business climate, is this still viable? Or should we consider changing it?

It seems that with some trades there is too much work to accomplish in 40 hours without increasing costs through overtime.

Is this a function of too much work; not enough staff; scheduling issues; or not enough hours in the day?

What do you think?

REVIEW OF GIFT CARD LEGISLATION COMPLETE

Following input from Manitobans, consumer organizations and business, there will be no change to provincial legislation prohibiting expiry dates and fees on most gift cards.

In November 2007, *the Manitoba government made changes to the Consumer Protection Act to prohibit:*

- **expiry dates**, except if the card is for a specific good or service or the card was issued at no cost and;
- a supplier from **charging a fee** for a gift card except to customize it or to replace a lost or stolen card, or if the card can be used to purchase goods or services at multiple unaffiliated sellers and was inactive for 12 months.

FREE SEMINARS FROM COMMUNITY FUTURES HEARTLAND

Community Futures Heartland offers free video conferencing business seminars in the *Winkler Chamber* Board Room. All seminars are open to everyone whether you are just starting a business or have been in business for many years. The information provided in these ½ day events are topical and will give you tips and tools to improve the way you handle many different situations. To register call **1-877-472-7122**. Each seminar is described on their website: www.cfheartland.ca.

Oct 26 – Microsoft Office Word 2003 – Tips for Small Business/Microsoft Office Excel 2003 – Tips for Small Business; **Oct 27** – PowerPoint 2003 – Tips for Powerful Professional Presentations; **Oct 28** – CRA Small Business Tax Info Workshop; **Oct 29** – How to Start a Business in Manitoba; **Nov 2** – Seven Business Questions for Artists; **Nov 3** – Opportunities & Pitfalls of High Risk Capital; **Nov 6** – How to Buy a Franchise; **Nov 9** – Time Management & Goal Setting; **Nov 10** – Developing Proposals; **Nov 12**–Comment lancer une entreprise au Manitoba.

BR+E SURVEYS COMPLETED

The *Morden Chamber of Commerce* has now completed the survey portion of the **Business Retention & Expansion Project**. The data has been compiled and is now in the hands of our Consultant. It is hoped that the report will be ready for presentation to community stakeholders by the end of November.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS GET THE WORD OUT!

The *Morden Chamber of Commerce* and *Manitoba Agriculture, Food & Rural Initiatives* are hosting the next in our series of complimentary breakfast networking events for local Business Women. Mark your calendars and register for **"Get the Word Out – Promote your Business & Prepare for Success"** at **7:30 a.m. Wednesday, October 28th** in **Morden's Heartland Books & Café**. Seating is limited so call **822-5461** or **822-5630** to register today.

OLYMPIC TORCH WILL SHINE IN MORDEN

The **Olympic Torch** will be traveling through Morden on **Thursday January 7, 2010**. A local committee is already working to coordinate community, school and downtown activities for that day.

This committee is looking for ideas to involve businesses that are Olympics themed such as gold/silver/bronze sales, restaurant menu items, decorations, games, etc.

Do you have any ideas? Call the Chamber Office **822-5630** to share.

COMING EVENTS

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| Oct 26 | <i>Town Council Meeting</i> |
| 28 | Women in Business Breakfast – Morden's Heartland – 7:15 a.m. |
| 28 | <i>Morden Tourism Stakeholders Event - Timbers</i> |
| Nov 7 | <i>Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale – Community Ctr</i> |
| 8 | <i>Remembrance Day Tea & Bake Sale - Legion</i> |
| 9 & 30 | <i>Town Council Meetings</i> |
| 11 | Remembrance Day – Morden Community Ctr |
| 13 | Morden Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony – Kinsmen Suncatch Coffee House at Friendship Centre to follow |
| 14 | <i>Country Lane Kennels Grand Opening & Open House. Call 822-3129.</i> |
| 17 | Chamber of Commerce Executive Meeting - MMI |
| 29 | Tom Jackson Concert <i>"Singing for Supper"</i> – Morden Alliance Church. Proceeds to Morden Caring & Sharing and Christmas Cheer – Tickets at Thornview Grocery |

OF MEMBERS & MORE

The *Morden & District Chamber of Commerce* welcomes **Guy Bordian**, new Dealer Principal and General Manager of **Pembina Valley Chrysler**. Stop in or call **822-6296** to welcome Guy to Morden.

Legion volunteers are now visiting businesses to sell **Remembrance Day** wreaths.

Planning continues for the annual **Christmas Lighting Ceremony** on **November 13th**. Are you interested in participating? Call **Pat Plett** at **822-3555** or **James Steedsman** at **822-3298**.

Barb & Walter Petkau, Country Lane Kennels are busy planning their **Grand Opening** for **November 14th**. Watch for more details.