



NEWS RELEASE

Friday, September 18, 2009

9:30 A.M.

**For Immediate Release*

Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce Celebrates 120 Years as the Voice of Business

The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce will be celebrating its 120th anniversary on September 30, 2009 at its President's Gala Dinner.

We live in interesting times and the Lethbridge Chamber will continue to make a difference in our community by meeting the many changes and challenges in a proactive manner. *The Chamber's role is to be the voice of the Lethbridge business community* and a strong voice it is, representing over 750 businesses through collaboration, achievement and progress.

Yesterday, today, and tomorrow for over a century, the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce has voiced the interests of business and championed free enterprise, contributing the time, drive and imagination of its members to the prosperity of the city.

Lethbridge's best-known landmark is its High Level Bridge. Ever since steelworkers riveted the last bolt in 1909, this engineering marvel has enabled the town to grow and prosper. **Predating the bridge**, though, is a civic marvel even more crucial to the prosperity of Lethbridge: The Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce. **Originally the Lethbridge Board of Trade and Civic Committee when it formed in 1889**, the community-driven chamber has started or spearheaded almost every noteworthy civic endeavor for more than 100 years.

First, the group incorporated Lethbridge as a civic entity, The Town of Lethbridge, in 1891. That done, the organization undertook other projects: creating *water-sharing agreements with Montana, addressing postal concerns, building better roads and the bridge, promoting and hosting the Chautauqua (traveling tent show) in western Canada*, bringing entertainment to the culturally starved prairies, and *helping reopen the U.S. border to Canadian beef in 1952*, along with many more projects that bettered the community.

Major projects in which our chamber played a significant role include:

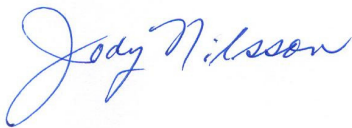
- **Lethbridge Research Station**
- **Lethbridge Northern Irrigation**
- **Exhibition Park**
- **Junior Achievement**

- **Lethbridge Public Library**
- **Hire-A-Student**
- **Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory**
- **United Way**
- **Lethbridge College**
- **Crime Stoppers**
- **Chinook Country Tourist Association**
- **Southern Alberta Food Processing Consortium**
- **University of Lethbridge**
- **Economic Development Lethbridge**

More recently, **the Chamber was instrumental in helping Lethbridge recover its Airport of Entry status**, an important trade advantage since no other metropolitan area in Alberta is closer to the United States.

Still a *volunteer, community-driven organization*, the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce continues to advocate positive change. **The Lethbridge Chamber continues to forge alliances and vigorously lobby municipal, provincial, and federal decision makers for needed change.** Like the famous bridge that connected the town to all of Canada, the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce connects the city to more prosperity and the promise of future growth.

At the 120th President's Gala Dinner on September 30th, Dennis Hatt will be acknowledged and paid tribute to for his work on behalf of the Chamber, as the 120th President of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce in 2008-2009. The evening will also highlight the many projects and activities Chamber volunteers have coordinated over the past year, to benefit our business community. The Lethbridge business community is invited to attend this prestigious event.



Jody Nilsson
General Manager

**For information on the 120th President's Gala Dinner or to reserve seats, please call the Chamber at 403-327-1586 or e-mail office@lethbridgechamber.com.*

Phone: 403-327-1586

E-mail: jody@lethbridgechamber.com