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New members this week:

Burr Properties Ltd.

Mike Lagadyn
655 Fort Street
Victoria, BC
V8W 1G6
(250) 382-8838
www.burrproperties.com

DWC Outsourced IT Solutions

Dev Wood
528 St. Charles Street
Victoria, BC
V8S 3N7 (250) 744-8618
www.outsourcedit.ca

Island Cove Tanning Ltd.

Neil Tremblay
19502A Fort Street
Victoria, BC
V8R 1K3
(250) 592-8266

Silver Cleaning Ltd.



ChamberNews keeps Chamber members up-to-date on issues important to business.



Keep up-to-date with news affecting the business community. Click [here](#) to add a co-worker to the mailing list.

Throne Speech Hints at Province's Course Lieutenant-Governor Steven L. Point delivered the Throne Speech at the opening of the Legislature on February 9th. Some highlights of the speech are listed below.

- A joint committee on municipal property tax reform will identify specific steps to make property taxes more conducive to investment while assuring municipal services are fairly provided for all taxpayers.
- Government will take a fresh look at B.C.'s regulatory regimes, including the BC Utilities Commission, the BC Ferry Commission, the TransLink Commission and others.
- New accountability and transparency will be brought to BC Ferries as it continues improving services with new ferries, terminals and amenities.
- BC Rail will be brought into government and wound down as a Crown corporation.
- A new Clean Energy Act will encourage new investments in independent power production while also strengthening BC Hydro.
- We will support new jobs and private sector investment in wood pellet plants, cellulosic ethanol production, biomass gasification technologies and fuel cell technologies.
- New partnerships with the private sector and parents will enable the establishment of neighbourhood preschools for four-year-olds and three-year-olds within communities over the next five years.
- Provincial government will work with municipalities to dramatically reduce housing costs for young families and to provide increased opportunity for homes they can afford in existing neighbourhoods.

Nassar Pourmand
Box 30147
405-3989 Quadra St.
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Recent Words and Writes

[Prodigy Group Launches New Webdite to Engage Members](#)

Payworks Online Payroll Services

The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce would like to introduce to their members an easier way to handle your payroll.

Below are a few of the many benefits of Payworks:

- Easy entry of payroll via online, phone or fax
- Most competitive price program
- Integration with Chamber Group Plan which saves you time in making changes
- No software charges or upgrade fees

For an overview of services click [here](#). For an application form please click [here](#). To learn more, contact [Glenda Plews](#) or visit www.payworks.ca

Click [here](#) to read the whole speech.

Movement of Buy American Policies The governments of Canada and the United States have reached a productive and forward-looking agreement on Buy American provisions. The agreement puts Canadian companies in a position to be able to bid on US contracts awarded under their government's infrastructure stimulus package. Conversely US companies are more free to participate in government procurement contracts in Canada.

There is further work to be done on the agreement, but this agreement represents a significant improvement for Canadian businesses.

Saanich Budget for 2010 Saanich council held a public hearing on the budget for 2010. The budget draft presented by the Finance department calls for an overall 3.6% increase while at the same time requiring departmental budgetary cuts of 1%.



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Flower Count's First Appearance Be sure to catch chamber CEO Bruce Carter on CHEK this Thursday February 11! He'll be waxing eloquently about all things Flower Count with Vee Cooper at 6:30 PM and again at 10:30 PM on CHEK's Island 30!

Click [here](#) for more details on the Annual Flower Count.

Olympic Kick Off Activities The Olympics begin in two days and Greater Victoria has many local celebrations to join in the festivities. Follow the links below to see a selection of events taking place in the region.

[City of Victoria, Spirit Square](#)

[Victoria Spirit Committee](#)

[Oak Bay Rec Centre](#)



Don't miss our
February Mingle!

Thursday, February 11
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Hotel Rialto, 653 Pandora Ave

Check out our new website
www.prodigygroup.ca

Chambers Celebrate Olympics with Sports Mixer Join the Greater Victoria Chamber, the Esquimalt Chamber, and the Township of Esquimalt and get into the spirit of the Olympics at the Archie Browning Centre on Thursday February 12th from 5:30 PM. Curl, watch figure skating, stay for a hockey game. Click [here](#) for event details.

Do You Want the Junos in Victoria? Local residents, businesses and community organizations are invited to provide their ideas regarding a possible Capital Region bid to host the Canadian JUNO Awards. An on-line questionnaire has been established to support a local consultation process being led by the Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) and Downtown Victoria Business Association (DVBA).

The Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce

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This message is sent to members of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce as a benefit of membership. If you would like to add other employees in your company to the distribution list or unsubscribe from the service please email [Dorothy Crawford](mailto:Dorothy.Crawford@gvcc.org)

Click [here](#) to start the survey.

Last Chance for Media Releases Deadline for Business Matters magazine submissions are Friday February 12th. Please send your Ask an Expert Columns and news releases to [Shannon Renault](mailto:Shannon.Renault@gvcc.org) for printing in the March/April edition.



VICTORIA AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Open Invitation To All

*Christine Stoneman, Chair of the Victoria Airport Authority (VAA)
Board of Directors, invites you to attend the VAA's:*

Airport Consultative Committee Open Public Meeting

7:30 am – 9:00 am, Tuesday, February 23, 2010

**Victoria Marriott Inner Harbour Hotel – 728 Humboldt Street
Pacific Room B – (straight ahead off the Hotel lobby)**

(Continental Breakfast Served)

(Enquiries: Paul Connolly 250-953-7501 – no reservation required; no charge to attend)

The VAA Board of Directors looks forward to meeting you.



Victoria International Airport. Your gateway to Vancouver Island.