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CHAIR'S BLOG

July 2020

Did you know that July is National Ice Cream Month? In addition to being Canada's 153rd birthday, it's also Independent Retailer Month!

Ice cream brings back sweet memories of summer days and the best place to get your fill is at Jack's Drive-In in Spruce Grove, Red Brick Eatery in Stony Plain and Yellow Submarine, in Wabamun. What is your favourite flavour and ice cream store in the Greater Parkland Region? Please share your reflections by emailing us at <https://business.gprchamber.ca/contact>

July is also an opportunity for many business owners to take time for themselves to enjoy a vacation, spend time with their family, and to recharge. Due to restricted travel and health & safety concerns as a result of COVID-19, many Chamber Members, Staff and Board Directors are enjoying "staycations" while discovering hidden gems in the Greater Parkland Region.

The last five months have been extremely challenging and certainly not what we anticipated at the beginning of the year. Many businesses have been greatly impacted by this economic downturn with innumerable uncertainties on the horizon. Despite these setbacks, I am encouraged to see the level of resilience, resourcefulness and commitment by business owners to survive and thrive during these difficult times. It is through these times that your Chamber truly counts and the work we do to help sustain and grow your business matters most. Please reach out to us and let us know how we can help.

In keeping with Independent Retailer Month, the Chamber engaged the community to participate in The Big Spend on July 25, and while the numbers are still being tallied nationally, we are so proud of our community supporting the very businesses who elevate this region. As a business owner in the Greater Parkland Region, you are often called upon to support sports teams, silent auctions, and community events. You provide nearly 70% of the private sector jobs in the country, and while one day is insufficient to demonstrate our full appreciation, we hope it encouraged a shop local mindset and showcased the amazing businesses we have in our own backyard.

The summer months are also a great time for many outdoor activities, including golf. The GPRCC is so grateful for your tremendous support of our First Annual Networking Golf Tournament at the beautiful Trestle Creek Golf Resort on August 13th. Thanks to your active participation and generous sponsorship, the tournament is now sold out! Trestle Creek has been an exceptional partner to work with to host this inaugural event. We anticipate this tournament will sell out again next year, so be sure to sign up early. We look forward to sharing the fairways and greens and the opportunity to connect with Chamber members.

We Are GPR and we will continue to work and represent our members and the community at large.

Keep Well! Stay Safe and Be Kind to One Another!

Richard Wong
Chair, GPRC

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