

November 2011

BOWDA is a membership driven networking and advocacy group focused on the needs of the building & development industry and related business in Canmore and the Bow Valley. We have over 110 members (and growing!) comprised of builders, developers, consultants and supporting businesses. This gives us a significant voice when addressing issues that impact business and development in our community.

Here's some of the key reasons why it is important to maintain your BOWDA membership:

As an advocacy group, BOWDA works to promote sustainable development in Canmore. Specifically, BOWDA works with the Town to ensure that Town policies are as business-friendly as possible. This in turn, helps to grow our local economy which we all benefit from. Some examples:

- BOWDA attends Council meetings and keeps you informed of decisions and discussions that impact business and development in Canmore.
- BOWDA meets regularly with Town Administration to discuss issues impacting the development industry.
- BOWDA has actively participated in recent changes to the Sustainability Screening Report process. The previous process discouraged development and significantly delayed the Canadian Tire project (and many others!). BOWDA worked with the Provincial government to have the SSR process amended to remove uncertainty, and become much more objective so that a reasonable development could move forward.
- BOWDA is negotiating with the Town regarding the Recreation Levies to reduce these from the current \$1,500 per new door. Any reduction in development costs will contribute towards increased development in Canmore.
- BOWDA will be recommending that the Cash in Lieu of parking fees for downtown Canmore be reviewed and ultimately reduced. The current rate of \$50,000 per stall is high, and we believe that a significantly lower rate should be considered.
- In the absence of a Chamber of Commerce, BOWDA tackles more than just builder and developer issues with the Town. An example is the Commercial:Residential Mill Rate issue. BOWDA believes that there is too heavy a reliance on the Commercial sector to compensate the Residential tax base, which discourages business development in Canmore.

BOWDA is also a networking organization.

- Monthly luncheons from Sept to June provide an opportunity to network with other business leaders in the building and development industry in Canmore. The luncheons are the second Thursday of each month, with a short presentation from a speaker of interest to the group. Recent speakers:
  - Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Danielle Smith, Leader of the Wildrose Party;
  - Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, Todd Hirsch, Chief Economist at ATB Financial
- To register for the Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Luncheon go to: [www.BOWDA.ca](http://www.BOWDA.ca). We look forward to seeing you there!

Refer a new BOWDA member, and get a free lunch! If you talk to a business that you think should be a BOWDA member, send me an email with their info. I'll follow up with them, and when they become a BOWDA member you will get a free BOWDA lunch!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

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