

20th Anniversary – 1995 – 2015

“Twenty Years Strong.....1995 to 2015”

- 1995 April – Inaugural Meeting of the Olds Chamber – the task force hands over their work to a Board of Directors
- the Town of Olds had provided \$10,000 seed money to get started, the Chamber put that money into a GIC and never touched it. When Olds Institute was formed the Chamber used \$5,000 of that GIC as a contribution to the partnership
- 1995 was also Olds 100th Anniversary a joint initiative of the Chamber, Community Development Committee and Town Council – a huge project with representation from about twenty different sectors
- 1996 January 2 – Olds & District Chamber of Commerce Association incorporated under the Societies Act
- 1996 Olds Chamber promotes business excellence during Small Business Week and presents Olds Value Drug Mart with ‘Small Business of the Year’ plaque
- 1996 in support of the Olds Fair & Rodeo hosted by the Ag Society, the Olds Chamber held their first Pancake Breakfast – annual breakfasts were held 1996 through 2006 in support of Olds Fair & Rodeo
- 1996 – 1997 – the idea of highway signs as a revenue generator was introduced and thus the Olds Chamber took on the role of administering the Highway 27 (brown & white) commercial signs
- 1997 April Olds Chamber Hosts first ‘Staff / Employee Appreciation Luncheon’ at the Best Western Banquet facility – 2015 Olds Chamber celebrated their 19th Employee Appreciation Luncheon
- Businesses enjoyed a couple of years of license free expense because of the Olds Chamber – this was linked to the BAIS Project which stands for Business Attraction Information System, it was a Central Alberta Region project that eventually evolved into CAEP (Central Alberta Economic Partnership)
- Olds Chamber initiated the ‘Symposium on the Future of Olds’
- the Spark-plug Award is introduced to recognize an individual who got things started in the community. Sharon Carey was the recipient for Olds Fashioned Christmas
- Olds Chamber holds Logo Contest which was won by Patti Simioneau a local graphic artist
- Olds Chamber produces post cards as a fundraiser
- 1998 Chamber Economic Development Committee undertook a community consultation process to determine how it might promote economic development in the Town. Alberta Community Development Officers, Walter DeSilva and Al Walkie facilitate the process. One of the recommendations was to create an organization with the Olds Chamber, Town, Olds College and Ag Society
- 1999 the Chamber hosted Vaughn Grisham a professor from Mississippi University who was an expert on community development. Tupelo, Mississippi was his model and it had a community based development organization that received a major portion of its revenue from a water utility that it owned. Grisham also indicated ‘through leadership and innovative thinking, the town could work together to stimulate the economy and improve the well being of the community’. The need for volunteers to take leadership rolls in the community was recognized and thus, the Chamber sought to remedy that situation
- 2000 the Towns Public Advisory Committee on Economic Services looks at how to deliver economic development service in the town. Town hires Consultant, Gordon Kelley who was provided Chamber Economic Development report and the Chamber ED Committee shared Vaughn Grisham’s story. Gordon Kelley recommends the Town, College, Ag Society and the Chamber form an organization and maybe look at building a cogeneration plant to sell electricity in the region
- 2000 January – Olds Chamber Millennium Issue of the Mountain View Directory is distributed to Olds and area. Olds Chamber continues with the production of the directory for a number of years
- 2000 March – Olds Chamber Website www.oldsalberta.com goes live

- 2000 March – Councillor Richard Bodnar replaces Councillor Terry Peterman as the first town appointee on the Chamber Board
- 2000 / 2001– Chamber receives grant of \$17,500 from Wild Rose Foundation for a Leadership Training Program gets underway where 30 adults and youth participate. The program was aimed at developing and promoting personal and community leadership -- 2000 September – Level I and Level II participants of the Leadership Training Program buckle down for a 100 hours of intense learning
- 2000 September – the Chamber hosts a ‘Dialogue with the President’ on ‘An Aquatic Centre for Olds’, Town Representatives and Pool 2000 Representatives are present to provide facts
- 2000 October – the Chamber gears up for the ‘Fifth Annual Small Business Week’ – a new category ‘The Community Enhancement Award’ goes to Olds College and Hildebrand Motors takes home the trophy for ‘Best Decorated Table’
- 2000 October – Olds Chamber and Olds College co-sponsor Guest Speaker, Roy Prevost, a futurist and accomplished entrepreneur, for a ‘Welcome to E-Commerce’ presentation to wind up Small Business Week
- 2000 November – Mtn View County & Town of Olds Reps are invited to Chamber Luncheon for open discussion and Q/A on Ambulance Services in the County in addition to Town of Olds proposed Business License Bylaw
- 2000 November - Olds Chamber hosts our first candidates forum for the municipal elections and continues to host the forums for Municipal Government and School Trustee as the need arises, most recent forum for the municipal elections was October 7, 2013 in which the Olds Chamber, College, Mtn View Publishing, 96.5 CKfm and Rock 104.5 partnered to host
- By 2001 Olds Institute was born. When Olds Institute was formed the Chamber provided \$5,000 as a contribution to the partnership
- 2001 January – Chamber continues with Leadership Training Program and introduces the Youth Leadership Training Program for March to June
- 2001 February – Chamber representatives attend Olds Fashioned Christmas debrief meeting
- 2001 May – Town of Olds asks for Chamber assistance in polling the Olds Business Community regarding smoke-free restaurants in the town that allow minors (under 18 years of age)
- 2001 August – Chamber Board appoints members to the ‘Business After Hours’ Events Committee, with Doug Martinson, Martinson Harder as chair of the Committee. The inaugural ‘BAH’ event is held at the Martinson Harder Law Office on October 4th
- 2001 – Board Member, Dr. Tom Boyter volunteers to serve on the Alberta Chambers Policy Committee
- 2001 October – Olds Chamber initiates a partnership with Didsbury and Sundre Chambers to host an all candidates forum for Mountain View County Council and the Regional Health Authorities
- 2002 January – Chamber Board appoints Rita Thompson to serve on OI Board
- 2002 February – The Honorable Gary Mar, Minister of Health & Wellness speaks to our Members & the Public at February Monthly Luncheon
- 2002 June – Calgary Stampede Bandwagon Group and Chamber host Pancake Breakfast on Main Street
- 2002 July – the Chamber is approached to assist with shopping/business hours for olds businesses – a total of 1224 people are surveyed
- 2002 September - Olds Chamber takes on task of gathering and correlating the Olds Fashioned Christmas Calendar of Events and marketing of events, a task that has been carried out annually by the Olds Chamber
- 2002 November - Olds Chamber assists Olds Fashioned Christmas by coordinating the Food Donations and Volunteers for the Mrs. Santa's Kitchen for the Olds Fashioned Christmas Light-Up Festival and continued through 2010 when Olds Rotary takes on the task, in 2013 and 2014 the Olds Chamber began once again serving hot dogs and hot chocolate in Centennial Park during the OFC Light Up Festival
- 2002 September – Chamber hosts an organizational Tourism Stakeholders Meeting with Bill Ozard, Travel Alberta as facilitator. Over 50 representatives from Olds and surrounding communities attend meeting October another Tourism Stakeholders/Representatives meeting is organized for Olds and surrounding communities with approximately 35 area representatives in attendance. A Tourism Marketing Committee is formed and will continue on with the pursuit of tourism for our area - Chamber Board Member, Judy Schlichenmayer serves as a member of the Tourism Marketing Committee. Prairies to Peaks Tourism for

the region was born

- Chamber brought in speakers from Old Okotoks to talk about how their downtown core worked to remain competitive with a power centre developed on the outskirts of their community. Uptowne Olds was formed
- 2002 November – Olds Chamber supports Olds & District Community Policing Advisory Committee in their efforts to work towards a safer community in Olds by lobbying for improved placement of school zones and traffic lights in much needed areas
- 2003 – 2005 – Olds Chamber receives \$50,000 grant dollars from Wild Rose Foundation and forms a partnership with Olds Jr/Sr High School, The Blooming Lodge, Olds Neighborhood Place, CAREERS...The Next Generation and Olds College to once again provide Leadership Training to adults and youth
- 2003 February – Chamber supports Community Policing Committee to lobby town for turning light signal at 50 Street and 50th Avenue as well as a 3-Way Stop Sign at 51 Street and 50 Avenue to alleviate traffic congestion during heavy traffic times/days
- 2003 April – Chamber expresses concerns for vehicles being ticketed for parking in excess of 2 hours that are undertaking repairs / renovations in downtown core and asks town to look at alternate solutions
- 2004 January – Privacy legislation came into effect on January 1, 2004 for all Alberta businesses. Chamber provides public information sessions regarding this new legislation
- 2004 February lobbies town pertaining to ‘Slow to React’ pertaining to ‘Build-up and/or removal of snow’ in the downtown business area
- 2004 – Olds Chamber initiates the ‘Community Centre Research Committee’
- 2004 – Olds Chamber in partnership with Olds College continues with ‘Leadership Training’
- 2004 – Chamber introduces the ‘People’s Choice’ Award as additional Annual Business Awards Recognition for local business
- 2005 Battle River-Wainwright MLA Doug Griffiths attends Chamber AGM and presents ‘13 Ways to Kill a Community’
- 2005 March – Alberta Transportation indicates they will discontinue they will discontinue permits for our commercial highway sign (brown & white signs) on Hwy 27 as a result of changes to tourism signing policies that have been adopted in response to the needs of the tourism industry. The Chamber seeks approval from Town of Olds to take over take over the responsibility of arranging the Tourism Highway Signing Initiative on Highway 2 and Highway 27 for Olds. Olds Chamber becomes the Program Administrator of the new blue/white Tourism Highway Signage
- 2005 – Olds Chamber offers ‘Leadership Training’ in Innisfail
- 2005 – Small Business of the Year Award is revised to include several categories: Business of the Year ‘10 or fewer employees’, 11 – 34 employees, 35+ employees. The Community Enhancement Award to revised to ‘Community Spirit Award’ and the ‘Exceptional Customer Service’ Awards is introduced
- 2005 & 2006 August – Chamber and OAS host Olds Fair & Rodeo ‘MarketPlace Trade Show’ as a joint initiative
- 2006 April – Chamber invites Premier Ralph Klein to a ‘Special Luncheon Meeting, needless to say the Olds Evergreen Centre was packed to the rafters
- 2007 May & November – Chamber hosts Roy Prevost who presents ‘Prospering in a Big Box Retail World’
- 2007, 2008 and 2009 – Chamber and OAS now host ‘Olds & District MarketPlace Trade Show’ in May as a result of Olds Fair & Rodeo being discontinued
- 2008 January – Chamber hosts Terrence Johnston, OPUS Building Canada Inc. at monthly luncheon to present information on Netook Crossing development
- 2008 September – Chamber hosts session with Andrew Megson, Springwood Developments pertaining to commercial real estate developments for west end of Olds
- 2009 June – Chamber invites local contractors and Town representatives to meet with Chamber Board to discuss hiring local contractors for town projects
- 2009 – Olds Chamber continues to see importance of being involved in all aspects of ‘economic development’ having several Board Members and Chamber Members on the Board of the Olds Institute of Community and Regional Development, Chamber Representation on the Business Attraction and Retention Committee, Marketing Committee, Business Investment and Attraction Committee, Community Lifestyles, Technology Committee, Community Engagement Site Sub-Committee, Regional Tourism

Committee, Uptowne Olds Committee and Olds Fashioned Christmas Committee, CAEP – Central Alberta Economic Partnership

- 2009 – Kiwanis Club of Olds asked for Chamber support to introduce the ‘Youth Employee Award’ for our Annual Business Awards Recognition
- 2010 – Chamber Membership surpasses 200
- 2010 – after a few years in hiatus, the Olds Chamber ‘Business After Hours’ initiative is re-introduced as a chance for Chamber Members to showcase their products and services and an opportunity for the business community to network; 6 – 7 BAH events per year being organized – Chamber Members are invited to host a BAH event and the entire community is invited to attend
- 2010 May – Chamber hosts luncheon where Alberta Main Street Representatives present on the AMS Program
- 2010 June – Olds Chamber Business Retention & Expansion Committee hosts ‘Newcomers Welcome Breakfast’ and invites Olds Institute, Uptowne Olds, Prairies to Peaks Tourism, Town of Olds BizPal to share information
- 2010 September – Chamber hosts Breakfast Meeting with ATB Financial Senior Economist, Todd Hirsch presenting ‘Alberta in the Ever-Changing Global Economy’
- 2011 – 2013 – the Olds Chamber participates as a partner to host the Career and Employment Fair. This Career and Employment Fair came together from a partnership with Olds College, Alberta Human Services (Alberta Works), Chinook’s Edge School Division, Olds & District Chamber of Commerce, Service Canada and Careers for Everyone (A division of Accredited Supports to the Community).
- 2011 April – Chamber partners with OI Olds Connected Communities Committee to host a series of ‘video conferencing sessions’ pertaining to social media / marketing, etc.
- 2011 May – Chamber once again hosts a Breakfast where Todd Hirsch speaks on ‘Alberta’s Economy 2011: Well...there’s GOOD news, and there’s BAD news’
- 2011 August to 2012 June – Chamber receives a grant through ‘Workforce Partnership Program’ to host a series of ‘Employee Attraction and Retention’ Sessions for local business community – a total of 16 sessions offered with 126 employees
- 2011 September – Olds Chamber and Uptowne Olds Representatives meet to discuss a partnership for the continuation of ‘Passport to Christmas’ and ‘Midnight Madness’. In 2012, the Olds Chamber declines to participate in ‘Passport to Christmas’ due to a lack of participants
- 2012 – Olds Chamber hosts 25 Educational Workshops / Professional Speaker Series Sessions in providing ongoing leadership training, personal growth and employee recruitment, development & retention strategies for employers.
- 2012 - the Chamber assists its members through advocating policies with our local and provincial governments. We met with and spent many hours on the upcoming changes to Highway 27, town snow removal and highway signage.
- 2012 February – Olds Chamber partners with Accredited Supports to the Community to provide the WEST Pilot Project in Olds, a training opportunity for frontline supervisors in an effort to make business more effective and productive – a 16 week training session
- 2012 April – Olds Chamber in partnership with Mtn View Publishing, 96.5 / Rock 104.5, and Olds College hosts MLA Candidates Forum for Olds/Didsbury/Three Hills Constituency
- 2012 September – in support of ‘Communities in Bloom’ a Town Committee, the Olds Chamber hosts the ‘Harvest Festival BBQ’ and continues this as an annual event
- 2013 March – Chamber works with International Keynote Speaker, Jeff Mowatt to host ‘The Art of Customer Service...Influence with Ease’ Seminar
- 2013 October – Olds Chamber in partnership with Mtn View Publishing, 96.5/Rock 104.5, and Olds College host Candidates forum for Mtn View County Councillor Candidates
- 2013 September – Chamber hosts ‘Market Access for Local Exporters’ with Minister Cal Dallas presenting. Minister Dallas and his team are provided a tour of BARR-AG Ltd.
- 2013 December – MP Blake Richards is invited to a special meeting with local businesses to discuss recent changes the ‘Temporary Foreign Workers’ Program and to learn of concerns from local business

- 2014 January – Chamber hosts ‘CASL – Canada’s Anti-Spam Legislation’ Webinar – that will take effect July 1, 2014
- 2014 – Olds Chamber introduces the ‘Shop Local – Shop Olds’ Campaign by implementing the ‘Member 2 Member’ Program
- 2014 – Olds Chamber adds second initiative for ‘Shop Local – Shop Olds’ Campaign by implemented a year round ‘Exceptional Customer Service’ Award on a monthly basis to encourage ‘Customer First’ Service
- 2014 November – Olds Chamber host first Annual Business Christmas Event for local business employers and their employees as a third initiative for the ‘Shop Local – Shop Olds’ Campaign
- 2014 – 2015 – the Chamber Website undergoes major re-design
- 2014 November – Olds Chamber nominates Barr-Ag Ltd. for the Alberta Awards of Distinction in the category of ‘2015 Export Award of the Year’ and nominates The Lady Bug Studio for the Alberta Awards of Distinction in the category of ‘2015 Business of the Year’. In January 2015 it is announced that Barr-Ag Ltd. has won the ‘2015 Export Award of the Year’
- 2015 April – Olds Chamber in partnership with Mtn View Publishing, 96.5/Rock 104.5 and Pomeroy Inn & Suites host Candidates Forum for Olds/Didsbury/Three Hills Constituency MLA Candidates
- 2015 May – Olds Chamber hosts Alberta Chambers Roundtables Discussion for Community Chambers where 9 Chambers with 30 attendees participated
- 2015 October – Olds Chamber will celebrate their 20th Business Awards Banquet in recognition and celebration of local business