

The Chamber board would like to wish you a happy fall season! This is one of our busiest times of year with membership renewal upon us, designing our 2018 brochure, and organizing the upcoming annual Spaghetti Dinner.

Membership invoices were sent out on October 15th through the online service Square. This has allowed for members to easily pay with their credit cards. There is a small percentage added onto invoices paid with Square to offset its fees. We also accept cheques, and can issue a paper invoice if requested.

Two changes have been made to our membership fees this year. First, community memberships were increased to \$25 from \$5. Second, a new \$150 'website only' membership category was created for businesses who want their own page on the website, but who do not wish to be included in the brochure. We receive many questions from part-timers and newcomers about contractors and similar on-island services and this will allow us to direct them towards members' listings on our website. The website has had 11,000 views in the past year, and traffic is expected to increase in future years. If you have any questions about this new membership category please contact us. Please note that *all memberships are due on November 15th*. If you do not get your membership in by this point you will *not* be in the brochure.

For brochure news, we printed an additional 10,000 brochures in September because we had run out of the first batch of 30,000. For those of you wondering whether investing in the \$220 membership to be in the brochure is worth it, this year's 40,000 brochures have been distributed on-island, on BC Ferries, at various Tourism offices (Victoria, Salt Spring, Chilliwack, 100 Mile House), and at off-island accommodations

The 2018 brochure cover will feature the artwork of one of the Chamber's member artists. We've receive some incredible submissions and it will be a hard choice to pick one. Thank you again to Jim Marsh who provided the cover artwork for our 2017 brochure.

The Spaghetti Dinner is coming up on November 14th at the Community Centre. Dinner will be served at 6:30, and it will be a tasty selection done by Sue Duncan. There will be spaghetti with your choice of beef and mushroom or vegetarian sauce, Caesar salad, garlic bread, and tiramisu for dessert along with coffee and tea. There will be wine for purchase by the glass as well. The dinner is complementary for all current or prospective members and membership forms will be available at the dinner. Our guest speaker will be Janet Clousten, the Marketing Manager for Experience the Gulf Islands. She'll tell us what they have been up to this past year and about future plans.

As I'm writing this I am sitting inside warm and cozy while the storm blows outside and look forward to the warmth of the Spaghetti Dinner night and the company that it always brings. Until then, take care.