

## **New chamber president wants more member involvement**

*Dan Singleton, Sundre Round Up, February 16, 2010*



The newly elected executive and board of directors of the chamber get down to business at last week's annual general meeting.

The newly elected president of the Sundre and District Chamber of Commerce says she would like to see chamber members becoming more involved.

Sherry Tytkanych, the owner of Country Road RV in Sundre, was elected during the chamber's annual general meeting at the Visitor Information Centre on Feb. 8. The other executive members are VP Teresa Kabatoff, treasurer Amie Flowerday, secretary Heidi Overguard, past president Jim Eklund, and directors Marty Mennear, Ingrid Mayr and Cory Schiller.

"I'd like to see more members of the community take part in the chamber, and for new businesses to come into Sundre," said Tytkanych. "Hopefully we can grow as a community and work together."

"I want to get the word out that we (the chamber) are here and all that we have to offer as a community. We want people to come and visit and come to live here."

Past president Jim Eklund, who completed two terms as president, recently also called for chamber members to become more involved in the business promotion organization's activities.

"I think we have been more involved in the community," said Eklund. "We have to become more involved because the community needs that. I wish that more businesses would join us in our activities. We have great involvement in memberships; we don't have a great involvement when it comes to participation and it's been that way throughout my terms."

Both Tytkanych and Eklund are calling more local businesses to join the chamber.

During the annual general meeting, members put out the call for people to sit on the Sundre Parade 2010 committee, as well as for involvement in other upcoming events and projects.

Outgoing treasurer Gord Moore presented the 2009 financial statements, which were adopted by chamber members.

The chamber had total income of \$34,800, including \$13,675 from the trade fair, and expenses of \$36,411, including \$1,002 for advertising and \$2,826 for Sundown in Sundre.

Town employee Kim Gallaway, economic development and sustainability coordinator, gave a presentation on the Sundre Sustainability Committee's ongoing activities, including efforts to involve local businesses in environmental promotion projects.

She said projects the committee is planning to undertake in 2010 and down the road include the following: creation of community gardens; multi-generational parks, with outdoor fitness equipment and updated park equipment for children; bicycle racks at public buildings; toilet rebate program; bicycle lanes on local roads; rain barrel incentives; and events boards outside recreation facilities.

Chamber members voted to pay \$262.50 for the chamber's 2010 membership in the P2P tourism promotion organization.

The chamber will be seeking funding for two summer employees for the Visitor Information Centre, perhaps through the provincial STEP program.

Chamber executive members will take part in a teleconference with other Alberta Chamber of Commerce members later this month.