

Cloverdale & District Chamber of Commerce

President's Message – January 2015

Like every other organization, the business community in Cloverdale needs to grow in order to thrive. Unfortunately, this is not yet happening. The city has no plans to densify the downtown or to facilitate the building of a Trade-X complex to attract customers, and the Transit Authority has no plans to bring high-speed rail into Cloverdale.

The result of no growth is decay. Downtown Cloverdale looks tired, the gateway to Cloverdale is an abandoned construction site, and many of the residents of Cloverdale shop at Willoughbrook or Guildford. Other than hosting our famous rodeo, Cloverdale has no definable image. It is neither the 'Fort Langley' of Surrey, nor is it a special heritage destination.

As your new president of the Chamber of Commerce, my mandate is to work toward making Cloverdale a prosperous community, with a distinct identifiable character. In year 2000, I started Honeybee Centre at the corner of 176 street and Fraser Highway. My company is the primary supplier of honeybees to blueberry farmers in the lower mainland, and we sell many varieties of honey in our country store. Although I am a second generation beekeeper, I have enjoyed a wonderful 16-year career in policing, both with the Burnaby RCMP and the New Westminster Police Department.

There are ten other highly-competent business leaders in the Cloverdale Chamber Board of Directors, and we are all keen on working toward a better Cloverdale. Our goals for 2015 and beyond are to continue working with the City and the Province to improve the business community, and to facilitate many networking events for our membership so that their businesses will continue to grow and thrive.

Sincerely,

John Gibeau, B.Sc., MBA  
President, Honeybee Centre  
President, Cloverdale & District Chamber of Commerce