

BUSINESS SURREY

FROM THE SURREY BOARD OF TRADE

VOL 5 * NO 3 * JUNE/JULY 2012



SURREY
BOARD OF TRADE

EVENTS

JUNE 14
11:00 AM 12:30 SHOTGUN
Networking Golf Tournament

JUNE 21
5:00 – 8:00 PM
Annual General Meeting

JULY 10
8:00 – 10:00 AM
HR Workshop Series –
Termination

AUGUST 22
5:00 – 7:00 PM
Annual Summer Sizzle

SEPTEMBER 12
6:00 – 8:00 PM
B2B at 5 Star Catering

SEPTEMBER 13
12:00 – 1:30 PM
Environment & Business
Awards Lunch

SEPTEMBER 18
6:00 – 9:30 PM
International Trade Awards

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Popular Surrey Industry Tour Largest Yet!



Tom Jones, owner of Teal-Jones Group, second from right describes sharpening hug band saw blades to the Industry Tour group.

On Friday, May 4th, more than 100 members of the Lower Mainland's business community embarked on a tour of local Surrey businesses. The Second Annual Surrey Board of Trade Industry Tour saw three full luxury buses, sponsored by Charter Bus Lines, travel throughout the city for half a day, visiting a variety of

organizations and industrial neighbourhoods, including Bridgeview, Downtown Surrey, Cloverdale, Campbell Heights, Panorama Ridge, South Surrey, Newtown, and Guildford.

Surrey is a key economic centre in Canada, bringing in a variety of businesses attracted by its key location for trucking, rail transport and shipping, available and affordable land, support for new business and investment, together with ethnic diversity and innovation. More than 2000 businesses each year choose to set-up shop in Surrey.

The Surrey Board of Trade Industry Tour aims to showcase the strength of Surrey's economy, the development of business and various industries within the city.

With running commentary by staff from Colliers International, the tours followed three different itineraries, eventually coming together at Kwantlen Polytechnic University's Trades and Technology campus in Cloverdale for lunch. From keynote speaker Jim Cox, of the Surrey City Development Corporation, guests heard about the ever-expanding development taking place in the city. Surrey is seeing exponential growth as it accommodates nearly 50 percent of Metro Vancouver's available industrial land, making it a very attractive place to do business.

The next Industry Tour is already set so make it a point to join us on Friday, May 3, 2013!

Surrey Board of Trade goes to India and UK on fact-finding mission



Nigel Watkinson

World Trade Centre, Indiallia Business Forum where over 8,000 business delegates around the world attend to network in industries of film, clean technology, manufacturing, health, and more.

The Surrey Board of Trade sent their International Trade Team Chair, Nigel Watkinson to Mumbai and the UK recently. Watkinson was attending the Mumbai

The Surrey Board of Trade has an MOU with the Mumbai World Trade Centre, established on their trade mission to India last April. The forum takes place from April 23-25, which is an international, multi-sector business forum of pre-scheduled one-to-one meetings. Watkinson met with industry leaders in film, health, clean technology as well as the organizers for Indiallia. The intended purpose is to host an Indiallia-like conference in Surrey in three years.

"This is a forum that identifies business partners from across 30 countries. It is a global conference with 12 personalized B2B meetings, and a showcase of an Experts Village, International Village and Partners Village. "I know that Nigel will bring forward trade leads for the Surrey

Board of Trade to follow up with plus information on how to bring the world to Surrey," said Anita Huberman, CEO, Surrey Board of Trade.

After Indiallia, the Surrey Board of Trade has tasked Watkinson to visit five area Chamber's of Commerce in London, and outside of London to understand their International Trade Centre model. The Surrey Board of Trade's strategic goal is to launch its International Trade Centre, the first of its kind in Canada, linked to a Chamber of Commerce/Board of Trade. This creates a one-stop centre for international business support, especially for the Small and Medium Sized business market.

MEET JIM MIHALY 49TH PRESIDENT OF THE SURREY BOARD OF TRADE



Jim Mihalý

In the early 70's my parents started a newspaper in Northern Alberta, which over a few years grew to four newspapers. Our whole family, there's seven of us, all worked in various capacities. For me it was an opportunity to be in service on the writing side, administration side and ultimately as a publisher, running the whole operation. We got to learn the

whole business.

In the early nineties, my brother Tom and I, formed MacKenzie Report Inc. We ran it, along with my wife, Suzanne who until 1999, when we sold our shares to my brother who continues to operate the family newspapers in northern Alberta, just as successfully.

In the thirty years that I've been

in the newspaper business full time, I've been on a Chamber or Board of Trade for 28 years. This will be my fourth time as a president for an organization which I believe in 100%. I've also served as a director for many years. At one time I served on two different chambers as a director at the same time, in communities where we operated newspapers. It has been

a great experience.

On a personal side, I am married to Susanne who works at the Peace Arch News. Our daughter is going to university at Kwantlen, studying public relations, so will transfer to SFU next year. My son will soon graduate from Red Deer College, finishing his apprenticeship as an electrician.



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IN MEMORIAM: JEFF BURTON



Jeff devoted more than 45 years of his life to different aspects of criminal justice. He worked in various administrative capacities as a civilian executive with the London Metropolitan police at New Scotland Yard (11 years) and following

immigration to Canada joined the Vancouver Police Department serving more than 30 years, his latter assignment being a detective in the Financial Crime Section. Upon retirement he worked for the British Columbia Crime Prevention Association (7 years) specializing in fraud prevention education. He was a valued contributor on the Crime & Justice Team at the Surrey Board of Trade. Jeff died Monday May 21, 2012. We will miss him.

BUSINESS in SURREY

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Thanks for the Opportunity!

When I was sworn in as President of the Surrey Board of Trade last June, I spoke and wrote about the challenges that we would face this year. I called it a year of "uncertainty." At that time we had just had a federal election that ended with a majority, were facing a vote on the HST, awaiting the selection on a new Premier, and we were casting nervous glances at the economic situation in Europe.

One year later, we have the return of the PST, a new Premier, a Provincial election on the horizon and we are still casting nervous glances at Europe. I can safely say, that we are now looking forward to another year of uncertainty.

People in business in Surrey, and all over the world, are facing times of change that are unprecedented in our lifetime. The continuing evolution of a global market place and supply chain, political uncertainty, the advancement of technology, and financial wariness; these factors all combine to make doing business a complex, dynamic and often frustrating way to make a living.

Combine these global perspectives with our local issues like transportation, infrastructure, education, human capital recruitment and our multicultural community, you will see that complexity and uncertainty will likely always be a part of doing business in Surrey. Luckily we are strong resilient people, and, luckily, we have the Surrey Board of Trade to work as strong advocates for the business community.

So what has the Surrey Board of Trade accomplished this year? Under the very effective leadership of our CEO, Anita Huberman, and her team of committed staff, the Board of Trade has had a very busy and productive year. I won't be able to speak to everything that has been undertaken this year, so I would like to focus on the advocacy accomplishments which directly benefit all businesses in Surrey. I'd also like to thank Mayor Dianne Watts, who has led the way on all these issues, and we have

been pleased to support her and to add our voice to hers.

1. Transportation and Infrastructure. The Surrey Board of Trade hosted a dialogue on the future of the Patullo Bridge with the New Westminster Chamber of Commerce, and Anita Huberman has regularly been a strong advocate for the transportation needs of the South Fraser in the press and on CKNW. Our message is that we cannot allow ourselves to be isolated by tolls and by a lack of public transportation; other alternatives, like road pricing, must be explored.

2. Education. In 2010, the Surrey Board of Trade released a position paper that spoke to the chronic underfunding of the K-12 system and the two universities in Surrey. After an aggressive advocacy effort by the School District and the Board of Trade, among others, the K-12 system has had some positive changes and announcements of funding. Simon Fraser and Kwantlen Universities, however, continue to be funded for fewer than half the number of seats per capita in the rest of the Province, and Kwantlen's funding per student is the lowest of any university in the Province. The Board continues to advocate for parity with the rest of the Province so that we, too, can enjoy the benefits of an educated work force that stays in their community.

3. Families First. Based on the 2011 Child Care Gap Assessment by the Children's Partnership of Surrey-White Rock, Surrey has only nine licensed child care spaces for every 100 children aged 0 - 6. Surrey and Langley have the lowest ratio of spaces to children (compared to West Vancouver with 25 spaces for every 100 children and Vancouver with 18 spaces for every 100 children. More than 41% of all refugees to BC reside in Surrey. In April, 2012, the Surrey Board of Trade released its Business and Families Position Paper, asking provincial and federal governments for a New Deal for Families. This is the first time that any Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce has taken this approach in Canada, and we do so to

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mary Jane Stenberg



promote a strong economy, and a healthy, safe society that ensures Surrey remains a great place to raise a family.

4. International Trade Centre.

Perhaps the most exciting development this year has been the beginnings of our International Trade Centre. Nigel Watkinson and Alan Aubert, our immediate past president and one of our esteemed Governors, have put an incredible amount of volunteer time into developing this concept into something solid and achievable. When operational, this Trade Centre will link our members with other businesses all over the world through the International Chamber of Commerce, and will be a "one stop shop" for all your import and export needs. Bernie Magnan, formerly of the Vancouver Board of Trade, will be heading up this project under Anita's guidance. The future is global and Surrey is uniquely positioned to be a global business player.

As a colleague of mine once said about Surrey and, indeed, the entire South Fraser Region, "we just want our fair share." We are the only area in the province that is growing in population, we have a growing school age population and our business community is growing. Our future lives here. We want our children to have good care, a good education system and access to post-secondary; we want to be able to utilize reliable public transportation AND get across a bridge, if we need to, without being penalized. We want to attract people to come to Surrey to invest, work, live and play and be part of our future.

This is the future that the Surrey Board of Trade believes in and one that we will continue to advocate for. It's been a great year, and I thank you most sincerely for the opportunity to serve.

Mary Jane Stenberg is the Executive Director for External Relations for Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

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From the Incoming (49th) President

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Mihaly



I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to lead the Surrey Board of Trade in 2012-2013, and to build on the great work Mary Jane Stenberg and the 2011-2012 board as a whole. I congratulate MJ on a fine year, the board for their dedication along with Anita and her hard working team.

I first joined a Chamber of Commerce when I was 20 years old back in Alberta when I worked in my family's newspaper business. At that time the Chamber was struggling with revenue and lacked a voice in the business community. Within two years, through hard work and encouraging businesses to get involved, the Chamber became a force in advocacy issues, and more importantly gained the respect and confidence in the business community. I believe so adamantly in the need for the business community to have a strong voice that I've involved myself with Chambers of Commerce for 28 years.

In order for the Surrey Board of Trade to continue its strong role in Surrey and in the Lower Mainland as a whole, we need the continued support from our business community. Be it attending the multitude of networking events hosted by the SBOT each year, volunteering to assist in the variety of activities or serving on these committees. It is a give and take commitment that makes the Board and the business community that much stronger.

I was first introduced to the Surrey Board of Trade four years ago when I moved to the community via the Industry Team. It was amazing the issues tackled by the "Team" and the passion shown by the committee members. I really learned what this organization was all about. But for those existing members and future members it must be said if you really want to receive the full benefits of a membership, get involved. You need to become more engaged with the process in order to receive the organization's full benefits. Whether you'd like to become a member on the board of directors, join one of the

many committees, or volunteer your time or a staff member's to assist the Board of Trade – the opportunities are endless.

In terms of what's planned for my presidency, I like to keep things simple. We need to look at what we do best and review areas where we can become more efficient. Basically what best suits our members. The Board of Directors will meet in July at our Strategic Planning Session. Stay tuned.

Mayor Dianne Watts and the City of Surrey recently hosted a meeting involving the Surrey Board of Trade, Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce and South Surrey White Rock Chamber of Commerce. The intent at the meeting was to bring the three organizations together to share common views/goals and how these three organizations can work more closely together in the future. At the end of the day we need to look at the best interests of the businesses in Surrey proper and how we can collectively or as one present that message as we move forward.

The Surrey Board of Trade will continue to advocate on issues as they arise. The growing frustration at the multitude of taxes one pays when filling up their tank is key on my agenda. Unfortunately, we as Canadians, taxpayers and business people alike, need to take a strong stance when dealing with the greed of those levels of government and oil companies who are dipping into our gas tanks. At the very least we need to lobby to have a more consistent price at the pump vs. the peaks and valleys we experience. At the end of the day the price at the pumps increases your operating costs no matter what type of business you run, and further, your staff is paying more to get to and from work. These costs are also resulting in our residents going across the border to fill up their tanks. Something needs to be done for a more consistent pricing model at the pumps. I look forward to a great year!



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Prepare for the Unexpected - Disaster Planning for Business

We have been complacent about disaster planning. After all we have enjoyed years without any major disaster. Yes there have been the occasional floods and even fires but not on a scale large enough to interrupt our daily routines. But the unexpected can happen.

Last week two unexpected disasters were presented as case studies at the Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council's (EPICC) annual forum at the Justice Institute that illustrated the importance of being prepared for a disaster and having a business continuity plan.

The Canuck Riots of 2011 had a significant financial impact on the local businesses in the downtown core, not to mention the trauma to the owners and employees of the businesses that were mobbed and looted. One of the hardest hit was London Drugs. Fortunately, they had developed a plan for the Olympics and the security measures they incorporated protected both staff and clients. They did incur considerable loss due to damage and stolen goods estimated at \$825,000. In spite of the damage, they were still able to open their doors the next morning when, once the police allowed people to enter the area, their staff returned, unasked, to help with the cleanup. Also, they had glass repair people standing by with plywood to secure broken doors and windows. Benz Coffee was not as fortunate. The owner was in the store when it was looted and it took a month before she reopened her doors.

The second incident occurred in 2010 in Slave Lake. Wildfires were raging in the area and Slave Lake was receiving evacuees from the surrounding area. Unfortunately the winds changed direction and at 100kms per hour blew the fires into Slave Lake. 7,000 people were forced to evacuate with seven minutes notice. At one point there was no escape route safe to travel and water bombers had to be deployed to open up one of the roads. The estimated

cost of the damages was \$700 million dollars.

Water and sewage was out for more than two weeks after the event. They are still settling people into temporary housing. The loss to business has yet to be tallied but the Mayor of Slave Lake recognized that without government help the business community would be slow to recover so she negotiated with the Alberta government recovery grants for business. As this community served the oil patch, Alberta recognized the importance of her request.

Consider the fate of the people and businesses of Christchurch New Zealand. Speaking with Peter Townsend, the Executive Director of the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce in Christchurch, whose business centre was devastated by two major earthquakes six months apart. Their disaster scenario was flooding from a nearby river, not earthquakes. Their response was remarkable and is now a template for recovery from disaster. This will be explored in detail in the next edition of Business in Surrey.

So the message is plain. Be prepared to weather an unexpected disaster and plan ahead for your recovery once the danger has passed. Involve your staff in the planning. As in the London Drugs situation they were able to open their doors the next morning within an hour and a half of their regular time due to staff loyalty. Staff are an important part of your business continuity plan. In addition, check your insurance policy. Know if you have adequate coverage. This can be a major stumbling block for recovery. For assistance in creating a plan check out <http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/gds/index-eng.aspx>

The Surrey Board of Trade is preparing an interactive seminar workshop on preparedness. Watch for information and details on the event. Mary-Lou McCausland is the Chair of the Crime & Justice Team

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Guildford Town Centre Expansion Big Economic Boost For Surrey



Peggy White, General Manager at one of the new glass pyramids

When the Guildford Town Centre mall opened in 1966 it won an Architect's Digest award, and building on those award winning designs the shopping centre is in the midst of an expansion and renovation which is anticipated to double the annual number of shoppers to 20 million, compete for customers with Robson Street and Metrotown, and provide employment for up to 4500 people, when it's completed on August 14, 2014.

At \$280 million, the renovation and expansion project is the largest in Canada, and will take the mall from 980,000 sq.ft. to 1.2 million sq.ft. It will become the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold-certified shopping mall in Canada and will be the largest regional shopping centre south of the Fraser River.

Editor Ray Hudson asked General Manager, Peggy White, to outline the scope of the work.

PW: We're removing every tile, every balustrade, all of the drywall is being taken out and being replaced because back in the sixties asbestos was often used as a fire retardant. We have a crew do that in the middle of the night, dressed in the full hazmat suits. When we're done, everything in the interior will be brand new when we open next year.

The biggest changes have been to the south side of the mall where Walmart was dramatically enlarged (149,000 sq.ft.), and opened on October 28, last year. To the east of that, an almost quarter of the mall size section will be added over what used to be the east parking lot, where we're building a parkade and 200 thousand square feet of retail, which will house about 75 new stores. There will also be a lot of new restaurants and our parking count will return to 5000 stalls

I think one of the most amazing things is that we've already taken away about 185 thousand cubic meters of soil as we excavate that east parking lot so that it will be at the same grade as 152nd Street. Before, the entrance of the old Walmart was 22 feet higher.

What kind of an economic impact has this mall had on Surrey's economy?

The shopping centre currently brings in 10 million shoppers. A renovation of this magnitude, we expect, will double that number to 20 million shoppers per year from and coming into Surrey.

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➡ continued on page 8

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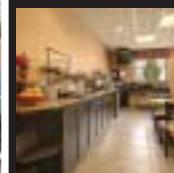
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Guildford Town Centre Expansion Big Economic Boost For Surrey

⊕ continued from page 7



Construction on the final expansion.

because we don't have the breadth and depth of retailers that people are looking for. Unfortunately they're going over the bridge to Metrotown or Robson Street. However, when we're done, we will have some of those same stores here in our mall in Surrey. That should stop the migration out of Surrey and bring in shoppers from the secondary target areas that we used to enjoy before.

When the rebuild is complete how many jobs will be directly related to the mall?

We have 100 people working the graveyard shift doing construction, inside the shopping centre, removing the drywall, tiles and so on, then cleaning up before the shoppers arrive in the morning. During the day we have almost 250 people working on the expansion, so

everyday we have over 450 construction jobs happening here. That's been going on since 2010 and will continue until 2014.

The existing shopping centre has about three thousand people working in it. And that will increase again by the seventy-five new stores, which will bring the number to about 4500 that are working the property.

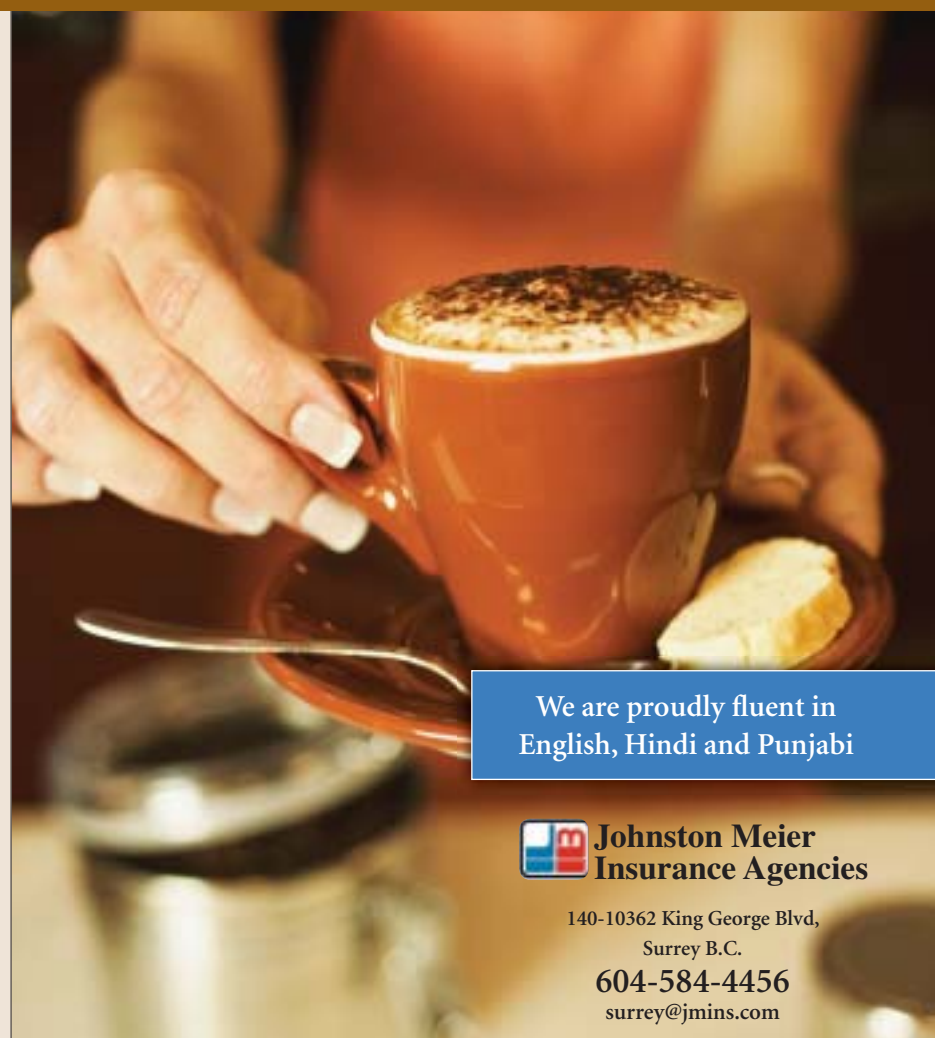
We are working with the City of Surrey to make sure that the signage is appropriate to make the property look good. The city has also asked for one tree for every six parking stalls, and we're going to have 5,000 parking stalls, so that shows you how many trees will be put into the property. The 104th Avenue overpass will have the corrugated concrete look covered by a vertical garden on both sides, as will one wall in the Centre Court inside. We are working with Green Over Grey, the company that did the vertical garden at the new Semiahmoo library. As well there will be lots of water features at the entrances and lots of exterior seeding, so people will really feel that it is the place to be in Surrey.

I'd like to mention that the Architect who won the "Town Shift" design competition for Guildford is with MCMP, the company we use as the architects for the shopping centre. He wasn't on this project but is with the same firm. We've adopted some of the elements such as making it greener, making 152nd a much more livable road, and those are features you can see in those designs.

If you want to "fly through" the new centre, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wagl73DtEKw or visit them at www.guilfordtowncentre.com

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Two students identify business opportunities in India film



Rohith (middle) with Wizcraft colleague's participating in a pre-Holi celebration in office dressed in a traditional kurtha.

STUDENT #1: Hussein Alidina Feb 2012 - April 2012

This internship was a joint venture between the Surrey Board of Trade and the Canada-India Business Council as part of SFU's BC India Mobility Initiative. My Co-Op was with India's Wizcraft, India's leading Communication & Entertainment agency, which has been in operation for 26 years. Wizcraft executes events across a variety of sectors which serve as powerful

communication platforms. With a staff of over 300 "Wizzes" in 6 regional and 3 international offices, Wizcraft's areas of expertise include brand activation, corporate events & special events, television production, database & response management, promotions, exhibitions & retail design, digital activation, and content creation. In addition to their clients, Wizcraft also executes its own branded events, including the globally-renowned

IIFA Weekend and Awards, Green Globe Foundation Awards, Global Indian Music Academy Awards and the Film & TV Producers Guild Awards.

I was involved in executing several events and also attended several events as an observer. Through observation and direct action I was able to learn more about several aspects of event management. Also, networking with event attendees and more importantly with Wizcraft's own staff, I have been able to make strong relationships, which will last after returning home.

The most significant responsibilities were given to me during the planning and execution of the Indian Premier League (IPL) opening ceremony. The IPL is cricket championship tournament held in India which is now in its 5th season. To kick the tournament off this year, Wizcraft was asked to plan and execute a large scale opening ceremony featuring noteworthy names from both the Bollywood and Hollywood industries. For this ceremony a large amount of audio tracks were needed, so I was given the task of managing audio files for the event. This included tracking all audio submitted to Wizcraft from various parties, ensuring it's quality, and then providing it to the appropriate "Wizzes".

In Chennai, at the actual IPL rehears-

als and event, I became the point of contact between Wizcraft and one of the international acts, "I-luminate". I ensured all requirements for their team were met and that they were kept well informed of rehearsal and performance details.

In a larger scale, networking at several events, several Mumbai based music producers and directors are looking for new people to collaborate with to create new sounds, so I have began linking different people within the two countries. Hopefully we will see some Canadian artists featured on some Indian movie soundtracks later on this year, including myself

The most interesting business opportunity that was not directly part of my original objectives was talks with Universal Music. I was able to record two songs with Universal Artist Stereo Nation while in Mumbai. The lead singer Taz passed my music on to Universal Music, which led to a meeting.

STUDENT #2: Rohith Manhas

As a third year business student at SFU interested in international trade and business development, working in Mumbai for the past three months was the ideal opportunity for me to pursue this passion. In Mumbai, I worked as a co-op student

at Wizcraft Entertainment. By working with Wizcraft's special projects team, I developed a thorough understanding of event management (i.e. the creative process, budgeting, logistics, pitching, and execution) by working on a number of high profile events such as the IPL (Indian Premier League) Opening Ceremonies in Chennai, India. I also completed a rotation with Wizcraft's corporate division, where I supported my colleagues in handling clients including: CNBC, Times of India, and Google. It was with the corporate division, which I worked on my first event, the CNBC CFO of the Year Awards. Working with Wizcraft also meant that both myself and my SFU colleague were given the liberty to attend all major business conference organized by the firm, such as FICCI Frames 2012 - Asia's largest business conference for media and entertainment. FICCI allowed us to make contacts with film producers and business owners within the South Asian M&E industry, and its speakers comprising of some of India and world's foremost elites in the film industry (ex. Senator Dodd, President of the Motion Picture Association of America; Karan Johar, Director of Dharma Productions; Imtiaz Ali, Director, Actor, and Writer).

ACROSS the BOARD

Congratulations

Arthur Murray Dance Studio is celebrating their 100th year of teach the world to dance. **More Info:** dance@arthurmurray.ca.

The **Cloverdale Recreation Centre** has won a prestigious award for outstanding achievements in design development, facility concept and operation. The **City of Surrey** received the Award of Facility Excellence from the **BC Recreation and Parks Association** in Victoria on May 10th, 2012. **More Info:** Laurie.Cavan@604-598-5760.

Community Savings Credit Union was recently recognized at the 17th annual Cultural DIVERSECity Awards in the category of businesses with 26+ employees. The award honours businesses that actively celebrate cultural diversity in the workplace. **More Info:** Kirsten.Allen@comsavings.com or 604-839-5838.

The **Hampton Inn & Suites, Langley Bypass** have recently been awarded with two big accomplishments. They won the **TripAdvisor's 2012 Travelers' Choice** in Award, along with being featured on the **Hampton Wall of Fame** for being in the top 15% of hotels in the **Hampton Brand**. **More Info:** Alnoor.Tejpar@atjpar@aol.com

Indus Travels has been awarded the Best Tour Operator to India from the Americas for the fourth time in five years. The award was presented by the **Honourable President of India Mrs. Pratibha Devisingh Patil to Praveen Syal** at an event held in New Delhi on February 29, 2012. **More Info:** mail@industravels.ca or 604-279-8794.

The **Surrey International Writers Conference** is announcing a writing prize of \$1,000 for telling a tale. Cash prizes totaling \$4,600 are waiting to be won by talented scribes and poets. The contest closes September 14, 2012 at the stroke of midnight. In 2002, best-selling authors Diana Gabaldon author of the award-winning **Outlander** series, and Jack Whyte, **Camulod Chronicles** and **Templar Trilogy**, established **The Storyteller's Award** for short stories in honour of the 10th anniversary of the conference. They will be on hand again this year to celebrate "The Roaring Twenties", the 20th anniversary of the 4-day literary event. For more information please go to <http://www.siwcc.ca/contest/2012>

Options Community Services Society is happy to announce that they have been reaccredited by the **Council of Accreditation**. The Council has determined that the organization as a whole has achieved credibility and integrity. **More Info:** Shirley.runte@options.bc.ca or 604-596-4321.

Payfirma has made the **Branham 300** List for Top 25 Up & Coming Tech Companies. The **Branham List** is **Branham Group's** ranking of the top 300 Canadian Information Technology (IT) companies reflects the ever-changing, yet ever-present IT Sector. **More Info:** aman.bains@payfirma.com.

Jas Cheema, Chair of the Surrey Libraries' Board, was awarded Super Trustee by the **British Columbia Library Trustees Association (BCLTA)** on May 12th. The Super Trustee award recognizes trustees who have made a major contribution to their libraries. BCLTA represents the boards and trustees that govern local public libraries in British Columbia. Jas has been an indispensable resource and advocate for **Surrey Libraries**, leading several milestone achievements in her time on the Board, including the development of the **City Centre Library** and as a Chair of the Literacy for Life Major Gifts Campaign. **More Info:** Surinder.Bhagal@604-598-7304.

Achieving Prosperity Through Diversity, by **Gobinder Gill of Workforce Transcreations** became a Number One Best Seller on Amazon on March 24, 2012 in three different categories. **More Info:** 604-307-8706 or binderg@shaw.ca.

Announcements

Lynda Pasacreta, President and CEO of the **Better Business Bureau serving Mainland BC**, will be retiring from the BBB at the end of May 2012. Lynda has served the BBB for the past 5 years. She has brought warmth and humour, and helped to grow the BBB presence in the marketplace. **More Info:** Joanna@mbc.bbb.org or 604-488-8702.

Surrey's Breakwater Marine continues its growth in Western North America, opening its first on-water yacht and cruiser location in downtown Seattle. This is their fourth location overall and third in Washington state. **More Info:** Aaron.Fell@604-572-4864 or aaron.fell@breakwater-marine.com.

Community Savings Credit Union is pleased to

announce that **Debbie Kirby** has been appointed as manager of the newly created Mortgage Broker Division. **More Info:** Kirsten.Allen@comsavings.com or 604-839-5838.

Community Savings Credit Union is now offering a coin counting machine at its new Burnaby Heights branch that is free for the public and takes no commission on the change counted. **More Info:** Kirsten.Allen@comsavings.com or 604-839-5838.

Imperial Oil is pleased to offer the opportunity for employees of **Surrey Board of Trade** member businesses to enroll in the **Esso Business Card** program. This program offers a rebate of 3.5 cents per litre on fuel purchases at over 1,850 Esso stations across Canada!

Surrey Board of Trade has partnered with **Payfirma** to bring merchants substantial savings when it comes to choosing the right payment processor for your business. Founded by **Michael Gokturk** in early 2011, **Payfirma** helps businesses accept credit and debit cards in their stores and offices, online, and on their mobile devices. Their goal is to provides businesses with a simple and approachable service that helps businesses reach their growth potential. The Vancouver-based company was recognized by **KPMG** as the Best New Canadian Startup of 2011, and most recently **Branham 300's** Top 25 Up & Coming Tech Companies. As Canada's premier innovator of financial and payment technology, **Payfirma** can now offer services such as the **Mobile Payment App** for iOS, BlackBerry, and Android devices which enables you to accept credit cards anytime, anywhere. **More Info:** Visit www.payfirma.com or 1-800-747-6883.

WestStone Properties unveiled the **Urban Village** Presentation Centre in **Surrey City Centre** on April 7th, 2012. The development will comprise approximately 2,500 homes contained with a \$1 billion master-planned community. **More Info:** Robert.Dominick@bob@wsprop.com or 604-588-6999

Once a radio play commissioned by the Queen, now the record-breaking production of **Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap** has entered its 60th year in London's West End. Worldwide celebrations have been planned and **Peninsula Productions** are thrilled to be part of the macabre mayhem. Their production of **The Mousetrap** opens on July 11th and runs until July 28th at The Coast Capital Playhouse. To find out "who did it" please join **Peninsula Productions** and the cast of **The Mousetrap** this July at the Coast Capital Playhouse, White Rock. **More Info:** Tickets are \$12-\$23 and can be purchased at 1532 Johnston Road, by phone at (604) 536-7535, or online www.whiterock-players.ca

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