

To Represent the Interests of Business & Encourage Economic Development

President's *Message*

"Information is valuable, action though is invaluable."

This quote from the business book Teaching Elephants to Dance nicely sums up the Chamber's aim for 2003. By now, many of you heard about our Chamber's **Action Yorkton** plan. It is our new Chamber business plan. This plan, developed by the 2002 Board, reviewed and added to by the 2003 Board (already!), will form the base of our "actions" in 2003 and beyond. The plan outlines our mission statement, guiding principles, goals and strategies for success. Our 2003 Board is committed to implementing and working this Plan. Committed to Action.

Representing the interests of business for the growth and prosperity of our members and our communities is our new Mission Statement.

The definitions of how we plan to fulfill this mission are bound in our **Goals** – to support our business community's development with a focus on the retention and expansion of existing companies; to be an effective business advocate; to provide and maintain Chamber activities that support and promote our members; to grow the Chamber; and to encourage an even greater regionalized perspective be taken in areas of economic development. Celebrating success, partnering, communicating and building relationships are the most common theme in this year's **strategies**. Our **Guiding Principles** will be drawn on for decision making and further planning. Our first of the seven principles states we will run this Chamber like a business.

It sounds like a simple concept, why even write it down? We believe formalizing the intent by writing it down establishes commitment and accountability standards for our Chamber.

I expect 2003 to be an exciting year for our Chamber. As our Board gets to know each other and we build our team I have been very impressed with our Directors. The broad range of business interest, management and board experience at the table is tremendous. The best part though is the number of times I heard directors say, "Yorkton is a great, growing community with lots to offer. I want to be part of the promotion." Or "I want to contribute to this community. I want to do my part." Many directors are Yorkton returnees. They left for education or other reasons but talked about "making their decision to come back to Yorkton because it's a great place with great opportunity." Open comments about their desire to serve on the Board so they can learn and be better business people but contribute at the same time were heard. Opportunity to meet people, network and be part of the solution was spoken and many nodded in agreement. There's a lot of heart at our board table. Sounds like a winning team, doesn't it?

And already we have a success to model thanks to the work of previous Chamber boards. SAMA recently announced Yorkton will be a pilot site for the testing of the income approach for tax assessment. In 2001 the Board of the day suggested a test of this approach be undertaken to "build further knowledge of this system and understand its impact to both



Cheryl Denesowych
2003 Chamber President

the municipality and the business community." Your Chamber plans to continue this type of solution-based, forward-looking thinking.

Take note of who is a Director on your Chamber Board. Talk to them. Pass on your concerns, your ideas, and your proposed solutions. Our Action Yorkton document closes with a well-known Henry Ford quote: **"coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, but working together is success."** Great truth in those words, isn't there? Our Chamber focus is well developed. I personally ask for your support as we venture forth. Chamber membership is an investment in your business and your community. As cliché as that sounds, it does work! The Yorkton Chamber has been organized for 105 years. We are a 2003 group that wants to make a difference; we want to continue the work. Your dollars in support will help us achieve. For those who have been Chamber supporters I personally thank you and I look forward to working for you. If you don't support the Chamber, when can we get together? I'd welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

Cheryl Denesowych
Chamber President ♣



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U P C O M I N G

Chamber

E V E N T S

◀ **February 24th** ▶

CAREER & BUSINESS 'XPO

Yorkton Agriplex

10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

◀ **March 11th** ▶

PREMIER'S BUSINESS DINNER

St. Mary's Cultural Centre

6:00 p.m. Reception

Premiers Address and

Dinner to follow.

◀ **March 13th** ▶

BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Holiday Inn

12:00 noon

\$10.00/member

Stephen Harper

Leader of Canadian Alliance to

address members.

◀ **April 23rd** ▶

DINE-A-NITE

St. Mary's Cultural Centre

Guest Speaker - Darci Lang

Action Yorkton Business Report

REDA Report:

- In Dec 2002 the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Executive met with the REDA Executive to discuss our Action Yorkton plan and the REDA strategic plan. By being familiar with each organization's strategic plans, we can determine opportunities for partnerships and avoid service duplication. REDA's final plan will be detailed in late January. Our two organizations will continue to meet and we will continue to update our membership on activities.

MLA Report:

- In Dec 2002 the Chamber executive met with Clay Serby to introduce him to our Action Yorkton plan. Clay was very receptive to our new plan and recognized our role as a business advocate organization. He encouraged us to bring forth our ideas and concerns to him on a regular basis.
- We further discussed concerns over differing population numbers depending on source. We expressed our concern and need for more "industrial" jobs in our community. Clay told us we can likely expect an announcement regarding the Ethanol plant location and construction date in February.
- We expressed concern about health care specialists leaving our City and asked for his explanation of the circumstances. He advised he was well aware of the situation and that many changes are being proposed to address this problem. Alternative pay or reenumeration for health service specialists was an example of what the Provincial government was looking into.
- Plans were initiated for our Annual Premier's Dinner. To be held in March, this event brings the government of the day into Yorkton and provides our business community with opportunity to speak directly to the minister of their choice.

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Congratulations to our
New Executive & Directors for 2003

Name	Position
Cheryl Denesowych	<i>President</i>
Todd Haas	<i>Executive Vice President</i>
Fay Myers	<i>Vice President</i>
Brenda Niefer	<i>Vice President</i>
Richard Okrainec	<i>Past President</i>

Kent Latimer	<i>Director</i>
Deb Halldorson	<i>Director</i>
Warren Kotzer	<i>Director</i>
Al Greschuk	<i>Director</i>
Robert Ashcroft	<i>Director</i>
Donna Bucsis	<i>Director</i>
Bob Maloney	<i>Director</i>
Jason Farrell	<i>Director</i>
Chris Zeller	<i>Director</i>
Irma Balaberda	<i>Director</i>
Ron Hana	<i>Director</i>

Donna Brothwell	<i>Manager</i>
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- Holiday Inn
- Days Inn
- Redwood Motel
- Yorke Inn
- Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre
- Academy of Learning

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 will be referred - this is one
 of your member benefits!**

A Fond Farewell



At this time the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce gives a great big ***Thank You***
 and farewell to the retiring Directors from the Board of 2002.

Kevin Lukey, Urban Donlevy, Greg Ottenbreitt, John Malinowski, and Bill Gulka.
You have served your community well on this Board.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING A DIRECTOR WITH THE YORKTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND
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