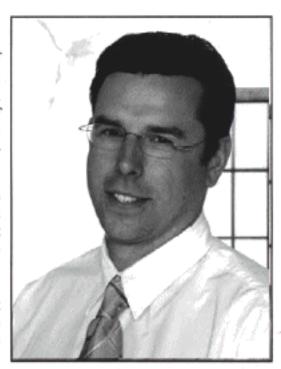
Volume 1 • Issue 1 Representing the Interests of Business for the Growth and Prosperity of Our Members and Communities President's Message

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chamber of Commerce board of directors for entrusting me with the responsibility of serving as President for 2005. This is a responsibility I take seriously and look forward to be a part of some positive developments in our city. I also want to congratulate Todd Haas on his term as President and Donna for keeping him and the rest of us organized.

My first order of business was to meet alongside other vested parties with the labor minister, Deb Higgins, on the proposed new labor standard regarding part time labor. After seeking input from our membership our opinion on this is crystal clear...we are categorically opposed to such a legislation. In its current form the legislation would prohibit any employer with 50 or more employees from hiring any additional part time help without offering those same hours to all of their most senior part time people. It is an unfortunate reality that some people require more than one part time job to make ends meet, but I feel a more



unfortunate reality would be that person who desperately needs a part time job cannot find one. Inevitably there will be fewer part time jobs available if this legislation is passed. That means fewer jobs for the youth seeking their first job, fewer jobs for special needs people, fewer jobs for farmers who want winter work, and fewer jobs for University summer students.

Our future as a province is truly wide open for any major employer who wants to operate under the most restrictive labor standards in the entire country. Imagine as an employer being mandated to offer additional hours to the most senior part time people at your business even if they are substandard employees. As a province which needs to be growing our population through economic development, we would be attracting part time employment, as they would be protected by this union type of legislation, and steering away the businesses that would be employing them. My blood pressure is rising as I type these words.

I represent the Chamber on the Downtown Steering Group which has helped set the parameters for the future of Yorkton's downtown redevelopment plan. This plan is truly exciting and we can all look forward to its public unveiling within the next couple of months. Congratulations to the city for having a real vision for our community. There are many downtowns which are the result of lack of vision. Not many would want all economic development to be concentrated on the east end as our downtown becomes vacant and derelict.

My family spent Christmas in Australia this year as we visited my wife's side of the family. I found it interesting that half way around the world, effective January 1, the same no smoking by-law which became effective in Saskatchewan became effective in two provinces of Australia. The same issues exist there with the opposition coming from the hospitality industry. As a non-smoker it is wonderful to be able to attend a restaurant or pub without smelling like a cigarette when I leave. On our way to Australia we passed through three airports, all of which had designated smoking areas, and my clothes smelled the same. I have a lot of difficulty understanding why the same provisions could not be made within the bylaw. This may be an exercise in futility, but I'll pursue this issue.

I've initiated the first meeting with the mayor, council, DBA, REDA, the Exhibition Board, and the Chamber which will be on February 10. Each party will be asked to give a 'State of the Union' address and open up the dialogue between these groups in order to work in a more cooperative manner.

I challenge all members to open up dialogue between yourselves and the Chamber as I want 2005 to be significant. I want everyone to know that I'm willing to discuss their issues at any time.

Best wishes to all for a successful and healthy 2005.

Jason Farrell President Yorkton Chamber of Commerce



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February Chamber Luncheon

Date To Be Announced.

Yorkton Centennial Sno Sho Winter Festival

February 4-5-6

For more information, call 783-4368. or check out our website at www.chamber.yorkton.sk.ca

Second Coin Issued

As of January 1, 2005, the second Centennial Coin, the *Hudson's Bay* Store. is now circulation.

It's \$3 legal tender from now until December 31, 2005.



Don't forget to pick up the entire collection in a CD case for \$16.99, or velvet box for \$59.99 at participating retailers.

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Congratulations to our Members

Congratulations to WAYNE RUSNAK of RUSNAK BALACKO KACHUR RUSNAK KYBA for being named as Queen's Counsel.

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YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL

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- Custom Microsystems Harvest Moon Technologies •
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- Car Tim Horton's Ventures Community Futures Dev. •
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2005 Yorkton Chamber of Commerce BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On January 14, our new 2005 Board of Directors were sworn in at our annual Induction Luncheon.

We would like to send a big welcome to our new Directors:

Judie Bernat—The Plum Tree
Gary Daniels—Painted Hand Casino
Sherry Grunert—Marlin Travel
David Horsman—Parker Quine CA
Linda Ouart—Edward Jones
Rick Schrader—Schrader Motors



On our Executive this year are:

President—Jason Farrell, Farrell Agencies Executive Vice President—James Wilson, SaskTel Vice President—Rob Harvey, Canadian Tire Vice President—Michelle Chyz, Yorkton News Review Past President—Todd Haas, Haas Nissan

Staying on as Directors for the next year are:

Pat Bischop—Suzanne's Deb Koch—Sunset Photo Judy Hughes—On Trac Consulting Kerry Skowronski—From Hair On Nancy Zdan—Howard Johnson

We would also like to say thank you and bid a fond farewell to our Directors whose terms have expired:

Irma Balaberda—Big Brothers Big Sisters
Cheryl Denesowych—Yorkton Aircraft Service
Ron Hana—GX94 Radio
Pete Hluchaniuk—First Fitness
Bob Maloney—CTV Yorkton
Brenda Niefer—CIBC

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking to advertise your biggest event, sale or new store hours? Why not advertise in our Community Courier! The Courier provides an opportunity for distribution in a "business drop" of 850 in the city of Yorkton with a mail out to area Chambers, members and other organizations of approximately 50 for a total of 900!!

We limit the amount of inserts per issue so you get high focus on your ad. You supply us with one copy of the poster or flyer, and we do the rest!

For Members, the cost is \$190 + GST per issue, or \$220 + GST per issue for a two-sided insert. It costs \$5 + GST more for coloured paper. Even non-members can advertise in our Courier for \$275 + GST. For more information, call us today at 783-4368.