

Representing the Interests of Business for the Growth and Prosperity of Our Members and Communities

President's Message

I am truly disappointed in the fact that this will be my last President's Message. I've felt great satisfaction bringing issues to light and informing all readers of the issues which faced the Chamber over the course of the year. Communication is the most critical component of any business and if there is a breakdown one can be assured problems will arise. I have tried to be as clear on the issues at hand as possible. We are all privileged to live in a democratic society where opinions are not only heard, but encouraged. The best situation I find is when someone disagrees with my opinion because by disagreeing; they are expressing their own opinion. I feel an opinion should never be criticized, rather challenged.

The Morris Harvest Showdown was another great success and I want to pass on my congratulations to the Exhibition Board and all other volunteers who enabled our community to once again be in the spotlight. I also want to congratulate all the sponsors. It's nice to see your consumer dollars be turned back into our community.

I would like to welcome David Putz who is our new city manager. At the same time we should all recognize Wayne Jensen for his years of dedicated service and wish Wayne all the best in his retirement.

The last Chamber luncheon takes place on December 9 and will be one of our most interesting. Speaking at the luncheon will be a representative from the Institute of Chartered Accountants. Topics to be covered will include population loss, sustainability of our health care system, and the importance of private sector investment in an attempt to spur further economic development. The Institute has no political affiliation and simply provides facts.

Despite all the speculation surrounding the construction of Yorkton's new roundabout I think we can all agree it creates a much better traffic flow. It has unfortunately cost me a fair bit of money as I now have to deviate from the most efficient route in order to go around that same roundabout a few times as per my daughter's request.

Our provincial government was given a copy of the proposed downtown redevelopment plan. The most recent throne speech referred to a better partnership between the government and the cities/RM's regarding economic development. If you support the plan and economic development in our area I would suggest you put the appropriate people to task for job they have been charged to deliver.

Our MLA called a meeting last month to express his support for Team Yorkton.

To conclude I want to thank all the people I have had the opportunity to work with over the course of the past year. The Chamber Board of Directors and Executive Director, the City, the Yorkton Business Improvement District, our MLA, REDA, the Exhibition Board and Yorkton Tourism. We certainly did not agree at all times which as I previously stated is healthy situation. One issue we all agreed on was the passion we all share for the betterment of our city.

One issue which remains unsolved that will continue to plague the incoming board is this; 'Does green tea have caffeine?'

Shop locally if you expect the same.

Remind the important people in your life this holiday season that they are responsible for the joy in your life.

It has been a real privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Yorkton Chamber of Commerce President.

Best wishes to all,

Jason



COMMUNITY COURIER

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The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce welcomes these and all the 55 new members to the Chamber this year.

Coming up at
The Chamber of Commerce...

NOVEMBER 23RD: PREMIERS DINNER

Gallagher Center
Cocktails: 6pm
Dinner: 7pm
Premiers Address to Follow

**WINE AND CHEESE RECEPTION—MEMBER APPRECIATION
BEST WESTERN**

December 1st, 4—7PM

FINAL LUNCHEON

BEST WESTERN
December 9th, 12 Noon—1PM

Check up presentation with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Saskatchewan

DIRECTOR'S MEETING

December 21st

You have until Jan. 31, 2006 to nominate that deserving business for the CELEBRATE SUCCESS AWARDS.

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL - October 2005

- Flamans • Yorkton Coop • Nova Promotional Products •
- Henry Ninowsky Sales • Harley Davidson of Yorkton •
- Schrader Motors • Welcome Wagon • Tourism Yorkton •
- Yorkton Exhibition Association • SIGN • Big Brothers and Big Sisters •
- Boys and Girls Club • L.R Future Investements • Yorkton Geothermal • ArtFX •
- Yorkton Framing Gallery • Frameworks • LNX Hosting •
- Bequet's Custom Programing • Uncommon Sense Web Solutions •
- Sherring Gold Parks Jewellery • Zekes • All About Flowers • Growers Direct •
- CTV Yorkton • Yorkton This Week • The Yorkton News Review •

Just to name a few!



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Upcoming Seminars

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November 17th 1-2pm Saskatoon, SK.

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Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting

Saskatoon: Dec 12 & 13 Regina: Dec. 14 & 15 9-4pm

Info: 1-800-873-7545

enroll@skillpath.net or www.skillpath.com

Management Skills for Front Line Managers

Module 1: Supervision Dec 6 & 7 (9:00 - 4:30)

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Check out www.venturescfdc.com/workshops

IN YORKTON November and December

Painted Hand Casino World Curling Tour

November 25th-28th, 2005

Gallagher Center, Farrell Agencies Arena

Santa Claus Parade

Saturday, November 26th

All Star Hockey

December 6 & 7, 2005

Gallagher Center, Farrell Agencies Arena

Info: www.yorktonterriers.com/prospectsgame/

On behalf of the Board of Directors
of the Yorkton Chamber of
Commerce we would like to wish
you all a very fond holiday season.
Be safe and share time with all your
loved ones. Remember without
them we are nothing.

This season, bring joy, bring love,
and bring yourself to each moment
you share.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND ALL
THE BEST IN 2006**

Congratulations To....

Smitty's and Beds by Day
for celebrating their Grand Openings!

Sarah Thom, newest addition
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LH Accounting celebrating their
1st Anniversary November 17th



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Wow, what a year of greatness! If I had to choose one specific day, event, or issue we tackled this year, I would be hard pressed to do so.

First let me thank all the participating businesses who took part in the Centennial Coin project. For the Chamber and its members it has been a great success. We ordered approximately 7500 items, and have about 400 items left to sell. These coins will be here for Yorktons use for a very long time. In the next 100 year celebration we can easily see that they will some how be a part of it.

With the change of staff here in the office our new hire Krista was a real find. As a direct result of her work, we end up with over 55 new members for this year alone, and our Courier, emails and fax outs took on a new and more personal touch. She has now gone on to full time work; we will miss her but wish her all the best.

A big welcome to Sherry who brings her many years experience with the Saskatoon Chamber, and her family to us and our community.

I again have enjoyed another year in the Executive Director's roll and continue to get completely involved with every aspect of its ever revolving life. My focus this year, as part of our 2003 business plan, was to get more active in the issues and advocacy that our Chamber can and does play. I have read more bylaws, plans, and selected papers on many issues surrounding our City and Community, than I care to tell. We have also become more active on these issues for our Membership and will continue to do so.

With each new year we have a different President who takes us to new places and this year has been an advocate focused year for Directors. We will always be the voice for business and this was an exceptional year for that. I applaud you Jason and Executive for engaging the advocate roll, as our business plan of 2003 has also set about to do. Although the yearly changes to the board can be difficult, I have been privileged to have worked with great people with great sight, and business sense.

With the close of 2005 and the New Year ahead we are already planning the Celebrate Success Awards for March of 2006. We all say we don't blow our own horns enough about the great things we do, so I will expect to see many nominations for our businesses.

It is our only event that "Celebrates Business Success" and it is easier than ever to nominate. Those of you who have been nominated or have won, take the time to pay it forward. All the forms and information is on our website and is printable for your convenience.

I would be remiss if I did not congratulate the City's Centennial Committee for this year, they have done a great job, and this type of work is exactly what needs to be recognized.

It is ever so important to hear from our membership. This year's membership packages' coming in the mail has a survey to fill in, so please take the time to let us know what we are doing right, and wrong, and don't forget to include suggestions for change. Our membership has grown from its humble beginnings of 30 to over 400. We are one of the most active, have the highest % of businesses/capita, and are the best at keeping our Members informed, of all the chambers in our Province. It is thanks to our Members, YOU!

Have a safe and happy holiday from Sherry and myself and we hope to see you at our Membership appreciation wine and cheese on Dec. 1st at the Best Western.

D