



COMMUNITY COURIER

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

President's Message

As the leaves finish falling, hopefully the majority of Yorkton citizens are well aware of the additional events coinciding with the season change this fall. As we prepare for winter, our community is also becoming fully immersed in the election season. Once again, we as citizens get to choose who we believe should represent the city as our Mayor and Councillors. As a Chamber we continue to stand strong on the issues that have impacted business and voice opinions of concern if any negativity was imposed on business.

In the past seasons the Chamber has challenged Council on varying issues including the smoking bylaw. As a group we have remained adamant that this bylaw could be considered an injustice on business by imposing unfair practises. For the Gallagher Centre, we presented an alternative plan for taxation placed on business property surrounding the additional levy. We have also tried over the years to influence council that the beautification bylaw's strong wording and rulings hinder business development. Supposedly, the above issues are to be forgotten about and are past trivia. The question really is, what can you do? How about choosing to vote? As a free democratic nation we should be taking advantage of our right to voice our individual opinions through the election process.

The Chamber has also worked with and supported council initiatives a number of times, including the initiative of the local airport receiving recognition as a pivotal part of economic development and supported the airport study. We supported the idea to have the upgrades done to the downtown core, with the understanding that council should be aware that the costs could not dramatically affect the city. We worked on numerous occasions with the city on community social events to help build moral for business in the community. We have always had a tie for open, honest communication with the council of the day. Once again, the above has progressed the city and the above are righteous and good for business. Accordingly you can decide through the democratic process on Election Day.

According to the Sask. Health census of 2005, we have approximately 13,000 eligible voters in Yorkton. In 2003 the city election had a 36% turnout of the eligible voters. The electoral break down by voter groups are; 11% 18 - 24 youth, 50% 25 - 54 business/labour, 39% 55 + senior. One must recognize that there are over 900 businesses in our City illustrating the fact that the business community is vital to the election process.

Shortly we will be meeting with community groups to continue to be a proactive Chamber and attempt to grasp a better understanding on future issues for the new Council. We feel we need to work as a community but we require first hand knowledge. In the coming months we have agreed to meet one on one with SIGN and Sask Abilities to gain a better understanding of the upcoming tax abatement. In addition, early this month we will be meeting with the firefighters to gather first hand knowledge on the age-old issues surrounding the fire department. At each meeting we will have our business community at heart, and will communicate back to you the Chamber's position.

In summary, the Chamber Board is encouraging the community to VOTE. Let's prove that we are a community concerned enough to complete our civic duty. On Thursday, October 25, take a few minutes for our community and head to either the Gallagher Centre or the Gloria Hayden Centre to VOTE.

James Wilson - President



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Meet the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

DWIGHT RUF

Board of Director



Dwight has resided in and around Yorkton his whole life. Dwight and his wife Tammy have been married for 22 years and they have one son, Nick. In 1991, Dwight and Tammy opened their business, D.R. Auto Extras. This business has grown from just two of them to thirteen staff. They have expanded this business from just selling automotive accessories to include wireless devices, travel trailers, parts, and accessories for all RV's, remote car starters, computer sales and repairs.

Over the years, Dwight has volunteered in many community activities such as SIGN Daycare, Meals on Wheels, and the Yorkton Terriers which he sat on the Volunteer Board of Directors. Over the years Dwight has been involved with minor hockey as a manager/assistant coach. He spends his free time golfing and camping. Dwight also enjoys his duty as a Chamber Board of Director and he sits on the Public Policy committee.

Get involved and become a Director of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce!

We are active and you will be more in touch with the issues of today than ever before!

Interesting statistics: 17 out of the 22 City Council Candidates are or have been Chamber of Commerce Directors Members or employed with a Member.

See our insert for Nomination to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

SHERRY GRUNERT

Board of Director



Sherry spent her early childhood in the East Kootenays any her school years between Surrey, Prince George and Kelowna, British Columbia. During high school she worked for a local jeweller in Kelowna. Sherry took a jewellery design course through the Gemological Institute of America when she decided to change direction and pursue her dream of working in the travel industry.

She soon found out that this was a difficult industry to break into without experience and the fact that she was only 18 didn't help either. She ended up playing fastball for a local travel agency in Kelowna and as she was a pretty good player, she got to know the owners quite well. At that time they had over 19 offices so were fairly known in the Okanagan Valley. She was told that if she went to Vancouver and took the Travel Agent course (which at that time was only three months long), they would hire her. And so she began her twenty six year plus long career!

Sherry now owns the two Marlin Travel offices in Yorkton and employs five full-time staff. She has been in business here for over seven years.

At that time Sherry met her husband Craig Grunert, who was a partner in a travel agency in Kamloops. After two years of long distance dating, Sherry decided to get married and so she moved to Yorkton in 1995.

Sherry enjoys the pace and the convenience of having everything one needs, within a 5-10 minute drive of home. Sherry also sits on the Attitude Committee with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.



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Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

October 15 to 30th ~ Yorkton Chamber of Commerce
Board Of Directors Nominations

November 1st to 15th ~ Director Elections

Wednesday, November 1st ~ Chamber Luncheon, 12:00 Noon, Best Western
Guest Speaker: Dr. Peter McKinnon, President,
University of Saskatchewan

Friday, December 8th ~ Chamber Luncheon, 12:00 Noon Best Western
Guest Speaker: Institute of Chartered Accountants
of Saskatchewan
Speaking: Nola Joorisity "Yearly Check Up
on Saskatchewan"

Other Events Happening in Yorkton:

HALLOWEEN MONSTER MASH

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Yorkton's "9th Annual Santa Clause Parade"

Saturday, November 25th, 2006

The Parade Route will begin at 5:30 p.m.. If you are interested in putting a float in this parade, please call the Chamber office for a registration form at 783-4368 or call Penny Sandercock at 782-6456 or Kathy Hilworth at 783-9446 EXT 230.



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