

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



COMMUNITY COURIER

The role of the business development committee is to assist in the start-ups of new businesses, and to assist in the growth of existing businesses. Our committee has done something, to our knowledge, has not been done in Saskatchewan. We compiled all the information about starting a business from: The REDA, Sask Economic Development, Ventures community Futures, The City of Yorkton, Tourism Yorkton, University of Saskatchewan College of Commerce, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

We then had our staff compile, sort and format this info onto a easy to use disk, which is available online on our website, www.yorktonchamber.com. We have had several businesses use this site and are now operational. The benefit of a new business in our community effects all businesses. With every new business there is new traffic into our community. With this new traffic means opportunity for your business to grow and expand as well.

The "Everything you wanted to know about starting a business in Yorkton" disk is also great for existing businesses as well. If you need marketing help, promotional ideas or just need to plan, take a few minutes, you will be glad you did. The chamber would like to thank our sponsors of this project, BMO Bank of Montreal, Cornerstone Credit Union, Farrell Agencies Ltd., Parkland Regional College, Parkland Mall, Parker Quine LLP, RBC Royal Bank, Quick Print, Rusnak Balacko Kachur Rusnak S.G. Kyba, Community Futures Development Corporation, Yorkton This Week, Yorkton Business Improvement District, and City of Yorkton.

The other thing our business development committee has been doing is hosting workshops on growing your business. The first workshop was facilitated by Ron Evinou and David Horsman, both Management Accountants. The room was packed and the businesses that attended were pleased with the info provided. We are again hosting another workshop on April 24th, with marketing being the theme. There will be more info in the courier. We would like to thank Ventures Community futures for their help with this project.

To wrap up, all of the projects the business development committee are free to members, and hopefully, future members. There are many volunteer hours put into these projects, and, as a result, Yorkton's business community will grow as a result. If everyone in this business community thought, what would 100 or 1000 new people in this community do for my business? If the answer is nothing, do no more. If the answer is it would increase it slightly or a lot, then the answer is simple. Support your Chamber, because we are here, working for you!



Kent Latimer

Kent Latimer B. Comm CIP, Chair, Business Education Committee

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Welcome New Members to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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7 Broadway St E., Yorkton, SK
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30 Haultain Ave., Yorkton, SK
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Upcoming Events with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

Friday, April 20th
Chamber Annual General Meeting, 12 Noon, Best Western Parkland Inn

Thursday, May 3rd
Chamber Luncheon, Brad Wall, Leader of the Official Opposition, Sask Party,
12 Noon, Best Western

Friday, May 11th
Dine-A-Nite, Featuring John Gormley, Talk Show Radio Host, 5:30 pm, St. Gerard's
(Thank you to our Sponsors of Dine A Nite: Prairies North/Saskatchewan's Magazine for Good
Prairie Living, Painted Hand Casino, GX 94/Fox FM.

UPCOMING SEMINARS

Excel Level 1	April 17 & 19	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Excel Level 2	May 15 & 17	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Word Level 1	May 8 & 10	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Word Level 2	June 5 & 7	9:00 am - 4:00 pm



For more information on these seminars, call the Parkland Regional College @783-6566



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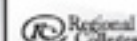


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Meet the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



Dolores Harris Board of Director

Born in Yorkton, SK., Dolores Harris (nee Prybylski) was raised on a family farm near Willowbrook, Sk. She attended grade school in Willowbrook and Junior High in Yorkton. She graduated in 1981 from Sacred Heart High School and commenced employment with the Royal Bank of Canada in Estevan. She was married to Doug Bella and had two children. After being employed for the RBC for nine years, Dolores ventured into a lending career and was employed by the Agricultural Credit Corporation of Saskatchewan. Recognizing the need for continuous education to stay abreast of changes in the business environment, she completed the courses required to graduate from the University of Saskatchewan with a Certificate in Agriculture –Farm Business Management. Shortly thereafter, she started her employment with the CIBC as an Account Manager, Business and Agriculture. Over the next 10 years, her employment with the CIBC led her to positions in Moose Jaw, SK., and then to Regina. She successfully completed her Canadian Securities Course and thereafter obtained her Professional Financial accreditation. In 2002, Dolores was married to Blair Harris and moved back "home" to Yorkton to continue her career with CIBC. In 2006, Dolores made the decision to rejoin the RBC team and is currently an RBC, Commercial Account Manager for the Regina and Parkland area out of the Yorkton office. Blair and Dolores currently live on and operate a grain farm near Yorkton where Blair also manages his own agricultural consulting business. Throughout her banking career, Dolores has held various positions and has been involved in various community and charitable organizations. She was the Chairman of the United Way in Moose Jaw and District for several years and was co-chair of the Business Campaign for the United Way in Regina, Sk. She was also a member of the Business committee of the Regina Chamber of Commerce.

Dolores enjoys curling, golfing, snowmobiling, fishing (when they're biting) and spending time with her large family that all reside in and around Yorkton area. Having worked outside the community in various locations around the Province and hearing much "buzz" about the great things happening in Yorkton, Dolores is very pleased to be back home where she can be involved in the exciting things happening in this community.



Phoebe Decelles Board of Director

Ten years ago I moved to Yorkton for the opportunities for a single parent—to have great education (both myself and my son) for the affordable housing, for the convenience of "big city" and to be in a safe and friendly community to make a better life for my family. I have had the opportunity to be involved with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan, Navy League Cadet Board of Directors, and an active member of the Women In Business Organization which hosts the annual Summer Sizzle to raise funds for local Charities.

After being in Yorkton for many years, attending the College, finding a great job, I took a risk and opened my first UNDER THE COVERS retail store. I am happy to say, I've had/have great success thanks to the support of local business people and organizations as well as the public not only from Yorkton but from the great trading area that we have.

Taking my store to an international selling market (www.underthecovers.ca), coupled with the opportunities for business in Yorkton (ie: lower biz costs), has enabled me to expand my Yorkton Retail Store from 800 sq ft to 3000 sq ft (30 Betts Ave) employ numerous individuals expand into other provinces (Brandon, Manitoba) with another retail store, plus obtain a growing number of home-party sales. I have been able to offer unique opportunities and or services with my business that were only before offered in "major cities." Yorkton is growing! It's a good thing!

My new goal is the expansion of my business through UNDER THE COVERS franchise opportunities across Canada. I have set that goal to be achieved and it will be achieved from Yorkton in the next few years. Be determined is what I've learned, aggressive is who I am, faith is what I have "YORKTON.....WHERE GOOD THINGS HAPPEN" was chosen as our motto.....chosen well!



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Chamber Executive Director Attends LABOUR FORCE SHORTAGE SEMINAR

The Saskatchewan Labour Work and Family Unit held a Work-Family Balance & Labour Force Shortage seminar on March 13th and 14th in Saskatoon and I attended hoping to gain some insight for myself and our membership on the urgent issue of Labour Shortage.

Where are we going to find employees and how do we keep the employees we have were the two main themes that resonated through out each part of the seminar. A work force sits right under our noses and we have talked about it, and acknowledged it for some time but engaging it is the issue. That work force is the Aboriginal population. Other sources we don't hear as much about are; Stay at home Mothers whose kids are now in school, immigration, Youth, Seniors who wish to work past retirement, and technology lay offs. Each source can bring us workers but we may have to be more open to their needs to get them and keep them.

Family Friendly workplaces are where the business world needs to go to retain their staff and attract new workers. Characteristics of a Family Friendly workplace are; Flexibility, Supportive Supervisors/Managers, A culture that is Family Friendly, Alternative Work Arrangements, Recognition of Child and Elder Care Issues, were at the top of the list. Some of the presenters at the seminar were Dr. Suzan Lewis a Professor from Middlesex University Business School, on not easy but doable, working towards real, sustained change in workplace structure, Rosemary Venne, PhD on the coming demographic shifts and a host of business panels on what they are doing, including Yorkton's Corvyn Neufeld with Cornerstone Credit Union just to name a few.

Our Youth today are in a position to have jobs abundant, and will hold bosses to their word. It is said that Youth today do not leave a bad job they leave a bad Manager. Why stay? That is the big challenge of today. If they are not treated with respect, kindness, equality and more they can just go down the street for another job. Us Boomers did not have that luxury and stayed at our jobs no matter what. We got more education to get the better jobs and we brought our kids up with the University bug. Now our Youth are getting job after job right out of High School or even in High School. Not to say these jobs are the careers they will stay with, but Trades, Oil fields and high paying laborers are the call to our Youth today. We are at the turning point where we need to rethink our employment practices to not only attract but to keep our workers.

Small Business has always known about the need to be Family Friendly and the Policy and Procedure manual is not the first thing on the list when you are starting your business. If my only other staff needs to bring her sick child in or stay home with him, I defiantly will work around it to keep her. Stay at home Mothers whose children are now in school are scared to come back to work because of training and still wanting to be at home with the kids after school. This is easily fixed with a 9-3 shift and the offer of on the job training. There is ways around the issues and Small Business practices can give the larger corporations a helping hand when it comes to ideas. As the large Corporations can and have led the way with Policy. There is no one way fits all and this message is equally important in small and big business.

At the seminar I did see a lack of Small Business representatives, as it is harder for a one or two person operation to leave their business. The Chamber is a conduit of information for our membership and will continue to bring you more information on this and other issues as we can. For more information on balancing work and family issues you can visit www.workandfamilybalance.com or please feel free to call me to discuss ways you have come up with to attract and keep your staff that we can further share with our Members.