



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

Spring is finally here, and I would like to take two minutes of your time to inform you of Public Policy's activities to date in 2007. Our first task was to put the finishing touches on Bylaw 14/2003.

We invited City Council, the Mayor and the Business Development Officer to meet with us and pick up where we left off prior to last fall's election. This was an excellent meeting allowing us to make new Council Members aware of the issues with the bylaw. Past that meeting, Public Policy members attended the March 5th City Council meeting where Council voted on the Sub Committee to review changes suggested by the Chamber.

An online poll by the Chamber office was taken on the Skateboard Park. The results were submitted by Rick Schrader to City Council showing support to have the park located at the Gallagher Centre. After Public Policy's meeting with City, we felt that this perhaps was a good opportunity to align ourselves with the City and look into issues of concern to our community. Public Policy and larger yet, the Chamber has a large voice and the ability to lobby Government for changes. Our direction was aimed at the City's RCMP funding issue. We first met with the Director of Finance for the City, Lonnie Kaal. In a separate meeting that same week, we met with a local Senior RCMP Director. Both meetings proved to be very informative. This topic has opened a lot of eyes, and is too much for one page. I will give you the "Coles Notes" on it, just enough to make you start to think and ask questions, on this important issue.

- * In the past "a" government signed an agreement for all communities without their input. It states all cities that have a population of 15,000 or larger, will pay 90% of the RCMP cost. Under 15,000 is charged at 70%.
- * By the census used to calculate, the City of Yorkton is at 15,038.
- * Two communities in Saskatchewan fall under this. Yorkton and Lloydminster. We are basically on our own.
- * With an estimated 2007 Budget of approximately 2.4 million for the contract, I will let you do the math what 20% saves the City.
- * The Federal RCMP Radio Project also falls under these calculations. To date the estimated cost to the City is \$700,000. You can do the math once again.
- * That is the financial end of it.
- * Guess what folks, we are being told the City Detachment is understaffed by 9 members. At approximately \$100,000/member per year, 20% savings might cover 1/3 of the needed new members.

It is an unfortunate situation. We have RCMP Members who enjoy raising their families in our community and are just plain wearing out. With what we as a community can offer, is second to none in this province. Yorkton is the jewel of Saskatchewan and with new growth on the horizon, we must be prepared for such growth in all areas. Safety for our families and property must not be sacrificed for economic growth.

I urge you as the business community to ask questions, discuss with local Civic Leaders and Provincial Members this topic, as change will only occur if we truly believe in our communities well being.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee Members are: Dolores Harris, Don Kunkel, Dwight Ruf, Lawrence Wegner, James Wilson, Rick Schrader, Past Chairperson, Donna Brothwell and Guy Gendreau.

Guy Gendreau,
Public Policy Chair Person

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 324 Broadway St. W., Yorkton, SK.
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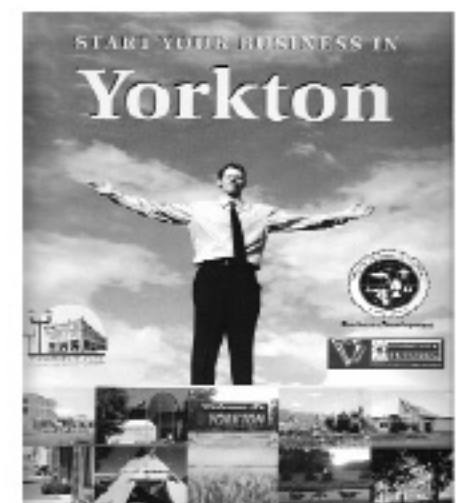
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Meet the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors



Lawrence Wegner

Board of Director

Born in Yorkton, Lawrence Wegner was raised on a farm near Ebenezer area. Graduated from the Yorkton Regional High School and University of Saskatchewan with a diploma in Agriculture. At the U of S, Lawrence played volleyball with the Huskies winning National Title as well as being inducted in the University of Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, City of Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame, and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Lawrence and his wife Dawn, who is a Registered Nurse, have three children: Nicole, Karly and Cale and a granddaughter, Alexa.

Lawrence has owned and operated D's Signs & Designs for 17 years, recently moving to a larger location on 80 Smith Street.

Lawrence is active in the community, a former Lion's member, as well, a Mason and Parkland Shrine Club member. He served on Yorkton's City Council for 4 terms from 1991-2003, was on the Yorkton Hospital Board, as well as various committees. He also was a Director of the York Lake Golf Course at the time of the back nine expansion. Lawrence has also coached several volleyball & soccer teams in the community.

Lawrence has been a Member of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce for several years and is enjoying his first year as a Board of Director.



Sophia Hamm

Board of Director

I have been in the Marketing and advertising industry for seven years. Learning newspaper, radio and television. In 2004, I joined the CTV Saskatchewan Provincial Marketing Team and achieved a #1 Sales in Canada award on two separate occasions. I am very proud of my accomplishments as I love what I do; each day is a new adventure. It is very rewarding for me to know I have helped many clients grow their business and achieved their business goals.

In addition to being the Chair of Marketing and Communications within the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, I am on the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) Committee and a Board of Director with Shelwin House. As well, I enjoy being an Associate Member of the Women Entrepreneurs, where we keep up with current business events and activities. This year, I am also involved with the Yorkton 125 Committee, planning Yorkton's upcoming celebrations.

Yorkton has been my home for the past nine years. My husband Brent and I have been married for five years and are currently having fun renovating our 1912 home. We look forward to any challenges that face us in the future and have chosen to make Yorkton our home. I also believe in our community slogan "Where Good Things Happen". Having moved to Canada at a young age and travelling a lot, I know we are truly blessed to live in such a vibrant and growing community. I look forward to the many adventures ahead.



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