



COMMUNITY COURIER

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

President's Message

I can't believe how fast time is going by, it seems like it was just yesterday that I was writing last month's courier article. Now that spring has finally arrived, I hope you take the time to enjoy the weather as the next few months will fly by just as fast of the last few!

In the last month, city council released its budget announcing a 9.8% tax increase for the city of Yorkton. As with most tax increases, it has garnered attention of the media, local residents and of course, business owners. I have had the opportunity to speak with some concerned members over the amount of the increase and the concerns I have been hearing are all similar, relating to the amount of the increase, how we got to this point and what the plan is in place to address the problems that have brought us to this level of taxation. While I believe most people realize that some form of tax increase was inevitable, the question lies as to what is acceptable, as slow and steady increases would much rather be preferred.



Lori Walsh
President

As a Chamber of Commerce, it is our job to be the voice of our membership, and we have relayed the concerns of our membership on the taxation issue to the city. It is our intent to work with the city to ensure Yorkton maintains a strong business friendly environment. It is positive to see city council dealing with the issues of failing infrastructure, and security, by increasing the RCMP presence in our city, among other things and we do hope there is a plan in place moving forward so this level of taxation can be minimized in future years.

Our Public Policy Committee recently had the opportunity to meet with both the Public and the Separate School Boards. Our committee wanted to get some information first hand in regards to their budgets as a large portion of our property taxes are paid directly to the school boards. The information that was shared was a real eye opener, as the amount of discretionary income in both of their budgets is minute, as the majority of their budget is controlled by the union contracts for their teaching staff. I would like to thank both Dwayne Reeve and Brian Boechler for taking the time to meet with us!

Dine A Night is fast approaching on May 15th at St. Mary's Cultural Centre. We look forward to hearing from guest speaker and Saskatchewan Roughrider, Jeremy O'Day, and we will be awarding our 2nd Annual Employee of the Year Award. Voting for Employee of the Year will begin soon, so stay tuned as more information will be sent out shortly! If you haven't yet purchased your table for this event, please contact the Chamber office and we would be glad to reserve one for you!

We also have a very interesting topic for our May luncheon, being held on Friday, May 16th. Marshall Moffat, the Federal Director of Small and Medium Enterprises, is coming to speak on how to procure federal projects. There are many projects and grants available and he will shed some light on the types and funding available and how to go about applying for them. This topic may be very beneficial to your business, so mark your calendars as this is a luncheon you may not want to miss!

- YORKTON -

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Dine-A-Nite

"A Celebration of Employees"

Thursday, May 15, 2008

St. Mary's Cultural Center



Jeremy O'Day
Saskatchewan Roughrider
Team Work

Cocktails: 5:30 pm

Reception: 6:30 pm

Key note presentation to follow.

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