

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

My name is Ron Evinou and I am the Chief Financial Officer at Maple Farm Equipment. This year I became Chair of the Yorkton Chamber's Business Development committee, together our team is comprised of Linda Quart, Evan Ortynsky, Cam Mebling, Phoebe Decelles and our Executive Director Donna Brodwinell. They are a strong and experienced team.

Business Development is an exciting subject and our Yorkton region is certainly experiencing unprecedented excitement on multiple growth fronts, where new business is being established or planning to be established around our community. Every day you see a new residential building being started or hear about a new business deal that has just been completed.

Our committee's job at the Yorkton Chamber is to help create an environment where it is easy to do business, in the trading area in and around our city. We are recently looking to the future and at past successes, for opportunities where groups with like interests around our community can get together to solve the problems and eliminate obstacles together. Team Yorkton is one case in point, where multi-levels of different groups combined and had an impressive impact.

Our City Council comprises individuals, many of whom come from business and who are interested and motivated to help us make a difference in Business Development. Our committee plans to work closely with the City Council and management, to collaborate in finding ways to eliminate barriers to setting up business in the Yorkton region.

With my personal background in finance, transportation, manufacturing and logistics it is natural that I would be interested in the transportation arteries in and out of our city. In April last year, I made a presentation on behalf of our REDA at City Hall recommending aggressive changes to the approach in running the airport. The City responded quickly. They took title to the airport as recommended and then went to work, to design by-laws for a new corporation called Yorkton Regional Airport Authority (YAA for short). That document was completed just recently, which allowed the City to call for qualified volunteers to be on the YAA Board.

As Chairman of the new YAA Board our mandate is to "develop, maintain and operate the airport". We plan to guide the operations and the growth at Yorkton Regional Airport. Most folks are surprised to hear that five successful businesses find their home at the airport employing up to 50 people at the height of each season. There are 11,000 flights a year into the airport, which is 10% of the flights of Regina international airport!

YAA comprises an enviable group of "action oriented" individuals who are anxious to help our airport to open up even more opportunities to live and work in our community. Mayer Wyatt is on this board with Clay Saroy, Chard Densowych, Ross Fisher, Harry Rushton, Richard Okrasinc, Randy Holfeld and Lyle Walsh. Their participation have guaranteed innovative, stimulating meetings which so far have focused on runway lighting repair, runway paving and terminal facility improvements within a three to five year window to execute our challenges.

Yorkton needs an airport connection for its business and residential passengers. The airport is a hub for successful businesses today and can be the home of new and innovative tenants!!! We could not be entering this challenge at a better time to make it a success. We see supply chain warehouses, also providing winter storage for large manufacturers and retailers. We see growth in our aviation industries and in the passenger business. We would like to investigate bringing a Canada Customs facility (inland port) into Yorkton, so that our US visitors can use Yorkton as Saskatchewan's gateway.

Next time you hear a military jet, see a Medivac flight take off or hear a helicopter in the air or even see our own Yorkton based passenger aircraft in the air, think about the future. Maybe then, you'll be connecting with the outside world at Yorkton's regional airport. Lots of new visitors to Yorkton are already doing that every day.

We need to welcome our visitors much better and we will! Our investors come in planes!

As a director of Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, I am proud to serve the members of the business community in our City and to see us capitalize on an historic opportunity to give us viable airport service, an important artery into our community.



Ron Evinou
Executive Director



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