

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

President's Message

September always seems to be a busy month. Summer vacations are over, kids are back in school and everything seems to get back on track!

I am going to start by welcoming Juanita Polegi to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce as the new Chamber Manager. Juanita is no stranger to our community as she has been living and working in the Yorkton area for several years, formally employed in the Agriculture sector. Juanita brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this position and we are very excited to have her onboard with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Juanita is familiar with the local business community and is optimistic about what the future holds for both our Chamber and our community. Juanita looks forward to meeting and working with all members of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

The Public Policy committee is still actively working to improve the level of safety in our community by trying to secure funding from the province to pay for more policing in our city. Our city is experiencing growth and with economic growth often comes increased criminal activity. As the growth continues the Chamber and the City see it critical to take a proactive approach to the safety of our city by placing more officers on the streets. The city has committed the funding for two more police officers as well as extra administration staff, and is now looking to the province to kick in. The committee's next step was to meet with Honourable Darryl Hickie, Minister of Corrections, Public Safety and Policing to discuss this issue further.

The Chamber has also been busy planning several events for the fall. We recently hosted the 10th Annual Premier's Business Dinner with Premier Brad Wall. This event provided great networking and an opportunity for local business people to meet and discuss issues with the government of the day! Preparation has also begun for the upcoming Business After Hours tradeshow. This wine and cheese event takes place on October 23rd and is open to all members of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. If you would like to reserve a table at the tradeshow, please contact the Chamber office.

With the Federal election just around the corner, the Chamber is organizing an All Candidates Forum providing the public with the opportunity to hear each of the candidates speak. The forum is open to the public and will be held on Thursday, October 9th at 7:00 pm at the Gallagher Centre. All are welcome to attend!

Stay tuned for more information about upcoming luncheons and all other Yorkton Chamber of Commerce events! As always, if you have questions about any of the Chamber events or initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact the Chamber office or any of the board of directors.

As we move into October, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce will soon be accepting nominations for the Board of Directors for the coming year. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Chamber, or know of someone who would, please contact the Chamber office. The Chamber is a great way to get involved and to make a difference in the community!

Lori Walsh
President
Yorkton Chamber of Commerce



Lori Walsh
President



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Benefits of the Month:
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Signboard: \$750 will get you an advertisement on Yorkton's largest Signboard on the Yellowhead Highway. This covers creation, placement, and rental for 3 years.

Courier Inserts: \$140 buys you a single 8x11 ad in our monthly newsletter which is distributed to over 900 businesses in Yorkton.

Bulk Email: We will email coming events for your business to our Members. We can't advertise prices/products but we can promote Grand Openings, business anniversaries & charity events.

Website: Post your poster on our website (www.chamber.yorkton.sk.ca), we also place our members under our website member roster.

These advertising opportunities are at member prices. Non-members sign up today and enjoy all the benefits! (not a member, you can still advertise with the Chamber, just call our office for prices).

Check out www.chamber.yorkton.sk.ca/benefits for a list of benefits & online application form. 2008/2009 is complimentary so you have nothing to lose and the Chamber benefits to Gain!

Welcome New Members to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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Remember, your first year is free!

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL

August 2008 ~ Just to name a few!

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A Report From Guy Gendreau, Executive Vice President, Chair Public Policy Committee

Pretty hot topic nowadays! Two years ago, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce's Public Policy committee brought to light the short comings of Federal and Provincial funding police. We now have recent incidents bringing this topic to the front pages and editorials. After looking into this matter with officials, federally and provincially, the RCMP and the City, we realize this is a very large problem. It is not so much that it's just here in our community, but it's everywhere and finally closing in on Yorkton quickly. We were cautiously excited about growth two years ago and asked the City to look seriously at the local force's numbers. The City looked into policing quickly and responded admirably with not only the addition of two officers coming on line in December but increasing office staff to help relieve the paper burden on the Officers enabling them to be more of a presence on the streets of our city.

POLICING

This all starts in our own home. We need to believe the people from social services who have been fighting the lack of role models in the homes for years. This is nothing new, but we are letting go of our own morals, goals, and responsibilities. Why, as a community, have we become complacent in accepting that this is just how it is nowadays?

We as a community have to send a message loud and clear to those who want to disrupt our values of respect and morals: "You are not wanted here and we will see that you leave!". We are the only ones that will fix our situation. Do not wait for the Federal Government, but put them to the wall in the upcoming election. The city has responded and is still looking at doing more. The ball is now

at the feet of the Provincial Government. I challenge them to see what kind of game plan they have.

Having more Officers is a help, no doubt about that. Is it the whole answer?.....no! It's time that we take our ties off, roll down our collar and appear to have a little bit of a redneck. To get this under control, we might have to go a little off to the side to end up in the middle. I ask this community not to accept what others do. Stand up for our rights to live safely in our own homes and on our streets. Make this a better place to live and for others to come and share our part of our province. Remember.....it is up to us....we hired our City officials. Then we hired our Provincial representatives in the last election. They are "our employees" and it is time to tell them what we want. It's up to them to figure out just how to go about it.

"The will to try it and the faith to believe it possible" (Anonymous)

This quote is an apt description of the elements required to make a success of any new challenges we undertake. As Manager of the Chamber of Commerce, many new challenges will present themselves to me. With a little faith and a dash of belief, I trust those challenges will prove to be interesting and rewarding.

As I've gleaned through the Chamber files, I've come to understand that this is a very active Chamber. The Chamber is fortunate to have energetic and dynamic people directing its many initiatives. The number of services offered to Chamber members and the number of activities in which the Chamber is engaged is impressive. I do look forward to working with the Chamber as it goes about the business of being the "voice of businesses in Yorkton".

I wish to thank to Sherry MacDonald for all her help in familiarizing me with the office and the business of the Chamber. In addition, Sherry spent countless hours working with the Organizing Committee for the very successful Premier's Dinner. Well done, Sherry!

Thanks also to the Executive, namely Lori Walsh, Guy Gendreau and Ron Evinou for their support and direction as I have settled into my new duties.

October will prove to be a busy month for the Chamber. I look forward to meeting many members at the Federal Candidates' Forum, Business After Hours and the Chamber Luncheon. Members are also welcome to stop by the Chamber office for a visit and to share ideas and opinions on how the Chamber can do its job even better.

Juanita Polegi, PAg
Manager,
Yorkton Chamber of Commerce



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