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Chamber Work Provides Opportunities for Director Shannon Deveau

"It's a great opportunity to network and know more people in the community," is how Shannon Deveau describes her experience serving her first term as a Director with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Shannon is the Editor of the Yorkton News Review and has resided in Yorkton since August 2000.

Shannon indicated that she was first approached to run for the Board by former Director, Sophia Hamm. "Sophia said that being on the Chamber Board is a good way to become involved in the community and by working with other Directors, bring about some positive changes," said Shannon. Shannon also said that once she was elected, Past President Rick Schrader advised her she would learn a lot as a Director of the Chamber and that Committee work would be interesting.

Shannon chose to sit on the Marketing and Communications committee. Its mandate is to maintain, develop and evaluate the Chamber's activities in communicating, promoting, and celebrating business, the business community and the Chamber. This committee is responsible for the planning and executing of such Chamber events as Dine-A-Nite and Celebrate Success. The committee also puts forth suggestions for *the Courier* and the Chamber's Business Lunches. Shannon says that while committee work takes time, she finds it enjoyable and satisfying. "During committee discussions, you offer what you can and at the same time, learn from the other members."

Board work has also proven satisfying. "I find it so interesting to be sitting at the Board table with all these business people," she



Shannon Deveau is completing her first term as Chamber Director

said. "They all have so much to offer from different perspectives."

As with all Directors, serving on the Board takes time but Shannon sees the benefit to her business. "As a Director, I'm able to keep my finger on the pulse of the business community. I hear about what's going on and what is current," she said.

Nominations for seats on the 2010 Board will open in October. If you are interested in serving as a Director and would like some more information, don't hesitate to call any of the current Directors (their contact information is located on the website (www.chamber.yorkton.sk.ca) or call the Chamber office at 783-4368.

The Chamber recently received a letter from the Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff, Minister of Enterprise Saskatchewan & Trade, requesting assistance in developing a list of guests at a business reception tentatively planned to profile this province during the Olympics. The guest list will include current and potential investors in Saskatchewan. If you know of people or businesses that should be on the guest list, contact Barbara Barootes, Enterprise Saskatchewan 787 - 4301 or barbara.barootes@enterprisesask.ca



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- Consider recruitment as serious business-hire only the best.
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- Prepare for the inevitable conflicts arise in any customer relationship with this thought in mind: "It's how you handle the problems that sets one profession or organization apart."
- Invite customer complaints as a learning experience.
- Foster exchanges among your organization's groups and individuals to get their ideas on how to better satisfy customers. And test what you assume is working-even your best programs.



If you are interested in becoming a Chamber Member, give us a call at 783-4368.



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Saskatchewan Trade & Export Partnership (STEP) will hold its 2009 AGM and Member Appreciation Networking Reception in Regina September 23. This is an opportunity to meet new and current STEP Board of Directors and staff while networking with the provincial exporting community. For more information, contact Nicole Grande 787-4138 or ngrand@sasitrade.sk.ca

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New Construction and Renovations Increase Capacity at P & H



P & H has had a presence in Yorkton for over 6 decades. The newly installed grain storage bunker is a concept new to the prairies.

The new crop year for 2009 - 2010 began August 1 so this is an ideal time to highlight one of the elevator companies that has been doing business in Yorkton for several decades.

In 1909, the Parrish and Heimbecker families joined forces in Brandon & Winnipeg to create Parrish & Heimbecker - a grain merchandising company that by 1945, had 34 elevators throughout the prairie provinces. Today, the Head Office of P & H is still located in Winnipeg and it has a network of elevators throughout the prairies and Central & Eastern Canada.

P & H has had a presence in Yorkton for more than 60 years. Over the past couple of years, the elevator has been completely rebuilt and a new grain storage bunker has been added.

David Thomas, Manager at the Yorkton facility is pleased with the renovations and additions as the expansion has increased capacity. "If the entire facility was filled with wheat, it could hold nearly 1.3 million bushels," he said. The grain storage bunker is a concept new to the prairies but one that is common in the United States. "Flat storage is pretty unique to this part of the world", said Thomas. "Many people are watching to see how we will be able to handle this system as in the US they handle only one commodity at a time. We will handle 3." The bunker is also cheaper to build than traditional storage and the one in Yorkton has been equipped with a self-unloading system.

The installation of a colour sorter will enable P & H to "off grade" grades of grain. "The colour sorter is able to identify colour differentiation between grain kernels caused by diseases such as ergot. The ability to blend wheat to reduce

the amount of ergot in a rail car means significantly greater returns to the farmer", said Dave.

Dave described the cereal grains of wheat, oats and barley as being P & H's "bread and butter" but they also buy some canola and flax. Most of the wheat purchased in Yorkton goes directly to one of P & H's mills. P & H is now the largest Canadian owned wheat miller in Canada, second only to ADM.

Dave believes P & H has a bright future in Yorkton. "Through the years, P & H has had a really good relationship with the farmers in the area and with our increased capacity, we hope to continue and expand that relationship with an even larger group of farmers," he said. The intake area extends north to Swan River and The Pas, south to the Qu'Appelle Valley, east to Roblin and 60 miles to the west of Yorkton.

And while there's a real buzz about canola in the area, Dave indicated there's plenty of opportunity for cereal acres. "There will always be wheat, oats and barley in the region because every canola grower needs to have cereals in the crop rotation in order to control weeds and canola diseases and pests", he explained.

P & H in Yorkton currently employs 15 staff. The company has been a member of the Yorkton Chamber since 1972.

And don't forget that the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce administers a Small Business Loan Association. Loans of up to \$15,000 are available to approved businesses. Call the Chamber office 783-4368 for details.



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YORKTON CHAMBER Business Dinner

Hosted by the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce



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Cabinet Ministers and
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The Hon. Ken Krawetz,
Deputy Premier
of Saskatchewan.



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Last month we asked you to
identify which board members
were at the parade.
Did you guess right?

From Left to Right:
Cassidy Westberg, Dolores Harris,
Marie Pawliw, Shannon Deveau,
and Jennifer Geddes

