

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

### Director Doug Kitsch Enjoys Serving on Chamber Board

At a recent meeting of the Marketing Committee, it was suggested that we once again begin featuring a Director in the Courier as it's interesting to learn more about the people representing the business community. We're pleased that Doug Kitsch agreed to be featured in this issue. Watch for more articles about our Directors in upcoming issues.

Doug Kitsch credits Guy Gendreau for his seat on the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. "Guy told me what a good opportunity becoming a Director would be for me to network with business people and to learn more about the issues and opportunities facing the Yorkton business community", explained Doug. As a result, Doug let his name stand for the Board election and joined the Board January 1, 2008.

Doug indicated that he has been enjoying his first term on the Board. "It's interesting to sit at the Board Table and hear what spurs other Directors - their interests and concerns," he said. Sitting on the Public Policy committee is proving to be a learning experience. "It's intriguing to see the politics involved and what it takes to get some production from a government service, especially in relation to police staff." The issues around taxation and property assessment have also proven to be interesting. There are so many issues that could be addressed by the committee, it would be easy to lose focus without the Chair's direction.

Sitting on the Chamber Board takes a commitment which means time away from his business but Doug sees that the time devoted to the Chamber is a benefit to his company. "Being on the Chamber has let me make



*Doug Kitsch is serving his first term  
as Chamber Director*

some good contacts in the city. And by attending some of the City's Solid Waste Management Committee meetings, I see how business will play a role in moving this initiative forward and how waste management will impact business in the future," he said.

Doug was raised in Yorkton and he and his wife, Shani, have raised their 3 children here. Doug is the President and General Manager of Logan Stevens Construction Ltd located on York Road.

#### Looking for an interesting walk?

*Take a stroll through the crops of the Parkland plots just south of the Chamber/Tourism Building. As of July 17th, the canola is flowering and the cereals are heading out. The peas and flax are just beginning to flower.*

*Each plot is clearly marked and an explanation about the crop is provided. Thanks to Tom Weir, PAg for all the work he puts into these plots.*



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## Businesses Benefit from WES

In the October 2008 edition of the Courier, we featured an interview with Gail Gorchynski, a Career and Student Support Services Counsellor at the Parkland College about the Workplace Essential Skills (WES) project. Successful employment generally means competency in 9 essential skill areas - Reading text; Document use; Writing; Numeracy; Oral communication; Thinking skills; Working with others; and Computer use.

Recently, both LDM Foods and the Painted Hand Casino have had employees participate in WES training. Thirty two employees from LDM Foods have undertaken training while 3 employees from the Casino have completed courses. Brent German, Facility Manager at

LDM Foods indicated that WES training assists employers in ensuring they have highly skilled people and that in the long run, benefits the employers. Shawna Cote, Human Resource Officer with the Casino, also sees benefits to WES training as she observed an increase in the self-confidence of the employees who completed the training.

The employees also recognized the benefits of WES training. Some of their comments were: "The WES training helped me to understand my workplace tasks better."

"My skills expanded in picking the key words out in documents." "Everything was good! Even the stuff I didn't like or want to do, I still learned a lot!"

Human resource professionals often speak about the importance of training for employees. Businesses that are willing to invest in their employees' most fundamental training needs are well rewarded with generally happier employees, improved safety performance, increased productivity; and lower hiring costs and better employee retention.

If you are interested in learning more about the Workplace Essential Skills project, contact Gail at 786-2597 or [g.gorchynski@parklandcollege.sk.ca](mailto:g.gorchynski@parklandcollege.sk.ca)

And here's a plug for the Chamber of Commerce - you must be a member of the Chamber in order to be eligible for this project!



A few of the 32 employees from LDM Foods participating in WES training at the Parkland College. 3 employees from Painted Hand Casino also completed WES training.



Shawna Cote, HR Officer Painted Hand Casino, sees greater self confidence in the Casino employees who have taken WES training.

## Women-Owned Businesses Offered Opportunities through Project

The Federal Government has recently announced its support for a new partnership project intended to help women-owned businesses gain access to supply chain contracts generated by large Canadian companies and governments.

Businesses which are at least 51% women-owned can access business module training, education, mentoring and networking to promote and support growth. The project, run by WEConnect Canada, is called Opening Doors to Corporate Markets: An Education, Training, Coaching and Mentoring Program.

Countries like the US and the United Kingdom have developed certification programs to help women-run businesses expand sales by increasing access supply chains and both domestic and international markets. WEConnect Canada is intended to provide similar services to Canadian women-owned businesses.

If you're interested in pursuing this opportunity, contact [info@WEConnectCanada.org](mailto:info@WEConnectCanada.org); [www.WEConnectCanada.org](http://www.WEConnectCanada.org); or 888-618-8111.



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