

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

### Painted Hand Casino Contributes to Yorkton Growth

On March 11, 2009 the Painted Hand Casino welcomed the citizens of Yorkton to its new facility on the west end of Broadway Street. After 2 months of operating in the new and expanded facility, I had the opportunity to meet with Kim Smith, Acting Executive Assistant to General Manager, Curtis Standing. Kim gave me a tour of the Casino and we discussed the Casino and its impact on the Yorkton economy.

Kim has been employed by the Casino for 8 years. She indicated that while the wages and benefits are very good, she especially enjoys the working environment.

"This is a very enjoyable place to work," she said. Everyone is so friendly - it's like a big family".

The casino provides good training opportunities to its staff. Most of the training is hands-on and usually occurs on-site. If an employee wishes to enhance his or her portfolio, he or she is sent to either Regina or Saskatoon to further enhance their skills.

Painted Hand Casino is highly visible in the community by sponsoring, in whole



*Kim Smith of the Painted Hand Casino*

or in part, a variety of sport and cultural events. When asked why the casino is so involved in this way, Kim responded, "To give back to the community! Without the support of the community, the casino wouldn't be as it is today!"

All the casinos in Saskatchewan are governed by the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA). As gaming is part of First Nations culture, I asked how Painted Hand maintained its tie to First Nations. Kim indicated there are a number of ways this is achieved:

- 1) The Annual Pow Wow held in May at the Gallagher Centre that not only attracts hundreds of dancers but many crafts booths as well.
- 2) Round Dance held in March. (This is like a mini pow wow but without the costuming. Drummers are present but dancing is done in a circle by all ages. It also features a feast consisting of bannock, soup and rice pudding).
- 3) Supporting First Nations Band activities by purchasing corporate tables at events and hosting Career Fairs.

The Painted Hand Casino has had a presence in Yorkton for nearly 14 years. The Chamber wishes it continued success.

#### Fast Facts About the Casino:

- The first casino opened in December 1995.
- The new casino currently employs 280 employees!
- The capacity of the new casino is 1350 people.
- The casino projects that it will generate annually \$3 million through services and employee wages in Yorkton.
- Future plans include the building of a hotel and a strip mall
- While a certain % of the employees must be First Nations, a certain % must also be non-First Nations.



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**Congratulations!**



At the 20th Annual Saskatchewan Tourism Awards of Excellence event in Regina, businesses and individuals were recognized for their contribution to the tourist industry. Yorkton was well represented. Thom Weir, a local agrologist, was a finalist for the Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award for his involvement in Viterra's Crops of the Parkland Walking Tour, located near the Chamber/Tourism Building. Viterra received the Corporate Partner of the Year Award for its partnership in the Tour.

Tourism Yorkton was a finalist in the Marketing Award for Campaigns category and the Yorkton Film Festival was a finalist in the Marketing Award for Events category. Congratulations to all for the time and effort put into these events that bring commerce to the community. Yorkton is truly a community where good things are happening!



*Thom Weir, A Finalist for the Fred Heal Tourism Ambassador Award*

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Lawyers

John L. Stamatinos Q.C. Thomas R. Campbell  
Richard A. Leland Donna L. Taylor  
Cynthia A. Nijssen W. Arlene DeGow  
Deeen K. Clark Christina Rozovsky  
Kyla H. Eibert

YORKTON OFFICE

36 - 4th Avenue North • Yorkton, SK • S9N 2V7  
Phone: (306) 783-8341 Fax: (306) 786-7454

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*This year's nominees for "Employee of the Year" were:*

Amy Schwartz (McDonalds)  
Dean Petersen (Bailey's Funeral Home)  
Dwain Maleschuk (Brown's Leisure World)  
Cindy Bilokraly (Yorkton Exhibition Association)  
Heidi Derbowka (Source Embroidery)  
Jason Popowich (Maple Farm Equipment)  
Lyle Griffin (Schrader's Honda Yamaha Suzuki)  
Marie Pawliw (Dairy Queen)  
Linda Pelletier (Wheatland Water Conditioning Ltd./Concept Group of Companies)

Daniel Popoff (Family Pizza)  
Denise Maddaford (Yorkton Co-op)  
Faten Habib Armany (Dr. Wanis)  
Grant Hardy (Royal Ford)  
Jason Hiduk (Maple Farm Equipment)  
Jerry Jemieff (Autohire)  
Kristin Kondrat (Wendy's)  
Mike Thorley (Gallagher Centre)

## 2008 Director of the Year Award



The 2008 Director of the Year Award was presented to Dolores Harris. The award is presented annually in honor of Ruth Shaw, a former manager of the Chamber. The award recognizes the Director who best exhibits enthusiasm, dedication, and a positive attitude to the Chamber.

The recipient is selected through a voting process conducted among the Chamber Directors.

In presenting the award, Lori Walsh, Chamber President, indicated that Dolores has been committed to the chamber since the day she was elected. "Dolores has a strong interest in the issues and challenges facing both the business community and the Chamber", said Walsh. "She is a tremendous asset to our organization." Dolores has served on the Public Policy, Business Development and Marketing and Communications committees.



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