

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

President's Message

It is hard to believe this is my last Courier article as President of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. A quick recap of what the Chamber has been working on in the past year:

- The Chamber has continued working to promote and encourage business development in the city.
- The Chamber has 433 members, reflecting steady growth in membership.
- The Marketing Committee hosted highly successful events, such as business luncheons, Dine-A-Nite, Chamber Business Dinner, Business After Hours trade show, Harvest Showdown Breakfast in support of agriculture, All Candidates Forum for the Municipal election and the list goes on.
- The Public Policy committee has worked to keep the lines of communication open with the RCMP and met with the previous city council to discuss issues, opportunities and concerns facing the city of Yorkton.
- The Business Development Committee has conducted a survey of businesses on airport usage and barriers to business in the city. As well, they support the development and growth of the airport.
- The Chamber currently has money lent out to 8 local entrepreneurs through the Small Business Loans Program to help fund their business ventures.



Lori Walsh
President

This is a high level overview of some of the workings of the Chamber in 2009. I don't think one really understands how much the Chamber does until you take a term on the board. I strongly encourage everyone to try to get involved with the Chamber at some point; it is a great learning experience and provides insight into how much is being done in this community.

My term as president was a trial run of a two year term. Considering that people serve in a volunteer capacity on the Chamber board and it takes a considerable amount of one's time, the board has decided to go back to a one year term as president, to ensure that we do not discourage people from getting involved. With only a portion of the board turning over on an annual basis, we feel there is enough continuity to keep things rolling from year to year. The term of a director remains to be two years, but by reducing the Executive positions to one year, it allows those wanting to step up into Executive positions to get there sooner, and it is a more realistic commitment of their time.

I want to take the time to thank Juanita and Sherry for all their hard work and for putting up with me! These two ladies keep things running smoothly and do a very good job of trying to keep all the board members in line! I also want to thank all the directors that have served on the board over the last couple of years; it has been a pleasure working with you! The work of the Chamber is never done, so I wish the incoming board and soon to be elected incoming president, Lawrence Wegner, all the best in the coming year!

On behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce and myself, I wish you all the best this holiday season and we look forward to working with you and for you in the New Year!



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All Candidates Forum Well Attended

Both mayoralty candidates and all the candidates for City Council participated in the All Candidates' Forum in October hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. About 200 citizens attended the Forum to hear the candidates' views on a variety of topics. Randy Atkinson of CJGX Radio did a great job serving as Moderator for the event. In his opening remarks, Randy encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming election and paid tribute to our military personnel who have and are continuing the fight for democracy in other parts of the world. Thanks to the Gallagher Centre for the complimentary use of the facilities.

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL
October 2009

Access Communications • Acklands Grainger • St. Mary's Cultural Centre
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 McKenzie Sales & Leasing • Auto Electric Service



Randy Atkinson did a great job as the Moderator for the All Candidates Forum in October.

Positive Ticketing Discussed at International Conference

Andrew Sedley, Health Promotion Co-ordinator with the Sunrise Health Region, was invited to speak about the Positive Ticketing Campaign in Yorkton at the Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth International Conference in Cincinnati in early November. The conference was sponsored by the Search Institute, the organization that developed the framework that identified 40 critical factors for young people's growth and development. When drawn together, the assets offer a set of benchmarks for positive child and adolescent development. For more information on the Positive Ticketing campaign in Yorkton, contact Andrew at 786-0581 or visit the website at www.yorktonassetchampions.com

Chamber Directors Doug Kitsch and Dolores Harris were the diligent time keepers at the Forum



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SaskTel and the Future of Telecommunications Technology

Did you know that sometime in the near future you could avoid parking tickets because you'll be able to fill an empty meter from your cell? This is already happening in Vancouver. Did you know that in August, over 180 million text messages were sent over the SaskTel network? That's 5.8 million texts sent/day. That works out to 6 messages/person/day in Saskatchewan.

Mary Ference, a SaskTel Account Executive, recently visited Yorkton to share with business the latest advances in telecommunications technology. Her message was that businesses can grow by using and adopting these new technologies. Some interesting points that she made:

- The cool new reality is that cell phones are being used not only to top up parking meters but also to pay bills. Will wallets become obsolete?
- Google has 463 million searches per day; YouTube averages over a billion.
- Social networking sites, such as facebook, twitter and yammer, now rank 4th in overall online activity. To remain competitive, businesses need to create a presence on these sites.
- "Smartphones" are cell phones that can email, text, be a calendar, take photos and browse the internet.
- By 2011, all Saskatchewan residents will have access to high speed internet.
- And an interesting suggestion she made to employers with Generation Y employees was that in order to keep these employees engaged, they need to be provided with the newest technology, not the cast-offs from senior staff. Gen Y is often characterized as being "connected" since they are the first generation raised with computers, internet and cell phones. Generation Y wants to learn, use technology for flexibility, instant communications and to be part of a team. They don't need to know everything, just where to find it.



Mary Ference, an Account Executive with SaskTel was in Yorkton recently to explain how new technology can help businesses grow.

U of R President Visits Yorkton

Last month, University of Regina President Vianne Timmons visited Yorkton in an effort to strengthen the ties between this community and the University. At a reception held for the Alumni and the business community, she shared some interesting facts:

- Over 12,000 students are presently enrolled in the University's programs
- 10% of the student body is comprised of foreign students
- \$7 million in wages were paid this past year to students enrolled in the co-op program
- The University is on Face Book in order to better communicate with its students
- The University is committed to connecting with the students from the time they arrive on campus until they leave. This means the students will have access to services and programs that will help them to study and socialize
- The University has recently announced a guarantee to each student that within 6 months of graduation, a student will find a job in his/her field. If the student is not successfully employed in that time, the University will provide the student with a bursary for up to one additional year's tuition
- Over the last 5 years, over 150 students from Yorkton have graduated from the U of R



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*On behalf of the
Directors & Staff
of the Yorkton Chamber
of Commerce 2009,*

*We Wish You a Safe and
Happy Holiday Season!*



Photography by Mitch

May - Dine- A- Nite
June 21 - National Aboriginal Day
September - Chamber Business Dinner

January 9 - Olypmic Torch Run arrives in Yorkton
February - Celebrate Success Finalists' Luncheon
March 10 - Celebrate Success Business Awards

April - Chamber AGM

**Dates to Remember
in 2010**



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Please remember that the large blue
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through the residential recycling levy
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Thank you for contributing to efforts of
the Solid Waste Management
Committee in making Yorkton an
environmentally responsible community.