



# COMMUNITY COURIER

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

### President's Message

Since my last article in the Courier, the Chamber has been busy doing its job of representing the interests of business. The Chamber has expressed its concern about the issues surrounding annexation and has urged the parties involved to work toward an equitable solution. Letters have been written to City Council suggesting solutions for parking in some areas of the City. The placement of portable signs has been a concern to some businesses so the Chamber asked City Council to ensure that its bylaws were being enforced fairly. The Public Policy Committee has on-going discussions with the RCMP and the City about keeping the community safe. The committee also has representation at the City's Solid Waste Management committee meetings each month.

The Business Development Committee is supportive of the Yorkton Airport Authority and its work in improving the airport. Taxation issues and the future expansion of the Parkland College have also been explored by the Committee. The revised Business Development Packages will soon be available for distribution.

The Marketing and Communications Committee is responsible for all the events that have occurred in 2009, such as Dine-A-Nite and most recently, the highly successful Chamber Business Dinner. Deputy Premier Ken Krawetz did a great job of sharing his government's vision for the province for the upcoming year. We have learned that a couple of cabinet ministers who were unable to attend the dinner, will soon be in Yorkton meeting with some of the businesses, to discuss issues and opportunities.

And October looks like it will be a month full of events! The All Candidates' Forum, hosted by the Chamber, will be held Wednesday, October 14th. This event is open to everyone and is a good event to learn more about the candidates and their positions on the issues facing our City.

Business After Hours, the Chamber's mini tradeshow that enables businesses to show and discuss their goods and services to other businesses and the community at large, will be held Thursday, October 22nd. Everyone is invited to attend as this is a great networking event!

Nominations to the Chamber Board of Directors open October 15th and close October 30th. The Chamber is a great way to get involved and to make a difference in the Community! If you are interested in becoming a director with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce or about learning more about the Chamber, please do not hesitate to contact the office or any of the current directors!

And of course, October 28th is Election Day for the City and the School Boards. I urge everyone to vote on that day. This is an important election. Make sure the best people to lead the city into the future are elected to Council. Remember, your vote counts!



Lori Walsh  
President

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**YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL**

*September 2009*

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



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## Chamber Website and Email Changes

To keep in line with most of the other Chambers of Commerce in the province, the Yorkton Chamber has changed its website address. Visit the website at [www.yorktonchamber.com](http://www.yorktonchamber.com) and while there, take a look at the Member Roster. Is your business located in the correct category? Could it be added to additional categories? Is the contact info correct? If you need any changes made to the Roster, contact Sherry. Sherry's new email address is [smaclonald@yorktonchamber.com](mailto:smaclonald@yorktonchamber.com) and Juanita's is [jpolegi@yorktonchamber.com](mailto:jpolegi@yorktonchamber.com)

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

### October 14

All Candidates' Forum for Yorkton City Council. 7:00 pm at the Gallagher Centre.

### October 15

Nominations open for Directors, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

### October 19 - 25

Small Business Week

### October 22

Business After Hours 5:00 - 8:00 pm at the Gallagher Centre

### October 28

Election Day for the City and School Divisions

### October 30

Nominations close for Directors, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

### November 12 - 19

Voting for Directors, Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

### November 12 - 14

Harvest Showdown



The contributions of the large contingent of volunteers in Yorkton make this a busy, dynamic community. Many of these volunteers deserve recognition. Applications for the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal are being accepted until October 18. The Medal recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding volunteer service or exceptional community involvement in an area beyond their normal duties or profession. For more information, contact the Provincial Secretary at the Protocol Office 877-427-5505. To download nomination forms, visit [www.ops.gov.sk.ca](http://www.ops.gov.sk.ca)

## Did you know?

Chamber of Commerce members can access programs that will help to reduce costs to their businesses.

- Businesses enrolled in the Esso Business Card program access savings on fuel. Go to [www.essofleetoffers.com/CHAMBER](http://www.essofleetoffers.com/CHAMBER) to learn more about how this program may help your business.
- Reduced rates on Interac payments, Visa and Mastercard are featured in the TD Merchant Services and First Date Preferred Pricing Program. Contact Jan Fluter at (306) 535-6655 or [janet.fluter@firstdata.com](mailto:janet.fluter@firstdata.com) to learn more about this program.
- The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has medical and dental plans specially designed for small businesses with less than 50 employees. Contact Zapshalla Insurance & Investment Solutions to learn more about the plan that best suits the needs of your business and employees at 786-6262.



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# Home Reno Tax Credit (HRTC) Boosts Local Business

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To learn more about the HRTC, go to [actionplan.gc.ca/hrtc](http://actionplan.gc.ca/hrtc) or call 877-959-1272

The Home Renovation Tax Credit (HRTC) is one of the key incentives introduced by the federal government as part of its Economic Action Plan to jump-start construction and housing sectors. Under the plan, homeowners can get a 15 per cent credit of up to \$1,350 for eligible renovations to their home or cottage.

One can claim the non-refundable tax credit on the 2009 income tax return, based on eligible expenses incurred for work performed or goods acquired after Jan. 27, 2009 and before Feb. 1, 2010, pursuant to agreements entered into after Jan. 27, 2009. The temporary credit is intended to provide an immediate incentive for Canadians to undertake new renovations or accelerate planned projects.

The credit will only be available for the 2009 tax year and applies to eligible expenses of more than \$1,000, but not more than \$10,000, resulting in a maximum non-refundable tax credit of \$1,350  $[(\$10,000 - \$1,000) \times 15\%]$ .

The HRTC is limited to one credit per family. One can claim only \$10,000 per family, not per property.

The HRTC can be coupled with other government programs that put money back into one's pocket when upgrading the home. For instance, by making a home more energy-efficient, one can qualify for grants up to \$5,000 under the ecoENERGY Retrofit Program. The owner can still claim the HRTC for the same expenses. The same applies for eligible expenditures that are claimed under the Medical Expense Tax Credit.

### Some Examples of eligible HRTC expenses

- Renovating a kitchen, bathroom, or basement
- Windows, doors and flooring
- New furnace, boiler, woodstove, fireplace, water softener, water heater, or oil tank
- Permanent home ventilation systems; Central air conditioner
- Permanent reverse osmosis systems
- Wells; Septic systems
- Electrical wiring in the home (e.g., changing from 100 amp to 200 amp service)
- Home security system (monthly fees do not qualify)
- Solar panels and solar panel trackers
- Painting the interior or exterior of a house; re-shingling a roof

- Building an addition, garage, deck, garden/storage shed, or fence
- Permanent swimming pools (in ground and above ground); Pool liners; Permanent hot tubs and installation costs
- Solar heater and heat pumps for pools (does not include solar blankets)
- Landscaping
- Retaining wall
- Associated costs such as installation, permits, professional services, equipment rentals, and incidental expenses
- Fixtures - blinds, shades, shutters, lights, ceiling fans, etc.

### Examples of ineligible expenses

- Furniture, appliances, and audio and visual electronics
- Purchasing of tools
- Carpet cleaning;
- House cleaning
- Maintenance contracts (furnace cleaning, snow removal, lawn care, and pool cleaning)
- Financing costs

### Worried About the H1N1 Flu?

There are a few simple, preventative measures you can adopt that can help to protect you and others from this virus:

- Wash your hands often and thoroughly - for at least 20 seconds - in warm, soapy water or use hand sanitizer.
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve, not your hand.
- Stay at home if you're sick! Call your health care provider if your symptoms worsen.
- For more information, call 800-454-8302 or visit [www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca)

### OOOPS!

In our hurry to get the September edition of the Courier published, there were a couple of omissions that need to be clarified.

The unidentified "Mystery Man" on the front cover is William Stadnichuk. William is a volunteer with Access Communications. Ron Irvine, Regional System Manager, Yorkton District, said that William really enjoys camera work. When we asked William why he is a volunteer with the program, he agreed with Ron. "Learning about camera work is something I have always wanted to do," he said. "As it wasn't offered in high school, Access has given me the chance to learn about it now." William indicated he would never be seen in front of the camera - that he is very much a "behind the scenes" kind of guy. Thank you, William, for filming the Chamber Business Dinner September 10.

The photo of the building that accompanied the report on the Airport Survey is the newly refurbished Terminal Building at the Yorkton Airport.

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