

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

President's Message

As my term as president draws to a close I thought I would look back at a few highlights of the year with the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

We have always been fortunate enough to have good luncheon and breakfast speakers and 2010 was no exception, from Check up Saskatchewan with Kerri McFadden; Lyle Walsh from the Yorkton Terriers and Jack Vicq with the Canada West foundation; to talk about Potash expansion by Kelvin Dereski President of the Saskatchewan Mining Association and more recently with our full house to hear from our friends at BHP Billiton.

The Chamber noon luncheon and morning breakfasts are a great way to network and meet new members, mark the next one on your calendar.

Our marketing and promotion committee was busy as usual. Celebrate Success showcases the amazing caliber of businesses in our City while the Employee Recognition event gives business a chance to recognize the value of our employees in a more formal setting.

What had to be the highlight of this committee's year was our Business Dinner with Guest speaker Premier Brad Wall along with several Cabinet Ministers and numerous MLAs. We as a business group were given an opportunity to talk one-on-one with the people that make the decisions that affect our province and the economy. It was a sold out event and between our keynote speaker and the wonderful meal no one was disappointed.

The Public Policy Committee has been looking again at the City's beautification bylaw as well as issues surrounding the City's building department's development and building guidelines. Together with the City many of the issues were worked out and we even took a proactive step to have an educational meeting with our realtors and financial institutions that was well received.

The Business Development Committee was again involved with supporting the Airport Authority's efforts for expansion as well as the Parkland College's desire to open a new Trades and Technology Centre.

Agriculture continues to play an important role in our area and we have been working on plans for a new Crop Interpretive Centre to be developed here. We have also partnered with the



Lawrence Wagner

Yorkton Exhibition Assoc to create the Sask Canola Expo held at Harvest Showdown. One of our goals is to expand our membership growth in the area of Agribusiness, whether it be suppliers of products or producers.

What about looking ahead? Well, we have interesting times ahead. With new and existing Potash expansion in the area, comes opportunity and challenges. We will see growth like never before in our community that will allow businesses that are prepared to grow and profit. The challenges ahead of us are developing a skilled labour force, creating affordable safe housing and ensuring the city develops an infrastructure capable of meeting the needs of rapid growth.

Finally, I would like to thank the Chamber's Board of Directors, a group of men and women that volunteer their time and energy to make this organization one of the best in the province. They generally go about their tasks with little fanfare but the job they do makes our business environment a much better place. And, our staff, Juanita and Sherry for keeping our group focused and on track.

Welcome New Directors

Ten highly qualified candidates let their name stand for election to the Board of the Yorkton Chamber. Eight positions were open.

New to the Board are Don Rae of Crusader Drilling Corp.; and Evan Orzynsky of Key Chevrolet Cadillac and Yorkton Toyota. This is Don's first term on the Chamber Board while Evan has been a Director in the past, serving as President in 1997.

Returning to the Board are Amie Zamonsky, Cassidy Westberg, Corey Werner, Dolores Harris, Ron Irvine and Ryan Hoffman. They will join those Directors serving the second year of their 2 year term: Brent Murdock, Dick DeRyk, Doug Kitsch, Rob Bear, Ron Evinou, and Tom Seeley. Lawrence Wegner will remain as Past President.

Lori Walsh is retiring from the Board after serving 2 terms, including 2 years as President, and an additional year as Past President.

On behalf of the members, Directors and Staff of the Yorkton Chamber, thank you Lori for your dedicated commitment to the Chamber. Your contribution to the Chamber is greatly appreciated!



Lori Walsh retiring from the Board after serving 2 terms.



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If you are interested in becoming a Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Member, please call Sherry at the Chamber office at 783-4368 for details.



Only the kitchen staff - Ryan, Tom, Ron, Doug, Brent, Cassidy & Corey - know the secret ingredient that made the breakfast buns so tasty!



Sherry & Dolores assisted by cooks Brent & Cassidy

On Behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, Yorkton Business Improvement District & Yorkton Exhibition, we would like to thank the following sponsors who donated to the Harvest Showdown Breakfast

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Yorkton West Truck Route Project Expected to be Finished in 2011

By the Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure

Highways and Infrastructure Minister Jim Reiter officially declared the first phase of the Yorkton West Truck Route open for traffic in early November with the second phase expected to be finished next year.

"I'm delighted to see the project reach this milestone," Reiter said. "This road work will support the new canola crushing plants and related truck traffic just west of Yorkton. As an export-based economy, it's important for our province to have a first-class network of transportation infrastructure for trucks, which help get our goods to local, provincial and worldwide markets."

The \$8.2 million Phase 1 portion involved such construction work as: moving a 5.3 km long segment of Highway 16 about 400 metres south; re-aligning Highway 16's access to Grain Millers Drive; and re-aligning a portion of Grain Millers Drive. This work was done to accommodate truck movements safely to Grain Millers Drive and in and out of nearby canola crushing plants. Construction on this phase began in 2009 and recently opened to traffic.

"This provincial transportation investment will also benefit local area motorists and those visiting our city," Yorkton MLA Greg Ottenbreit said. "Once both

phases are open to traffic, the project will help divert truck traffic around Yorkton, which will increase safety and reduce traffic congestion."

Construction on the Phase 2 portion began in October and involves building a 6 km long bypass highway connecting Highway 16 and Grain Millers Drive to Highway 52, along with building turning lanes at the intersection of Highway 52 and the bypass highway. Construction on this phase is expected to be open to traffic in 2011.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

January 4 - 14

LEAN Training (contact Darrell, Parkland College 786-2761) for more info

January 21

Chamber Business Breakfast 7:30 am Ramada Hotel Guest Speaker: Tom Seeley - "Housing Initiatives and Opportunities in Yorkton & Area" (Please pre-register)

February 10

Chamber Business Lunch, Gallagher Centre, Guest Speaker: Dan Maynard, STEP - "Tips & Tactics of Social Media" (Please pre-register)

Wings Over Saskatchewan

The "Wings Over Saskatchewan" aviation conference was held recently in Yorkton. Attending the conference were L to R: Former Chamber President Cheryl Denesowych who served as MC; Yorkton Airport Authority member Ron Evinou, Ross Fisher and Norm Fraser. Missing is Don Ingham.



A REMINDER:

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Sype Opens Yorkton Chapter

A group of young professionals and entrepreneurs living in Yorkton have been working hard to establish a Saskatchewan Young Professionals & Entrepreneurs (SYPE) chapter in the city. Their efforts were rewarded on October 1 when chapter status was granted.

SYPE's mandate is to foster personal development and create business opportunities in Yorkton and Saskatchewan through networking, encouraging ideas and sharing experiences while gaining valuable exposure for our members. Corey Werner, President of the local chapter is someone who has lived and worked in the area his entire life. He was not tempted to leave Yorkton for a bigger city or another province. "I believed that Yorkton would have its time to shine and the time is now!" he said.

Corey is excited about the presence of SYPE in the community. "SYPE is a place where young entrepreneurs and professionals can get together through social and educational events to network and to share experiences." While only those aged 18 - 35 years are eligible to sit on the executive of a SYPE chapter, people of all ages are welcome to become members. As Corey quipped, "You never know when or where you will be able to recruit new and talented employees!"

The potential to partner with the Chamber of Commerce also exists. "I'd like to see the two organizations partner in some social events and in bringing in some high quality speakers," he said.

For more information about the Yorkton Chapter of SYPE, send an



Corey Werner is the President of the Yorkton Chapter of SYPE

email to yorkton@sype.ca. It will be answered by one of the members of the executive.

What is SEER?

Saskatchewan East Enterprise Region (SEER) is one of thirteen regions organized under Enterprise Saskatchewan's initiative. SEER extends from the Manitoba border in the east to Foam Lake, Ituna and Montmartre in the west, and from Canora and Kamsack in the north to Moosomin in the south. SEER is a not-for-profit entity with the head office located in Melville.

While everyone living within the boundaries of SEER is eligible to access the services of SEER, 3 levels of membership are also available - Regular, Associate and Individual.

Since the Head Office has been up and running in July 2009, SEER has produced a number of resources available on the website including:

- Business Planning Made Simple guide book
- Interactive asset mapping system
- Community Profiles
- Community Investment Attractions Quick Facts

SEER has also sponsored such workshops and conferences as the How to Successfully Access the Mining Supply Chain workshop;

Closing the Deal workshop; and the recent transACTIONS conference.

To learn more about SEER and what it has to offer, visit the website at www.saskeast.com or call (306)728-2740.



**On Behalf of Board & Staff of the
Yorkton Chamber of Commerce 2010,
we wish you a safe & happy holiday season!**