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Fedorowich Construction Celebrates 100 Years!

In 1911, John Fedorowich laid the foundation for what was to become Fedorowich Construction. Arriving in Canada in 1908, John worked at a variety of jobs. In 1911, with a horse and a wagon, he began hauling wood and gravel. Like so many men of his era, he knew about hard physical labour. By hand, he would load the wagon and by hand, he unloaded it. He would do that 20 times in a day in order to deliver 20 cubic yards of gravel - the equivalent of a semi trailer load!

As the business grew and evolved, the horses were replaced with trucks and tractors and as John's 4 sons grew older, they began to help their dad. Eventually, 3 of the sons would remain with the business and today, John's younger son, Lionel is the President of Fedorowich Construction. Three of John's grandchildren - Ron Fedorowich, Wanda Fedorowich and Laurie Kais - comprise the management team. The family has successfully run the business because of the example of their grandfather and fathers. "They sacrificed for each other and pulled together for the business to grow," said Laurie Kais. "And communication is very important. We work as a team to resolve issues and concerns."

Laurie said she and other family members believe that the success of the company is due to its integrity and the quality of service and product it offers. Employees have also been key to the company's success. "We have been very fortunate in being able to attract and retain excellent employees", she said. "They support us and we support them. They are like family." Some of the employees have been with Fedorowich for more than 20 years. Laurie indicated that safety of the employees has always been a concern of the company since its earliest days. "Our grandpa and dads were conscientious about employee safety so the machinery has always been well maintained and our employees well rested," she explained.



*Third generation involved in Fedorowich Construction
L to R: Ron Fedorowich, Laurie Kais and
Wanda Fedorowich*

During peak periods in the summer, Fedorowich Construction has as many as 35 employees. Their product line includes paving, excavating, and hauling gravel, sand and rock. Most of their work is done within a 100 mile radius of Yorkton. While Fedorowich Construction is head quartered in Yorkton, the plant is near Willowbrook.

Laurie sees a bright future for Fedorowich Construction in the next 10 years. "We will continue to upgrade our equipment and to train our younger employees to take over the reins", she said. "Our commitment to integrity and quality will continue to guide this company into the future."

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce extends its congratulations to Fedorowich Construction and wishes it many more decades of success.

**How Old is
Your Business?**

- Is 2011 a milestone year for your business? Send details to the Chamber office so mention can be made in future editions of the Courier.
- Are there other 100 year+ businesses in Yorkton? If yours is one of them, let the Chamber office know.



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Elder Care

This is the third in a series of articles submitted by the Family Life Work Balance Committee.

Many workers, ages 55 and older, who have finished raising their own children, are likely to take on new roles as caregivers for elderly parents or other relatives. Combining care and employment might be challenging without the support of flexible working arrangements.

Elder care is frequently identified as a major source of tension in work-life balance literature. Elder care providers typically have had to adjust their priorities, including spending less time with their own families, paying less attention to their own health, and taking fewer vacations. As Canada's population continues to age and the number of seniors who need support increases, this will continue to be an issue with individuals in the workforce.

More and more employees are looking for employment opportunities that will be



Many older workers are caregivers for elderly parents.

supportive and flexible of their need for a healthy work-life balance. Businesses that promote family-friendly workplaces have an edge when it comes to recruitment and retention of employees!

Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 1

Chamber Business Lunch, Royal Canadian Legion. Guest Speaker Hon Ken Krawetz - the Provincial Budget

April 5

Regional Housing Conference, Gallagher Centre. See article for details

April 8

Chamber Business Lunch. Guest Speaker Leader of the Opposition Mr. Dwain Lingenfelter.

April 13

Youth Speak 2011 Youth Summit- Contact Andrew Sedley, Sunrise Health Region

April 14

Community Youth Planning Event -Contact Andrew Sedley

May 4

Employee Recognition Event - St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

Did You Know?

- It is up to Chamber members to inform the Chamber office (783-4368) in which categories the businesses should be listed. Each business can be listed in as many as the owner/manager thinks is appropriate.
- The Parkland College offers U of R Business & Professional Development Certificates in Leadership and in Project Management? The first two courses for the Project Management Certificate will be held in Yorkton April 18 & 19 and May 16 & 17. These are excellent 2 day courses that teach "skills to complete projects on time and on budget!"

- The Conference Board of Canada provides practical tools for companies interested in effectively attracting, selecting, integrating and retaining internationally trained workers.

For more information hiring internationally trained workers, visit the Conference Board website www.conferenceboard.ca or contact Diana McKay, Director Education, Health & Immigration programs mckay@conferenceboard.ca

Congratulations

Congratulations to the **Board of the Transitional Homes for Youth** on the Grand Opening of the two new homes. It's been a 4 year process but now the 2 new locations will provide homes for 10 youth at risk.



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Employee of the Year Nomination Forms Now Available

Why an Award? An opportunity to recognize outstanding contributions by employees to their places of employment and to the community.

Who is eligible? Employees in all businesses in Yorkton and the immediate area. The only criterion is that the employee must have been employed by the business for 2 or more years.

Who can nominate? Nominations can be submitted by an employer or a member of the community.

Where to nominate? Forms are available on the Chamber website.

When presented? At the 2011 Employee Recognition Event, Wednesday May 4 at the St. Mary's Cultural Centre.

Yorkton Chamber Hosting Regional Housing Conference

The lack of available housing is a serious concern to Yorkton and many towns and villages in the area. It's difficult to attract business and investment to an area when there is no place for employees to live.

In recognition of this concern, the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce is holding a Regional Housing Conference April 5 at the Gallagher Centre.

Designed for everyone with an interest in housing - municipalities, realtors, developers, construction companies, financial institutions and social agencies.

Objectives of the Conference are:

- is to create awareness about different housing solutions
- demonstrate the need for a community housing plan
- and showcase examples of housing action

Speakers from Saskatoon, Ituna, LeRoy and Yorkton will share their experiences and suggestions. The full agenda is on the Chamber website www.yorktonchamber.com

Registration deadline is March 29. Cost is \$40/person plus GST. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Contact the Chamber office 783-4368 to register or for more details.

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Dan Maynard, STEP Trade Specialist Marketing and Technology was the Guest Speaker at a recent Chamber Business Lunch. Dan shared with the audience the importance of creating traffic to their respective websites and discussed how various forms of social media can be used to increase website traffic. **If you were not able to attend the complete presentation is up now. They are broken down into 6 segments of approximately 10 minutes each.**

<http://exportnews.sasktrade.com/1610/social-media-presentation-at-yorkton-chamber-of-commerce.html>

<http://exportnews.sasktrade.com/1622/social-media-presentation-part-2.html>