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Looking back at the last month...

April was a busy month for the Chamber. Thank you to all the businesses that supported these events through sponsorship or attendance. Your interest in and support of the Chamber is both appreciated and encouraging.



Albert Genaille (roof) and Larry Babcock (ground) put the finishing touches on a newly renovated Yorkton home. Providing adequate and affordable housing in the region was the theme for the Chamber's Regional Housing Conference.



Dwain Lingenfelter, Leader of the Opposition was the Guest Speaker at the April 8 Chamber Business Lunch.

Photo courtesy of Devin Wilger



Aaron Ivey explaining Ituna's needs and plans for housing at the Regional Housing Conference, April 5.



Hon. Ken Krawetz was the Guest Speaker at the Chamber Business Lunch April 1.

Photo courtesy of Calvin Daniels



Randy Atkinson was the Moderator for the All Candidates' Forum April 13 sponsored by the Chamber. Over 100 people came to hear what the four candidates had to say about a variety of issues.



Blair Harris and Doug Kitsch made sure the candidates kept within their time limits at the Candidates' Forum.

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April - 2011

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Involvement in the Community as a Chamber Director a Great Experience

The persistence of a friend convinced Brent Murdock to let his name stand for election to the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Now into the second year of his first term, Brent is enjoying the experience.

Brent moved from Ontario to Yorkton with his wife, Loretta in 2008. When first approached to run for a Directorship that year, he felt he was too new to the community and didn't really understand what the Chamber was all about. Chamber Director Ron Evinou persisted and in 2009, convinced Brent that this would be a good idea. When Brent's employer supported his candidacy, he decided to "give it a try".

Involvement in Yorkton's Chamber of Commerce appealed to Brent because it was not likely he could be involved in a Chamber in any of Ontario's large cities. "There are few opportunities for a regular working guy like me to become involved in a Chamber back home. And this was a chance to jump in feet first and get involved in the community," he said.

Serving as a Director has been a great experience. "I got to meet with local politicians and become familiar with them - that is not something you would be able to do in a bigger centre".

One of the most memorable experiences he has had representing the Chamber came at the 2010 Painted Hand Casino Pow Wow. "To be part of the Grand March and to feel the power and charge in the air of the dancers and drummers - that was really amazing!" Receiving the lovely star blanket after bringing greetings from the Chamber was also a highlight.

Brent served on the Public Policy committee in 2010 and is on the Business Development committee in 2011. He has also served on a



Serving as a Director of the Chamber appealed to Brent Murdock because it was not likely he could be involved in a Chamber in any of Ontario's large cities.

couple of the Chamber's ad hoc committees. The committee and Board work have proven to be very interesting. "My involvement in the Chamber has given me the chance to hear first hand what the issues are in the city and I feel I have had a voice in offering some resolutions", said Brent. He also feels that his work with the Chamber has benefitted him both professionally and personally.

Unfortunately, for the Chamber, Brent and Loretta will be leaving Yorkton within the next couple of months as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

When asked about Yorkton's greatest feature, Brent laughed and said the rush hour! "Nothing is any more than a 7 minute drive and the "rush hour" is from 11:45 - 12:15!" Brent indicated he

Upcoming Dates to Remember

April 29 - Chamber AGM & Business Breakfast, Gallagher Centre. Guest Speaker Mayor James Wilson.

May 4 - Employee Recognition Event - St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

May 13
Football in Sask" Banjo Jamboree at Anavets Lounge

MAY 14 NOON - "Football in Sask" BBQ at Western Financial Park

MAY 14 EVENING - "Football in Sask" Dinner at St. Mary's Cultural Centre

May 31 - "The Art of Customer Service" with Jeff Mowatt - Painted Hand Casino

June 4 & 5 - Painted Hand Casino PowWow

June 10 -12 - Yorkton Dodge Chuckwagon Classic - Yorkton Exhibition

and Loretta have enjoyed being able to participate in a variety of activities in the city. They especially enjoyed standing along the rail to watch the horse racing - something they would not be able to do at Woodbine!

Brent believes the biggest challenge for the city of Yorkton will be its ability to accept and embrace change especially regarding the development of the airport.

"The airport is crucial to the advancement and growth of Yorkton. Things will change with the arrival of the airport."

The Yorkton Chamber appreciates the time Brent has devoted to the Chamber and wishes him all the best.

OOOPS!

Please note that in the April edition of the Courier, Devin Wilger supplied the photo of Dan Maynard. Thanks Devin!



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Did You Know

- The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce website www.yorktonchamber.com receives on average 2500 hits per month. Of these over 75% go to the Member Roster. Why? Two primary reasons:
 - People are looking for businesses in Yorkton
 - People believe that if a business is a member of the Chamber, it has some commitment to the community and it's potential customers/clients.
- The months with the greatest number of unique visitors were March, May and November with each month having over 2300 visitors.
- That all cultures are welcome to attend a Pow Wow?

Congratulations

To **Mano's Restaurant** and the **Yorkton Co-operative Association** on being awarded the Employer Excellence Awards presented by the Sask. Association of Rehabilitation Centres. Mano's Restaurant was the recipient of the Award in the small sized employer category while the Co-op was the recipient in the medium sized employer category. These two Yorkton businesses utilize the Supported Employee program that assists employers in hiring individuals with barriers to employment.

Balancing Work & Life as a Single Parent

This is another in a series of articles submitted by the Family Life Work Balance committee

Being a single parent while working a full time job can be challenging. The responsibility of being a single parent is quite difficult, as you may not have anyone to share responsibilities with. There are ways to make it less stressful. Here are some tips that will help you balance your work and life.

Develop Priorities. Prioritize all the commitments in your life. If you prioritize your work over your family, you might find yourself spending more time in the office, which could result in a gap with your family. On the other hand, if you prioritize your family over your career, expect stronger family ties which can be difficult in career advancement. It's always best to balance both of these because one cannot survive without the other.

Set goals. Set goals in life for both family and work. Whatever goals that you set will have a long and lasting effect on you and those around you.

Look for help with the kids. It is difficult to concentrate on work if you do not have childcare. Even families with two parents need help with taking care of the children. Ask for help from relatives, trustworthy neighbors or put an advertisement in the newspaper.

Properly handle stress. Being a single parent can be stressful. Take time for yourself. Spend some quiet time during weekends or evenings when the kids are asleep for you. Taking care of your own personal health is integral in raising your kids.



Setting goals is a good strategy for single parents for balancing raising kids and work



Alanna Busch, a student at the Parkland College accepts the Chamber's scholarship from Chamber Director Ryan Hoffman. Congratulations Alanna!