

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

You Told Us



Chamber Directors: Amie Zamonsky, Dick DeRyk, Corey Werner, Cassidy Westberg and Lawrence Wegner review the Membership Survey Report.

In the September edition of the Courier, reference was made to the membership survey conducted over the summer. In the space of 8 weeks, Sherry and Juanita visited 114 businesses. Meeting with the owners or managers of these businesses in their own locations, was an interesting experience. For the Chamber staff, they learned more about each of the businesses - which goods and services they offer, and the length of time they have been operating. For the businesses, it was an opportunity to discuss the Chamber and to offer suggestions for improvement.

The answers to the Chamber's brief survey and the comments put forth were compiled into a report that was presented to the Board of Directors at the September Board meeting.

Highlights from the report include:

- Businesses appreciated a visit from the Chamber and in many instances, it was their first face-to-face meeting with Chamber staff.
- Businesses appreciated the brevity of the interviews.
- Overall, the Chamber members described the Chamber as "important" and "useful" to the business community.
- After learning about the work that the 4 Standing Committees of the Chamber do, several businesses suggested the Chamber "blow its own horn" a little more. In future

editions of the Courier, we will endeavour to report on the work of the various committees.

- The email blasts and the Courier were rated very highly and were deemed to be good/informative/useful/interesting.
- When asked if businesses preferred to attend Chamber Business Breakfasts or Lunches, many indicated Breakfasts were preferred. Many others indicated that the topic of the Guest Speaker played a greater role in their attendance than time of day.
- An overwhelming majority of businesses indicated they would be willing to participate in a brief email survey about a difficult issue.
- A number of comments about the city were received during the interviews and the Board will relay these to the appropriate personnel at City Hall.

The Board accepted the report and indicated this was a worthwhile project - providing much valuable feedback. The Directors have committed to studying the report in their respective committees and implementing some of the suggestions.

Again, thanks is extended to all the business members which participated in the survey. The Staff are looking forward to meeting with a new group of business members in the summer of 2012.



*Meet the Chamber Staff:
Juanita Polegi, Executive Director
and Sherry MacDonald,
Director of Marketing & Administration*



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If you are interested in becoming a Chamber Member, please contact the Chamber office at 783-4368.

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL

September - 2011

Flashpoint Media • Gallagher Centre • Painted Hand Casino • Memories to Last a Lifetime • Subway
Community Futures Venture • Tourism Yorkton • City of Yorkton • Inky Attitude Art & Design
St. Mary's Cultural Centre • D's Signs and Designs • Auto Trim Design • Ramada Hotel
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Army, Navy Unit • Royal Canadian Legion • Shirley's Dance Wear • Cross Road Solutions
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Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal

The Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal was established in 1995 to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding volunteer service or exceptional community involvement in an area beyond their normal duties or profession. Yorkton is full of many such people. Nomination forms are available at www.ops.gov.sk.ca or by calling the Protocol Office 1-877-427-5505. The deadline for nominations is Oct. 18.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 12 - 7:30 am

Chamber Business Breakfast - Painted Hand Casino Guest Speaker: Ross Fisher and Guest re: New Health Facility

October 16 - 22

Sask. Small Business Week

October 17 - 23

Canadian Financial Planning Week

October 19

Provincial All Candidates' Forum
- Gallagher Centre

October 31

Nominations close for Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

November 8

Chamber Business Lunch - Gallagher Centre
Guest Speaker: Kim Wondrasek, CEO SEER
re: Economic Activity in the Region

November 26 - 5:30 pm

Yorkton's 14th Annual Santa Claus Parade

Visitors from the South



In mid-September, these 2 planes, valued together at about \$25 million, arrived at the Yorkton Airport from the United States. Their passengers spent several days in the Yorkton area. Continuing upgrades to the Yorkton Airport will ensure that more of these kinds of aircraft will be able to utilize our airport.

Congratulations

- To Maple Farm Equipment on being named to the Top 100 Saskatchewan companies by Saskatchewan Business Magazine. Maple Farm Equipment is ranked #38, up 4 rankings from 2010.



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Are Congratulations in Order?

There is still time to recognize your business if it is celebrating a milestone year (20+) in 2011. And don't wait until next year to let us know about a milestone celebration in 2012. Any 2012 dates we receive now will be diarized.



Did You Know?

- That if you're a Chamber member, you're in the company of 469 other businesses.
- The Chamber of Commerce member roster reached **470** in early September! "The voice of business in Yorkton" continues to strengthen.
- Nominations for Directors of the Chamber Board open October 3 and close Oct. 31. Nomination forms are available on the Chamber website www.yorktonchamber.com or at the Chamber office. Eight positions are open for election.
- The call letters for the Yorkton Airport are YQV.
- On average, during the months of June, July and August, more than 105 people per day signed the Guest Book at Tourism

Yorkton Information Centre. Over 1000 of those visitors were from the United States. Visitors were also from every Canadian province and territory, Mexico, many European and Asian countries, Ethiopia and Israel.

- The 2nd Annual TransACTIONS conference, sponsored by SEER, Yorkton Tribal Council and Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada, will be held Oct. 26 & 27 at the Gallagher Centre. See the enclosed insert for more details. Key Note speakers include Roberta Bodnar and Bernd Christmas.
- 2012 is a **Celebrate Success!** year. Think about in which of the various Award categories your business could be nominated. Watch for more details in the Chamber email blasts.

Characteristics of a Family-Friendly Workplace

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

The five basic characteristics of a family-friendly workplace are:

- **Flexibility:** having an operational style that allows employees to have capacity to adapt their workday to respond to family issues such as a child becoming ill, school visits or special needs of elders. It typically includes a family responsibility leave.
- **Supportive Supervisors:** a management style that values staff and is characterized by a desire to help employees achieve balance between work and the rest of their lives.
- **A Culture that is Family Friendly:** a workplace that is characterized by overall attitudes, beliefs and values that support work-family issues as legitimate workplace concerns, and as an opportunity to develop "new ways of working".
- **Alternative Work Arrangements:** having options available to employees including scheduled flextime arrangements, job-sharing, reduced hours, compressed work week and family leaves.
- **Recognition of Child and Elder Care Issues:** recognizing issues of today's workforce and their need to take care of their children and their parents while working with employees on potential solutions to problems they may be encountering.

