

The Voice of Business

President's Message

As 2013 draws to a close, so does my term as President. When I accepted the role I figured it would mean a few more meetings and events, with the odd speech. What I didn't realize was how much more proud of Yorkton and Saskatchewan I would become, how many learning experiences I would have, and how many opportunities and successes I would get to witness first hand. I would like to share some of these with you.

In January we hosted my favourite luncheon of the year - we had students from the YRHS share their business plans, challenges and successes - the innovation and motivation these students have makes me excited for the future.

In March I had the opportunity to attend the Sask Government's Budget Day. It was the second time I had stepped foot in the Legislative Building and it was a memorable one. The provincial government announced funding for the Parkland College Trades and Technology Centre; this is something the Chamber has been passionate about and we are so excited to see this "dream" fulfilled.

Also in March, the Chamber partnered with the Yorkton Tribal Council to host a TransACTIONS Conference. This was an amazing event that brought the business and First Nations communities together. The aspirations and accomplishments of the guest speakers were truly remarkable and such an inspiration.

April we held our Employee Recognition Event. This night proved once again how many exceptional employees we have in the area, and how dedicated they are to their employers and their community. This was the first year we awarded two Employee of the Year awards.

In June I attended and participated in the Grand March at the PowWow. What an experience - the dancers, the music, the culture. This is something I will never forget and words can't describe. I encourage everyone to attend and see this event firsthand.

September we hosted our annual Chamber Business Dinner, with Chris and Larry from OMG! candy as our guest speakers. This once again was an awesome night that provided a wonderful entrepreneurial message and great networking opportunity.

October I had the opportunity to attend the ABEX awards in Saskatoon to support the 3 Yorkton



President Amie Zamonsky has enjoyed her year as President of the Yorkton Chamber. She says Yorkton has much to be proud of in relation to its employers, employees and growth opportunities.

businesses who were finalists. It was great to see Yorkton companies showcased on a provincial level, and made me more confident that we have many deserving candidates for every category right here at home. Please take the time to nominate either your own business or someone else's for next year's Yorkton Chamber's Celebrate Success Business Awards, as well as the Sask Chamber's awards.

Attending many grand openings, lunches, meetings, and events this past year I have seen that although entrepreneurs in this city are very humble, they are extremely passionate and very proud. Saskatchewan is a great place to live, Yorkton is the best place to live. The amount of growth we have seen the last few years is outstanding. We have so much to be proud of. We have the best employers, great employees, and a wealth of opportunities. Thank you for allowing me to be part of this great organization that truly is "the voice of business" and for allowing me to see how awesome my hometown really is! I appreciate all the hard work by my fellow board of directors and by our staff, Juanita and Sherry. I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous holiday season, and all the best to you in 2014.

Congratulations!

- To **Barry Zapshalla** on being inducted into Sun Life Financial's Career Sales Force Hall of Fame. Barry was honoured in this way for having achieved outstanding success in sales.
- To **Good Earth Shop** on 35 years in business!
- To **RH Electric** on 30 years in business!



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Interested in becoming a Chamber Member?

Call Sherry at the Chamber office at 783-4368

Harvest Showdown



Taylor Thompson, #91 for the Yorkton Terriers helped the Chamber crew place in the top 4 at the Grainmillers Harvest Showdown Oatmeal Eating contest. The Chamber donated its prize to The Soup Haven.

Milestones

Many readers of the Courier have indicated that one of the features they enjoy is the Congratulations section. Learning about the number of years a business has been operating is interesting. If 2014 is a milestone year for your business, please notify the Chamber office so your business can be recognized in future Courier editions. If we don't know you're marking a milestone, we can't offer congratulations!

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TransACTIONS for Youth



High school actors from Free My Muse Theatre Company, Yorkton created and performed a comical theatre piece that illustrated what to do and what not to do at a job interview.

During the recent TransACTIONS for Youth Conference on Business hosted by the Yorkton Tribal Council, DREAMBuilders Learning Centre and the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, Jacqueline Johnson did a great job of explaining why learning about entrepreneurship and being a business owner is so important for High School students. She told over 100 students in attendance to have the courage to work on their business ideas and to seek advice and support from others.



Aaron Keinle of CAB Clothing, Yorkton, told the students 2 things in life and in business are important: Show people that you care and believe that opportunity is just around the corner.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Dec 31

Business Licences expire. Time to renew!

January 9

Chamber Business Breakfast - Installation of Directors

January 23

Chamber Business Lunch - Launch of Business Growth Survey

February 15

Early Bird Chamber Member Fees due

U of S Vision



During a recent Chamber Business Lunch, University of Saskatchewan President Ilene Busch-Vishniac shared the university's vision to 2025. Ensuring students are able to receive a university education close to home presents exciting possibilities for the Parkland College.



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2013 proved to be a busy and productive year for the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. Much of the Board's work is done by the committees which in turn, make recommendations to the Board on how it could respond to opportunities and issues as they develop. The following is a quick recap of some of the Board's initiatives:

- Letters were sent to the following:
 - o Apprenticeship Commission encouraging it to consider holding 1st year Electrician apprenticeship classes in the Parkland region.
 - o Gord Shaw, Director of Planning & Engineering, recommending changes to the draft of the City of Yorkton's Zoning and Sign Bylaws
 - o Hon. Don McMorris thanking his Ministry and his government for the \$150K grant to the Yorkton Airport through the Community Airport Partnership program
 - o Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff expressing the Chamber's support for the adoption of a new Environment Management Model code
 - o Hon. Donna Harpauer expressing support for the Exhibition Association's Harness Racing
 - o Hon. Jim Reiter encouraging a review of Property Tax Tools
 - o Hon. Peter Kent requesting that funding be reinstated to the interpretive and programming services in Canada's National Parks
 - o Mayor & Council on a variety of issues:
 - Appoint a Chamber Director to the City's Ec Dev committee
 - Budget for the hiring of a CEO for the Yorkton Airport

- Re-instate and expand the Enterprise Zone Incentive Program (EZIP)
- Business Walk Program
- o RCMP Commissioner Bob Paulson with an open invitation to visit Yorkton
- o Support for Kambusters Drag Racing Association

The Yorkton Chamber provided financial support to:

- the Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce in its commissioning of the CD Howe Institute to study the impact of non-residential property taxes and the ability to attract investment to the province
- the Sask Chamber's Business & Growth Survey
- Parkland College for a business scholarship

The Chamber attended the province's Budget Day; Sask Chamber's AGM; a P3 Summit; the city's Open Houses for the Official Community Plan; the Painted Hand Casino's PowWow; attended all announcements of donations and funding for the Parkland College's Trades & Technology Centre; and all Council meetings.

And in terms of networking events, the Chamber hosted 11 Chamber Business Breakfasts or Lunches; a successful Employee Recognition Event; the Chamber Business Dinner; and partnered with the Yorkton Tribal Council to host a TransACTIONS conference in March and a TransACTIONS for Youth Conference on Business in November.

As of November 15, the Chamber's membership numbers increased by 1% in 2013 to bring total membership to 458.

In January, the new Board will set the course for 2014. With vision and planning, the Chamber can continue to grow and be an even stronger "voice of business in Yorkton".



On behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors & Staff, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank our Chamber Members for their support throughout the year !

Photo Courtesy of Photography by Mitch

Back Row L to R: Cheryl Kustra; Domenic Rampone; Dick DeRyk; Rob Bear; Susan Stewardson; Laurie Fedorowich; and Greg Donnelly. Front Row L to R: Tom Seeley; Juanita Polegi, Exec Director; Amie Zamonsky, President; Sherry MacDonald, Director of Marketing & Administration; and Joel Martinuk. Missing: Carol Yaholnitsky; Corey Werner; Doug Kitsch; Don Rae; and Ron Irvine.