Volume 1 • Issue 6 July • 2013



# MMON

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Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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# The Voice of Business

# **Welcome Domenic Rampone**

Since arriving in Yorkton in 2011 and opening Budget Blinds with his wife, Lina, Domenic Rampone has become known as the "Blind Guy" in Yorkton. Moving from Kelowna, BC to Yorkton, Domenic has discovered many attractive features about the city.

"We came to Yorkton because this franchise area was open," Domenic said. "And while our research showed there would be lots of opportunity to succeed with the business, we also really like the city!" The friendliness and integrity of the residents are especially appealing to Domenic. "People are so genuinely warm and hospitable and in 2 years of doing business in the area, we have never received a cheque that bounced!"

Domenic's passion for the city is evident whenever he is engaged in conversation. And he doesn't just talk about the city, he is involved. Domenic is presently serving the second year of his first term as a Chamber Director and chairs the Marketing & Communications committee. He is also a Director of the Yorkton Terriers Junior Hockey Club; and has been appointed to the city's Planning & Infrastructure Commission and Protective Services Committee.

Being involved in the community is important to Domenic for two reasons. Personally, he enjoys being involved, working with people and knowing that his contribution can make a difference. From a business perspective, Domenic believes that time spent networking is essential to business success. "Networking will build your business faster than spending a fortune on advertising", he said. "When you establish relationships and gain respect in the community, then prospective customers view your business as a credible player in the community." In fact, if Domenic could offer 2 pieces of advice to new entrepreneurs he would suggest they do their due diligence in researching the industry in which they will be involved and to become involved in the community.

As a newcomer to Yorkton, Domenic says people who have lived here for a very long time, often don't have an appreciation for all that Yorkton has to offer. Its infrastructure - including schools, health centre, Parkland College, Godfrey Dean Cultural Centre, Museum and recreation facilities; and the opportunities for entertainment and recreation are truly remarkable. Residents and business owners should be proud of their city!

In the future, Domenic would like to see the city continue to support the Airport which he considers a huge asset to the region. Continuing support of the Parkland College and lobbying for an increase in medical services are other priorities Domenic considers important to the city for its growth and expansion.



Director Domenic Rampone advises new entrepreneurs to get involved in the community as that is the best way to build business.

As for the Chamber, Domenic would like to see it as the place where business people can get more information to improve their businesses. He would also like the Chamber to work with the city in attracting businesses here and to work with the Parkland College in offering classes for businesses.

Wondering what's interesting about Yorkton? Just ask Domenic.



Members of the Yorkton Cardinals baseball team stopped by the office with posters. Sergio Perez #29 presented Juanita Polegi with posters for the Cardinals' schedule and their 50/50 Progressive Draw. For the Cardinals' home game schedule, visit www.yorktoncardinalsbaseball.com

# Congratulations!

- To RE/MAX Blue Chip Realty on achieving the rank of the #1 Real Estate Brokerage in western Canada and on being ranked #214 of the top 250 Real Estate Brokerages in all of Canada!
- To **Integra Tire** on 30 years of business in Yorkton.



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# **Check the Member Roster**

Each member of the Chamber is entitled to have the business listed under a maximum of 5 cate-

Have you checked to see if your business is listed under the correct categories?

It is your responsibility to ensure that the business is listed. If a category is missing, let the Chamber

office know and a new category can be created.

It's important that your business can be easily located on the Member Roster. The Chamber wants everyone to know that you are a member!

# **Upcoming Dates** to Remember

# July 3 - 6

Yorkton Exhibition Fair

Deadline for submitting nominations for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit

# August 23 - 25

Yorkton Airport Authority Air Show 2013 "A Sentimental Journey" featuring a B17

# September 12

Chamber Business Lunch - Life Member Induction

# September 26

'Social Media and Internet Marketing" at the Parkland College. Presenters are Michael Klein (Meshy Communications) and Harley Rivet (Deep Dish Digital) Contact 786-2760 to register

# October 2

Chamber Business Dinner - Guest Speakers Chris Emery and Larry Finnson, the creators of Clodhoppers and OMG! candy. Call the Chamber office to book tickets!

# OMG!



Events Co-Chairs Susan Stewardson (L) and Carol Yaholnitsky (R) and President Amie Zamonsky (Middle) display bags of OMG! candy. It was announced at a recent Chamber Business Lunch that the creators of OMG! candy and Clodhoppers, Chris Emery and Larry Finnson, will be the Guest Speakers at the Chamber's Business Dinner October 2. In a press release, Amie indicated that the Events committee felt these two entrepreneurs would be of interest to the Yorkton business community as they are informative and very entertaining! Sponsorship opportunities and tickets are now available by calling the Chamber office.

# Did you know?

- Tourism is big business in Saskatchewan. Tourism contributes \$2 billion in total traveller expenditures annually to the provincial econ-
- Tourism generates \$38.1 million per year in the Yorkton Constituency!
- Approximately 10% of the province's current working population is employed in full or part time jobs related to the tourism industry.
- More than 95% of tourism and tourism-related businesses are small or medium sized companies and many are independently owned and operated.
- According to Stats Canada, Sask's labour force was 586,900 the highest ever for the month of May.
- The Government of Canada has proposed to expand and extend its hiring credit for small business (HCSB) program in 2013. A small business could be credited with up to \$1000 in employment insurance premiums. Visit http://actionplan.gc.ca/en/initiative/hiring-credit-small-business
- · For information on other job creation initiatives, visit http://www.canadabusiness.ca/eng/page 2739/sgc-47
- In Yorkton, there are now 17 GPs; 2 Nurse Practitioners and 17 Specialists.



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Past President Ron Irvine accepts from President Amie Zamonsky, a plaque expressing the Chamber's gratitude for his contribution to the Chamber as President in 2012.



In recognition of Sask Mining Week, the Chamber invited Bruce Bodine, GM of Mosaic Canada Esterhazy to be the Guest Speaker at a recent Chamber Business Breakfast. Mr. Bodine delivered a very interesting presentation on Mosaic's current expansion and future plans.



In recognition of Tourism Awareness Week in the province, Pat Fiacco, CEO of Tourism Saskatchewan was the Guest Speaker at a recent Chamber Business Lunch. He said Saskatchewan is full of amazing sites and attractions that as residents, we take for granted. Tourism Saskatchewan will not only market the province and what it has to offer to the rest of the nation and globally but to residents as well.

# Pizza Farm?



Ever hear of a "Pizza Farm"? The Sask Ministry of Agriculture, together with several sponsors, established one near Yorkton in mid June. Grade 3 students from 4 schools helped with the planting of plots shaped in a giant circle. Each plot, representing a slice of pizza, is seeded with a pizza ingredient including wheat, canola, basil, oregano, garlic and onion. The Pizza Farm will be a great teaching tool for Ag staff to promote the Ministry's Ag Awareness campaign. The Yorkton Chamber is a sponsor and Executive Director, Juanita Polegi, is an Ag-vocate. She explained to the students why agriculture is important to the Chamber of Commerce.



**TD Canada Trust** 

# **Small Business** Advisor



Amie Zamonsky 306-786-4800, ext. 246 amie.zamonsky@td.com 63 Broadway St. E. Yorkton, SK





# Sask Order of Merit

Do you know someone who deserves to be recognized for his/her contributions to the province? Nominations are now being accepted for the Saskatchewan Order of Merit. Nominations forms can be obtained at www.ops.gov.sk.ca

Deadline for submission is July 5. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit was established in 1985 and is Saskatchewan's highest honour.

# **PHC Pow Wow**



Board of Directors was honoured to be invited to participate in the Grand Entries at the recent Painted Hand Casino PowWow. President Amie Zamonsky and Directors Carol Yaholnitsky, Domenic Rampone and Charlene Gibler (middle) took turns representing the Chamber at the 3 Entries. They all indicated that being on the floor with the dancers was an incredible experience. Over 500 dancers and several drum groups from all across Canada and the US were in Yorkton for the PowWow.