



# COMMUNITY COURIER

## The Voice of Business

### Director Says Yorkton is a Good Place to Be

Susan Stewardson was struck by how friendly the people of Yorkton were when she arrived in Yorkton almost three and a half years ago. As a resident of the city, her opinion hasn't changed. "Yorkton is a good place to be. People look at you and smile. That makes for a very welcoming atmosphere," she said.

Susan is the manager of the ScotiaBank and is in her second year of her first term as a Director on the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce. She brings a wealth of experience to the Board table. While in Weyburn, she was a Director for a number of years, serving in a variety of capacities, including taking on the role of President for two years. Being involved in a Chamber is important to Susan as it enables her to understand how the business community works with and relates to the city, the province and tourism. She had several reasons for letting her name stand for the Yorkton Chamber Board. "Having lived in many cities and having observed and worked with other Chambers, I bring a different perspective to the

Board," she said. "And men and women bring their own perspectives to a Board so it's always good for a Board to have a mix of men and women."

Since joining the Yorkton Board, she is intrigued by the way the Board operates. "I like the way the standing and ad hoc committees operate," she explained. "They utilize the skills and strengths of the committee members, relying on the committees to conduct the work of the Board."

Engagement of more of the membership at Chamber events is one of the things Susan would like to see the Chamber improve upon. "While we have good participation from our members at the major events, it would be nice to see more members involved in the networking opportunities such as those offered by the Business Lunches," she said. "And offering their opinions when the Chamber sends a survey would be helpful." Susan believes it's important for the Chamber to be relevant and interesting in order to retain its existing membership base and to attract new members.



*Director Susan Stewardson believes that Yorkton is a great place in which to live and to do business.*

In addition to serving on the Chamber Board, Susan is a Board member of Big Brothers & Big Sisters; is involved in the Scouting movement at both the Provincial and Foundation levels; Relay for Life; and Beta Sigma Phi. She and her husband, Jack have 4 grown children and 6 and a half grandchildren!

### Did you know?

At the Sask Chamber's AGM, 18 policies were debated and adopted. Some of the policies of particular interest to the Yorkton business community include:

- Encourage the Government of Canada to amend the Income Tax Act so that it no longer discourages the sale of businesses to immediate family members at fair market value.
- Encourage the Government of Canada to amend legislation to eliminate the inactive tax rate on rental accommodations.

- Encourage the Government of Saskatchewan to immediately commission an independent review of how property tax contributes to public revenues.

The 18 new policies shall be in effect for 3 years. To view all the policies of the Sask Chamber of Commerce, visit its website [www.saskchamber.com](http://www.saskchamber.com)



### Congratulations!

- To **Tourism Yorkton** on being named the recipient of Tourism Saskatchewan's Gil Carduner Marketing Award for its Where Good Things Happen campaign.
- To the **Yorkton Airport Authority** on securing another \$150,000 from the province's Community Airport Partnership (CAP) program for runway and taxiway repairs, drainage rehabili-

tation, fencing, apron and taxiway expansion. The airport continues to play an important role in the growth and development of the city and region.

- To **Ducks Unlimited Canada** on 75 years in Canada. DUC established its Yorkton office in 1971.

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Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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## Welcome New Members to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

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Yorkton, SK

*Building Supplies, Furniture & Appliance*

**KPMG LLP**  
2000-1881 Scarth Street  
Regina, SK  
*Audit, Tax & Advisory Services*

**The Massage PAD**  
387A Parkview Road  
Yorkton, SK  
*Massage Therapy*



**Sans Souci Cruise**  
Box 42  
Springside, SK  
*Cruise Excursions on Good Spirit Lake*

**Proco Technical Services**  
Box 1353  
Yorkton, SK  
*Construction Testing*

**Interested in becoming a Chamber Member?** Call Sherry at the Chamber office at 783-4368

## YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL May 2013

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Acrolect Signs & Designs • I Fly Aviation • Rusnak Directional Drilling • Joe Beeverz Bar & Grill  
Revive Spa & Supplements • Maple Communications • J & J Drilling • RCM Safety Services • Hackman Feeds  
Triple A Directional Drilling • Tantalize Tanning Studio • Kambuster's Drag Racing Assoc. • Reflexions Personal Training Studio  
Skinner Garden Classics • Canadian Tire • WalMart • Ramada Hotel • Howard Johnson Hotel • Grain Millers  
DR Auto Extras • Royal Canadian Legion • ALL Bookkeeping • K & K Road Repair • A & B Alternators  
Yorkton Lions Club • Carpet One & Floor • Sunrise Landscaping & Design • Yorkton Hearing Services • Lane Realty  
Vision Sence Eyewear • Flashpoint Media • Forever Fit Ltd. • Yorkton Constituency Office • Yorkton Regional High School  
Zaharia Electric • CK Electric • RH Electric • Parkland College • Smith Steel • Everlast Eaves • Custom Microsystems  
CAA Saskatchewan • All About Flowers • Yorkton Concrete • Atlas Aggregates

*Just to mention a few . . .*



*The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce always refers their Members First...*

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# Highlights of the 2013 AGM April 25

- Just over 60 people, representing 27 businesses in attendance.
- 33 new businesses joined the Chamber in 2012.
- Total 2012 membership 445.
- Policy committee met with Garry Breitreuz, MP; Greg Ottenbreit, MLA; and City Council to discuss policies and their impact on the business community.
- Business Development committee met with the city's Ec Dev committee to discuss opportunities and concerns.
- Marketing committee designed and distributed new Member Brochures. Thanks to the city's Business Licence Department and Information Services Corporation for displaying the brochures.
- Governance committee reviewed and revised the Chamber's Constitution and Bylaws. These were adopted at the May 2012 Board Meeting.
- Just under 100 nominations were received for the highly



Following the AGM held April 25, Mayor Bob Maloney shared Council's plans for the city.

- successful Celebrate Success Business Awards organized by the Events committee.
- Events committee also organized the near sell-out Chamber Business Dinner where entrepreneur, Bruce Croxon, was the Guest Speaker.
- Networking opportunities for businesses:
  - Eleven Chamber Business Breakfasts/Lunches
  - "Business After Hours" min tradeshow
  - All Candidates' Forum for the city's municipal election
- Board attendance at all 2012 Council meetings. Collaboration and cooperation between the city and the Chamber enhances the ability of the city to move forward.
- Ten people allowed their names to stand for the eight Director positions open for the 2013 Board.
- The Chamber finished 2012 with a profit which will be designated to Reserves.

## Does Your Business Encourage Mental Health?

At a recent Chamber Business Lunch, Gary Shepherd, Director Mental Health and Addictions Services, Sunrise Health Region discussed mental health and its impact on business.

He shared a number of interesting statistics:

- On any given day in Canada, 500,000 people are missing work due to mental illness
- In 2012, it was estimated that the effects of mental illness cost the Canadian economy \$27 Billion annually
- Adding other items such as patient care and insurance costs, that number rises to \$51 Billion annually
- It's expected the cost of mental illness to the Canadian economy will continue to rise at a rate of 1.9% per year
- Mental illness ranges from minor to debilitating
- 2 out of 3 employees struggling with mental health won't tell anyone due to fear of repercussions

### What can businesses or employers do to ensure their workers stay healthy?

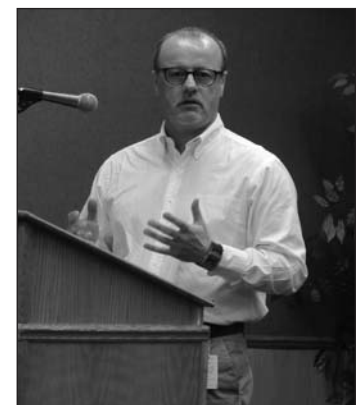
- Create opportunities for managers to take training to learn how to identify employees who may be struggling with mental health issues.
- Create policies in the work place that support, not penalize, employees struggling with mental health issues
- Strive to eliminate the stigma of mental illness. Treat someone with a mental illness the same way as someone with a physical illness - offer friendship, humour, support and caring

### What are some signs of mental illness in an employee?

- Sporadic attendance
- Distracted - unable to focus and complete tasks or projects

### How to implement preventative measures?

- Greet your employees each morning



Gary Shepherd, Director Mental Health and Addictions Services, Sunrise Health Region stated at a recent Chamber Luncheon that the best way for employers to ensure their employees are able to deal with mental health issues is to remove the stigma of mental illness from the workplace.

- Check in with each employee now and then to see how they are doing
- Encourage employees to discuss their issues