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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 believe 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.

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-

• 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



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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Government

Saskatchewan

(306) 786-1354 yorkton.cansask@gov.sk.ca





Welcome New Members to the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

McMunn & Yates 175 York Road West 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

Safire Clothing & Accessories • RCS Contracting • Wheatland Financial • Merle Norman Cosmetics 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
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Thank you

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce thanks the Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan for the Bursary that enabled Executive Director, Juanita Polegi to attend the recent Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Conference on Business and AGM in North Battleford.

The Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan has been protecting business owners and their employees since 1970. This competitively priced, comprehensive employee insurance benefits plan is available only to Chamber members.

If you're thinking of adding employee benefits to your company - or looking for replacement coverage - see why the Chambers Plan is chosen by many businesses just like yours:

Survey Says...

Earlier this spring, the Chamber sent a brief survey to its members, requesting their viewpoints on 4 questions. The response was not overwhelming; in fact, some might say it was dismal. Optimists consider it encouraging as the members have not much to complain about.

Whatever the reality, as promised in the email accompanying the survey, the results are below:

- 1.0 The first priority of the Board for 2013 is to support the development of a strong labour market in Yorkton through:
 - The development of the Parkland College's Trades & Technology Centre. Does this align with the needs of your business? 100% Yes
 - 1.2 The development of an increase in the supply of affordable housing in Yorkton. Does this align with the needs of your business? 100% Yes



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1.3 The development of improved health service sin Yorkton including a new hospital, private clinics, and attracting more trained professionals to the area. Does this align with the needs of your business? 50% Yes 50% No

Comments: A "new hospital" will not fix the current health care service provision woes.

- 2.0 The second priority of the Board for 2013 is to support the growth and development of the Yorkton Airport. Does this align with the needs of your business? 100% Yes
- 3.0 Comments on any of the above questions?
 - The Chamber should have and maintain active representation on the boards of the above noted organizations as the voice of business in the growth of these organizations.



Barristers & Solicitors

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Upcoming Dates to Remember

June 14

Chamber Business Lunch- Pat Fiacco CEO Tourism Saskatchewan Guest Speaker

June 14

Deadline for submitting nominations for the Sask Chamber's Achievement for Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards. Selfnominations are encouraged. Nomination forms are available at the Sask Chamber's website www.saskchamber.com or call 306-352-2671.

July 3 - 6 Yorkton Exhibition Summer Fair

September 12

Life Member Lunch

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

4.0 As a Chamber member, does the Chamber communicate all the benefits it has to offer its members? 50% Yes 50% No Comments: I think the Chamber does a lot that it is not actively announcing/proclaiming to the local business community. I firmly believe that the Chamber is and should continue to be an advocate for the Local Business Voice in regards to government policy and programs (all orders) that have the potential to improve (highly desirable) or impede (clearly not desirable) the ability of all businesses to grow and perform.

The Chamber thanks the members who took the time to complete the survey and offer comments. The Board welcomes input from its members.







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Small Business Advisor



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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 Breitkreuz, 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 f or 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 isssues