

The VOICE of Business

Reflections of the President

2015 has been an interesting year for business in Yorkton! While many businesses have found the past year to be a prosperous one, others have faced challenges due to the uncertainties originating from the resource sector. Despite this, for the most part, businesses are approaching the upcoming year with optimism.

As we soon head into a new year, on behalf of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to the many new businesses that have taken up a membership with the Chamber. I am sure that you find value from the many benefits a Membership can provide. For our returning Members, we thank you for your support and interest.

Over the past year, I have truly enjoyed working with the Chamber Board of Directors. Their diverse backgrounds, coupled with their vast amount of experience, has been helpful in facilitating necessary discussions around business community directions and priorities. The amount of time and energy the Board members have spent volunteering for events is noteworthy and appreciated. To the new incoming Board Members, I

look forward to your thoughts and ideas! To those who are completing their final term on the Board - your contributions were both valued and respected.

To the Chamber staff, Juanita and Sherry, a sincere thank-you for your hard work and dedication. Besides the day to day duties, these individuals have been extremely helpful in the planning and execution of our Chamber activities. Both individuals are outstanding ambassadors for the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, and we are all better for it.

We are fortunate to have had two of our members, NL Construction and TA Foods to be nominated for the Saskatchewan Chamber's ABEX awards. Congratulations to TA Foods for taking home some hardware this year, you are very deserving! Over the next few months, you will start to hear about the Yorkton Chamber's "Celebrate Success Awards." We kindly ask that you consider recognizing and nominating a business that meets the many categories that are available.

Recently, the Chamber hosted the debate for the candidates for the Federal Election. We had a great turn out and appreciate The Rock for



Joel Martinuk

broadcasting it live for those who could not attend. Looking forward to next year, we face both municipal and provincial elections. I am sure the Chamber will be excited to host debates for those elections as well. Certainly the issues faced by our business community should be top of mind for the candidates running - and I trust that candidates that have concern for our local businesses will have the greatest success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce I would like to wish all of you a Merry Christmas, and the very best in the New Year! I am sure that 2016 will be a great year for Yorkton, and wish all of our members the greatest success next year!

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Merry Christmas from the Board & Staff
of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce

Photography by Mitch

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL
November 2015

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The Year that Was - 2015 in Review

When the 2015 Board of Directors looks back on the year, the Directors will describe it as productive. In May, the Board engaged in Strategic Planning. As a result, the Board identified 2 strategic areas in which to direct its efforts - Advocacy and Membership.

Much of the work of the Board is undertaken by its committees. The committees then make recommendations to the Board and then the entire Board either accepts the recommendations or asks for more information. Some of the highlights of the Board's work in 2015 are:

Business Development:

- Discussed the City's Development Levies and researched the impact of levies on business in Yorkton. This was discussed with the Mayor and Council at a meeting.
- Conducted a Member Survey re the Enterprise Zone Incentive Program (EZIP). 100% of the respondents indicated the program should be reinstated; and 80% indicated it should extend to the city. A letter was sent to the City's Ec Dev committee recommending these responses. A letter was also sent recommending the renewal of the Rental Housing Incentive Program (RHIP).
- Met with Samuel Twumasi, EdO to discuss business opportunities in the City.
- Met with the Yorkton Housing Committee to learn more about the city's housing strategy and initiatives.
- Met with Staff Sgt Greg Nichol and Sgt Rob Nicholas to discuss policing in Yorkton.

Events:

" Planned and organized the Employee Recognition Event in April and the Chamber Business Dinner in September.



Two highly successful events unique to the business community.

Marketing & Communications:

- Set new rates for rentals on the Sign Board. Also created an opportunity for many of the non-profit organizations in the city to advertise their presence on the Sign Board.
- Suggested that a survey of the members' perceptions of the city's business climate be conducted. Results appeared in the October Courier.
- Explored ways to promote the Chamber and increase membership.
- Held 2 Member Coffee Houses.
- Recommended the Board set up a booth at the Pumpkin Walk.

Policy:

- Met with the Yorkton Airport Authority to discuss options for the Regional Airport and to offer

The support of the members and community helped to make 2015 a successful one for the Chamber

- assistance with moving forward.
- Recommended the Board advocate for member businesses experiencing difficulties as a result of new legislation.
- Together with the Business Development committee, met with representatives of CP and CN to discuss rail traffic and safety in Yorkton.
- Recommended revisions to the HR Policy Handbook.
- Organized the All Candidates Forum for the federal election.

In addition to the work of the Committees, the Board also was busy:

- Attended all the Council meetings
- New Member Luncheon
- 5 Business Lunches

- Inducted 2 Honourary Life Members
- Met with MLA Greg Ottenbreit
- Business Walk with the Mayor
- Participated in the Sask Chamber's Round Table on Policy
- Sent the Executive Director to the Sask Chamber's AGM
- Participated in the Grand Entries of the PHC's PowWow
- Together with the YEA, YBID and the City, hosted the RCMP Musical Ride
- Together with YEA, petitioned Council to proclaim Ag Week in Yorkton

Several letters were also written:

- Letter to MLA re: ensuring adequate funding for Sunrise Health Region
- Letter to MP re: identifying top barriers to business growth in Yorkton and area
- Letter to Minister of Economy re: termination of SBLA program
- Letter to Minister of Highways & Infrastructure re: thanks for CAP funding for Airport
- Letters to CN & CP re: rail traffic and safety
- Letter to Mayor & Council re: effect of road construction on neighbouring businesses
- Letter to Mayor & Council re: traffic safety concerns at intersection of York Road and Hwy 9

The Yorkton Chamber is "the voice of business in Yorkton". Your membership in, and support of the Chamber, makes its voice stronger.

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Ag Week in Yorkton



Vice President Corey Werner lead the Chamber Team to a finish in the Top 4 in the Oatmeal Eating Contest sponsored by Grainmillers during Harvest Showdown! Team members included Directors Kelly Price and Krissy Morrison and Paul Savage, #5 for the Yorkton Terriers. Thanks to Paul and the Terriers for assisting the Chamber in this fun event!



Honorary President of the Yorkton Exhibition Association, Jerry Bulitz applied the brand to the board signalling the kick-off to Ag Week in Yorkton. Assisting Jerry were Juanita Polegi, Chamber Executive Director; Lori Walsh, President Yorkton Exhibition Association; and Mayor Bob Maloney.

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Pumpkin Walk



Hallowe'en isn't just for kids! Chamber Directors Brady Harland, Brent Murdock, Carol Yoholnitsky and President Joel Martinuk were in costume to meet the kids who visited the Chamber's Booth during the Yorkton Co-op Pumpkin Walk.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

December 2
Saskatchewan USA Trade Summit, Saskatoon - sponsored by STEP & the Sask Chamber

December 3
Chamber Business Lunch at the Legion Hall. Topic: Multi Material Recycling Program - Cost to Your Business

December 31
Chamber New Year's Eve Party at the Painted Hand Casino. Dress Up Event. Shuttle Service!

January 13
Chamber Business Breakfast - Installation of Directors; YRHS Jr Achievement presentations

January 28
Chamber Business Lunch - Guest Speaker: Janice Tranberg, Executive Director, Sask Canola

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- That employers can receive up to **\$10,000 per trainee** through the **Canada-Saskatchewan Job Grant (CSJG)**.
- Eligible training costs include tuition and mandatory student fees, textbooks, software and other required materials, and exam fees.
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- Employers decide on who gets training and what type of training may be needed for new and existing employees.
- For more information, visit economy.sk.ca/job-grant or call 306-786-1354
- There are over 25 mining operations in Saskatchewan.
- Mosaic Esterhazy's K3 head frame is the tallest structure between Winnipeg and Calgary.
- In Canada, canola accounts for one quarter of all farm receipts - according to Stats Canada.
- Saskatchewan's motto is From Many Peoples Strength.
- Sheho is a Nakota word for prairie chicken.
- Mining is a temporary use of the land. Its footprint in Saskatchewan occupies 0.1% of available land in the province, less than the size of Saskatoon.



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