

The VOICE of Business

President's Message

I feel very privileged to assume the 2015 Presidency position for the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

During my past term, I have had the opportunity to work with the Chamber's capable and diverse board and staff whose knowledge spans the business community. Moving forward into a fresh year, your Chamber is committed to being the voice of business. Our focus will be to advocate progress and address issues impacting our membership and business at large.

To accomplish our goals, I believe that we need to work collaboratively with City Officials, coupled with our local Provincial and Federal Government representatives. This can be accomplished by providing these leaders support for initiatives that promote business growth, while also holding them accountable for policies that hinder this growth. As you know, our local business sector drives our local economy. Accordingly, we need to ensure that policies contribute to growth and prosperity of the business community, not the opposite.

Yorkton is fortunate to have a dynamic and vibrant business community. In fact, last year, four local businesses became finalists in the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce's ABEX awards of recognition - two of these winning in their respective categories. As our local Chamber continues to grow, approaching



President Joel Martinuk

almost 500 members, we are committed to recognizing the membership as whole for their contribution in creating a prosperous community.

In closing, I along with the Board of Directors and staff of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, look forward to the challenges and opportunities we will face over the next year. I trust that 2015 will be an outstanding year for our members and wish the best of business to all!

Congratulations!

- Co-Chair of the Yorkton Short Film Festival, **Richard Gustin**, was the recipient of the Saskatchewan Arts Board Lt. Governor's Volunteer Award. This is great recognition for the Festival!
- To **Dave Nussbaumer** of Farrell Agencies on becoming the President of the Insurance Brokers Association of Saskatchewan (IBAS).
- To **BG Denture Clinic** on 45 years in business.
- To **Loucks Medi Health Pharmacy** on 25 years in business .
- To each of the 3 companies created by the Entrepreneurship 30 at the YRHS - **Loose Leaf Tea, Strings Attached** and **Pretzel Factory** - for not only making a profit but for donating 10% of their profits to charity!



Congratulations to Chamber Past President **Amie Evans** (centre) on being selected by TD Canada Trust for the Vision in Action Award of Distinction! Amie is one of only 90 recipients selected this year from TD's worldwide work force of 85,000 employees. The announcement was made today in the Yorkton Branch. With Amie are Brian Gervais - Senior Vice President - Prairie Region (far left); Juanita Polegi, Yorkton Chamber; Don Rae, Yorkton Chamber; Les Arnelien, Branch Manager; and Lyle Chutskoff - District Vice President - Saskatchewan.



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January 2015**

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Alexander's Mens Wear • Gallagher Centre • Painted Hand Casino
Ramada Hotel • RCM Safety Services • RH Electric • CK Electric
Zaharia Electric • Restore Yorkton • Parkland College • Vape Shack
What's In Store • Blaze Locksmith • Servicemaster of Yorkton • AJ Upholstery
Parkland Carpet • A Goode Upholstery • York Sask Drycleaners
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Just to mention a few . . .

Donation



Krissy Morrison, Chamber Director (right) on behalf of the Chamber, presented a cheque to Marilyn Dennis of the **Soup Haven** (left). The cheque was equal to the prize the Chamber received for its team's second place finish in the Oatmeal Eating Contest at the Grain Millers' Harvest Showdown in November.

Partnership for Resource Trade

The Yorkton Chamber is supportive of a new initiative from the Canadian Chamber, the **Partnership for Resource Trade**, which seeks to engage Canadians in the important national discussion about **the key role that natural resources play in our success as a country**. The Partnership believes that the responsible use of Canada's abundant natural resources is an important source of pride,

opportunity and social and economic benefit to Canada. Members of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce are encouraged to inform themselves and support the initiative as well.

To learn more and to show your support for this initiative, please visit powerofcanada.ca.

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Hello and Farewell to Directors

Each October, nominations are called for 8 Directors to begin serving a two year term beginning January 1. When the nominations closed Oct 31, exactly 8 nominees let their name stand so no election was required.

Returning to the Board are **Susan Stewardson, Joel Martinuk, Don Rae** and **Corey Werner**. Corey will begin his 5th 2 year term as a Director! Now that's dedication!

New to the Board are **Kelly Price, Mike Popowich, Shawn Patenaude** and **Brent Murdock**. Well, Brent isn't exactly "new". He served a two year term in 2010 - 11. He resigned when employment opportunities beckoned him to his home province of Ontario. Employment brought Brent back to Yorkton where he will once again be serving the Chamber. The Chamber welcomes all the Directors

who begin their new terms and look forward to their fresh insights and new ideas!

Leaving the Board December 31 are **Cheryl Kustra, Laurie Fedorowich** and **Amie Evans**. Both Cheryl and Laurie joined the Board in 2013. Cheryl served on the Business Development committee while Laurie served on the Events committee and co-chaired the committee this year. Amie completed 3 terms as Director, joining the Board in 2009. She served on all committees and chaired some of them. Most notably, she was the 2013 President.

Thank you to all the retiring Directors. Your interest in the Chamber, your wisdom and your ideas were all greatly appreciated.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- January 29**
Chamber Business Breakfast with **Building Services and Contractors**, 7:00 AM Painted Hand Casino
- February 26**
Chamber Business Lunch with John Law "Yorkton Opportunities Part 2".
- March 25**
Employee Recognition Event at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre
- March 31**
Deadline for Renewing City Business Licences at City Hall
- April 28**
Chamber AGM at Painted Hand Casino

Installation of 2015 Board

15 Years of Service!



The Chambers of Commerce Executives of Canada (CCEC), a professional development organization recently recognized **Sherry MacDonald**, Yorkton Chamber's **Director of Marketing & Administration** for 15 years in Chamber Administration.

Sherry has been with the Yorkton Chamber for 9 years and had worked for the Saskatoon Chamber for 6 years previously.

Congratulations Sherry and thank you for all that you do to help the Chamber grow and flourish.



Mayor Bob Maloney (far left) conducted the Installation of the Chamber's 2015 Board of Directors. Present were Joel Martinuk; Brent Murdock; Don Rae; Mike Popowich; Carol Yaholnitsky; Randy Hrywkiw; Krissy Morrison; Susan Stewardson; Mike Parobec; Rob Bear; Shawn Patenaude; Corey Werner; Stephanie Buckle; and Melissa Honour. Missing are Brady Harland and Kelly Price.

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Did you Know?

- **Sunrise Health Region** has a new website and a new look. Go to www.sunrisehealthregion.sk.ca to check it out. It also has a twitter account - @sunriseregion
- The new **Sunrise Health & Wellness Centre** on 25-259 Hamilton Road, while not a walk-in clinic, provides client and family centred care in a team-based environment designed to maximize the efficient and effective flow of people and information. The Centre is the central hub for integrated primary health care in Sunrise Health Region, with a focus on support for individuals with chronic disease conditions, women's wellness and general health needs.
- The province-wide **Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP)** will launch in early 2015. MMRP is a cost sharing program between businesses and municipalities to help pay for the collection and recycling of household packaging and paper materials. To learn more MMRP, visit www.saskatchewan.ca/recycling
- The **Employee Investment Program** (through the Labour Sponsored Venture Capital Corporation (LSVCC) encourages employees to invest in the company and work and receive a tax credit in return. In addition to the tax credits, employee ownership gives employees an opportunity to share in the success and to own a piece of the company where they work. Employees will share in dividends received by the shareholders. Eligible companies must be corporations or cooperatives with between 5 and 500 employees. At least 5 employees must be willing to establish a fund. To learn more, visit LSVCC@gov.sk.ca
- York Auto Supply began in 1947 and was purchased by **Wally and Mary Sotski** in 1976. The Sotskis were faithful members of the Chamber. Congratulations on your retirement!

saskcareers.ca for Employers too!

saskcareers.ca is an excellent tool for people to use who are looking at career choices. Geared to people from grade 9 up through their 30's, the website provides information that enables young people to map their educational plan to achieve the career they want. And while there is lots of information about careers, the Saskatoon Industry Education Council and the Saskatchewan Chamber are **encouraging employers to**

register on the site. Registering a business on the site enables young people to see what it is a business does and the specific skill sets and educational levels that are required in order to be considered for hiring. There is no cost to register. To register or to learn more about the website, contact Janet Uchacz-Hart at janet@saskatooniec.ca or 306-683-5650.



Yorkton's New Economic Development Officer

Samuel Twamusi was named the City of Yorkton's **Ec Dev Officer** in November. Growing up in Toronto, Samuel says Yorkton has many attributes he is enjoying, especially the friendliness of its citizens. The Chamber looks forward to working with Samuel as he endeavours to assist with business growth and expansion in the city.



Yorkton Opportunities

At a Chamber Business Lunch, **John Law** of Lawmark Consulting shared the highlights and key findings from a **survey of Yorkton businesses** conducted by his company. He will again address the Chamber Feb 26 when he will discuss his recommendations for Action Items based on those findings. John's first presentation created lots of interest so you won't want to miss his presentation on the 26th. To register, contact the Chamber office.