

The VOICE of Business



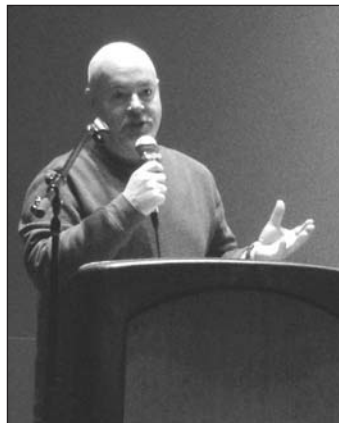
COMMUNITY COURIER



State of the City in 2015

At a recent Chamber Business Lunch, Mayor Maloney discussed the city's achievements in 2014 and its plans for 2015 and into the future. In addition to his visual presentation, Mayor Maloney distributed the document "Where Do My 2015 Tax Dollars Go?" The graph depicts the percentage each sector takes from a loonie. For instance, Public Works takes 17.0¢ to look after streets, street lighting, snow removal, etc. Servicing the debt on the Gallagher Centre and the Fire Hall takes another 6.9¢ from every loonie. To view the document, visit the city's website www.yorkton.ca and go to Property Taxes.

City Officials Discuss Building Services



Brant Hryhorczuk, Building Services Manager urges people to speak to his department before undertaking any building or renovation projects.

At a recent Chamber Business Breakfast, Brant Hryhorczuk, Building Services Manager; Michael Eger, City Planner; and Fire Chief Trevor Morrissey talked about the importance of the Building code and permit requirements; the Zoning Bylaw; and fire protection. Brant said, "The Building Services Department is pro development. "We love businesses to thrive but at the same time we have a duty of care to ensure that buildings meet public safety requirements." Brant recommended that people talk to the Department prior to undertaking any construction or renovation projects to learn if a building permit is required. Michael indicated that when the new Zoning Bylaw is complete, it will standardize setbacks for

dwellings, decks and garages with current Building Code requirements. "It will also contain more definitions in an effort to provide greater clarity which will assist the staff in their interpretation of the Bylaw", he said. Chief Morrissey indicated the Fire Department works closely with the Building Services Department to ensure the National Fire Code is implemented. He mentioned that the staff are beginning to work with businesses to develop Pre Plans - which include either sketches of the building or the blueprints, the number of people employed and a list of any hazardous goods or materials present so the Fire Department has them on file in the event of an emergency.

Congratulations!

- To **RH Electric** on being selected as one of **three finalists** for the 2014 **Safe Employer Award** sponsored by Work Safe Saskatchewan. The Award is presented to an employer who exemplifies workplace safety.
- To **Yorkton** for receiving a number of Riders' Choice Awards from SnoRiders magazine including a Silver in the **Favourite Powder Riding in SK** category.
- To **Parkland Denture Clinic** on 20 years in business.
- To **Doug Arnett of Yorkton Dodge** for being in business for 10 years
- To **Home Inn & Suites** on being designated by Tourism Saskatchewan as an Employer of Choice. Employers earn the EOC designation for leadership and commitment to best practices in human resources.

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February 2015**

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Joey's Children Apparel • Shawn Patenaude Law • The Soup Haven
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Ottenbreit Sanitation • CK Electric • Yorkton Animal Health Centre
Yorkton Sewing Centre • Service Canada • Mark's Work Wearhouse
McMunn & Yates • Canadian Red Cross • Pumphouse Athletic Club
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Just to mention a few . . .

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Need Help Starting a Business?

Contemplating starting a business can be a daunting task. Preparing business plans, finding detailed market information, learning about PST and GST and finding financial backing can cause even the most tenacious entrepreneur to feel overwhelmed. The good news is that there are a couple of organizations in Saskatchewan with the mandate to assist budding entrepreneurs.

Square One, Saskatchewan's Business Resource Centre is located in Saskatoon. Its core services are one-on-one consultation for general business planning, information service and import/export service. It provides business information and assistance with business research and introductory business information services.

Square One's staff can assist with a variety of tasks from understanding how to register a business to providing detailed sample business plans by sector to providing detailed market information.

For more information, contact info@squareonesask.ca or 1-888-576-4444.

Futurpreneur Canada has offices in both Saskatoon and Regina. It's the only national, non-profit organization that provides a full spectrum of financing, mentoring and support tools. It looks at character, not collateral, when providing futurpreneurs with pre-launch coaching, business resources, low-interest financing and industry-leading mentoring. Futurpreneur supports youth **18 - 39 years** of age.

Another program Futurpreneur Canada is offering is the **Skilled Trades Workshop** for youth interested in starting a business in the skilled trades.

Futurpreneur is also looking for **experienced entrepreneurs and professionals** to volunteer some time in helping to mentor new businesses in their region. Mentors provide business advice, as well as support and encouragement, to help young entrepreneurs remain focused on what is important for the success of their business.

To learn more about Futurpreneur Canada, contact Riley at rrnadoroznick@futurpreneur.ca or call (306-737-1589).

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- March 25**
Employee Recognition Event at St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre
- March 27**
Business Lunch at St. Gerard's Parish Hall. Hon. Ken Krawetz will discuss the recently tabled Provincial Budget
- March 31**
Deadline for Renewing **City Business Licenses** at City Hall
- April 28**
Chamber AGM at Painted Hand Casino

A Place to Call Home

In 2011, Yorkton City Council appointed a diverse group of individuals to its Housing committee which has been charged with the task of identifying housing needs throughout the community. In addition, a group of organizations providing subsidized and low cost housing in Yorkton identified the need for an Emergency Shelter.



Yorkton is unique in that it has a Housing Corporation. This has enabled the community to access funding for such projects as Fromm Manor which is under construction on Tupper Avenue.

A healthy community is one where all its citizens have a warm and comfortable place to call home. Yorkton is striving to ensure that is a reality.

Did you Know?

- Chamber member **Cam Mehling, GM of Maple Communications**, was invited to share his experiences as a businessman with the YRHS students in the Entrepreneurship 30 class? Our sources report he received rave reviews from the students!
- Businesses are encouraged to register on the **saskcareers.ca** website designed for youth. There is no cost to register and it's a great way to let the youth know about your business and the skill set and education you look for in your employees.
- Over 25,000 businesses across Canada receive quality employee benefits plans through the **Chambers of Commerce Group Insurance Plan** administered by Johnston Group.
- The Johnston Group now has the FutureStep RRSP Plan® available for companies with as few as two employees! Both the Group Insurance and the RRSP Plans are available only to Chamber members. For more information on either program, contact **Barry Zapshalla Investment & Insurance Solutions**.

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2015 Chamber Priorities

The 2015 Board of Directors met in mid January for its annual Planning Session. Guided through the exercise by former Director, Tom Seeley, the group established its priorities and goals for 2015.

Some of the Priorities from 2014 carried over to 2015 include:

- **Monitor the Labour Market**
 - How will the changes to the Temporary Foreign Worker Program affect our members?
 - What impact will the Sask Immigrant Nominee Program have on the work force?
- **Housing Availability**
 - Monitor the housing needs of employees.
 - The Board will review the updated Housing Needs Assessment when it is completed later this year.
- **Yorkton Regional Airport**
 - Offer to work with the Yorkton Airport Authority to enhance the growth of the Airport.
- **Monitor City of Yorkton Bylaws and Policies**
 - As the "voice of business in Yorkton", it is essential that the Chamber monitor bylaws and policies that impact the business community.
- **Meet with City Council, MLA and MP**
 - Meetings with these representatives have proven to be valuable in the past. The Chamber will strive to ensure Yorkton's "business voice" is heard by all orders of government.

Some of the New Priorities for 2015 include:

- **Rail Traffic in the City**



Tom Seeley leading the Directors in a discussion about Board Priorities.

- Letters will be sent to CN and CP asking for clarification about railway policies as trains travel through the city.
- **Implications to Businesses during the renewal of the Infrastructure along Broadway**
 - Work with YBID to ensure this is as painless as possible for the businesses most affected while the work is being undertaken.

These priorities have now been referred to their respective committees. Each Director serves on at least one of the Chamber's four standing committees - Business Development; Events; Marketing & Communications; and Policy.

The Board encourages Chamber members to contact the Board if they encounter an issue with which they feel the Chamber may be able to assist. In such instances, contact should be made first with Juanita Polegi, Executive Director, followed by an email or letter.

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Celebrate Employee Excellence!

Do you know someone who provides outstanding customer service? Do you have an employee who makes an outstanding contribution to your business? If you answered yes to either question, you're going to want to nominate that person for one of the Employee of the Year Awards!

The **Front Line Employee Award**, sponsored by CORE Real Estate, is for those employees who are always dealing with the public. They meet and greet customers and clients and provide customer service.

The **Support Employee Award**, sponsored by the Parkland College, is for those employees who don't spend much time with the public because they work

in the back, ordering parts and supplies and maintaining supply and store rooms.



Employees from all businesses are eligible to be nominated but they must have worked at their places of employment for 2 or more years. Employers and the Public are encouraged to nominate employees for the Front Line Award while only employers or supervisors may nominate employees for the Support Award.

Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office or on the Chamber website www.yorktonchamber.com.

Nominations close at 5:00 pm March 9.

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EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION EVENT

A Night of Fun for Employees and their Employers!

Wednesday March 25, 2015

St. Mary's Ukrainian Cultural Centre

Cocktails 5:30 pm | Supper 6:30 | Entertainment 7:45

Entertainment provided by the Hot Tamales Band featuring familiar music and light hearted entertainment!

Presentation of Front Line and Support Employee of the Year Awards
Contact the Chamber office for Tickets



Yorkton Chamber of Commerce