

The VOICE of Business

Chamber Members Respond to Survey about Yorkton's Business Climate

In an effort to receive feedback from its membership, the Chamber sent a 2 question survey to its members in August.

The first question was "What is your perception of the Business Climate in Yorkton?" Of the responses received, 74% indicated that they felt it was a Positive or neutral business climate. When asked why, some of the responses included, "I hear good comments from the business owners and I see much growth of new companies entering our area"; "Yorkton is a vibrant growing community with positive interactive business leaders"; and "A great place to start a business due to recent population growth and relatively inexpensive cost of living."

Negative answers accounted for 43% of the responses. When asked why, some of the responses were "Construction has come to a halt"; "The City is not proactive enough in luring new businesses"; and "It's an extremely expensive city in which to do business".

The second question asked if the members think it's a positive environment for new businesses investing in Yorkton. The responses to this question were also optimistic with 65% answering

yes or neutral. Responses included "With plenty of amenities, companies and their employees can settle down in Yorkton and enjoy a wonderful lifestyle, as well as profitable investments"; and

"Yorkton and area is growing and the region has a diverse economic base - including agriculture, agribusiness, mining and tourism". The most common response by the 35% who provided a negative answer was the city's development levy. Many respondents expressed concern about businesses establishing outside the city or moving out of the city in order to expand.

During a meeting between the Chamber's Business Development and Policy committees, Mayor Maloney, Councillors Goulden and Fisher and City Manager Lonnie Kaal, the Development Levies were discussed. In the August edition of the Courier (visit the Chamber's website www.yorktonchamber.com/publications) there is a report on the information provided by Ms Kaal about the Development Levies.

The Chamber intends to send these brief surveys to its membership on an intermittent basis to seek the opinions of its members on topics related to the business community.



Congratulations!

- To Century 21 Broadway Park Realty Office on receiving the Per Person Productivity Award. Many of the realtors with Century 21 Broadway Park Realty also received awards.
- To TA Foods and NL Construction on being named Finalists for the Sask Chamber's ABEX Awards! TA Foods in 3 categories - Export; Innovation; & Growth & Expansion; and NL Construction in the Service Award category.
- To Maple Farm Equipment and the Yorkton Co-op on being named to the Sask Business Magazine's Top 100 Businesses in the province.
- To Yorkton Co-Op on 75 years in business!



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Farming for Health



Ross Fisher, Executive Director of The Health Foundation, checked out one of the combines at the Farming for Health canola field just south of the city on the day the field was being harvested. The proceeds from the sale of the grain will go to funding a new Hospital. Many businesses donate to this project including Chamber members City of Yorkton; Maple Farm Equipment; Yorkton New Holland; Louis Dreyfus Commodities; Yorkton Co-op; AgraTactics Agronomy; Miccar Aerial; Yorkton Distributors; CTV; and Larry Hilworth.

YOUR MEMBER FIRST REFERRAL September 2015

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Vision Sense Eyecare • The Health Foundation • Magic Mirrors
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Yorkton New Holland • Maple Farm Equipment • Service Master
Parkland Outdoor Show • Yorkton Sewing Centre • Restore Yorkton
Joe Beeverz Bar & Grill • Quality Tire • Royal Canadian Legion
Hitching Post • Merle Norman Cosmetics • Auto Electric Service
Western Development Museum • Naturally You Esthetics
Mid Can Window & Door • Value Tire & Battery
Kinsmen Club of Yorkton • CTV Yorkton • Service Canada
Pita Pit • Brown's Social House • Mr. Mike's Steakhouse
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Life Members Inducted

Following their induction as Honourary Life Members of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, President Joel Martinuk congratulated Dr. Fay Myers (middle) and Kathy Connors (Right). **Dr. Myers** was the President of the Parkland College for 17 years. Among her many accomplishments as President of the College, Dr. Myers oversaw the introduction of international education programs and partnerships; the growth of the College's university and post-secondary programs; and a College-wide rebranding in 2008. Her vision and determination has led to the development of the Trades and Technology Centre in Yorkton. This remarkable facility is the pride of the region. The first students walked through its doors in



early September. **Kathy Connors** became involved in the Soup Haven 17 years ago.

While Kathy was at the helm of the Soup Haven for many years, she doesn't take credit for its success. Rather, Kathy credits God and what He has done through the community - the partnerships with the businesses and the many volunteers - for making the Soup Haven such a vital player in the health of the community's children and families. Today, the Soup Haven provides bag lunches or lunch supplies to all the schools in the city. It also offers monthly meals and Christmas hampers.

Kathy's tireless efforts to ensure all children in the city received at least one meal each day of the school year and the encouragement she gave to the children to stay in school have contributed greatly to the lives of countless children and their families.

Since 1969, the Chamber has inducted 14 Honourary Life Members.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- October 8**
All Candidates' Forum at the Gallagher Centre 7:00 pm.
- October 14**
2:30 - 3:30 Chamber Coffee House at the Chamber office. Want to know more about the Chamber? Join us for coffee and a chat!
- October 20**
Public Hearing for Workers' Compensation Act 9:30 Queensbury Centre, Regina. A live webcast is also available upon registration. For more information, visit www.wcbask.com
- October 21**
Business Transition Seminar sponsored by Community Futures Ventures 6:30 - 8:30 pm at 204 Smith Street East
- October 28**
Grand Opening of the T & T Centre
- October 29**
Worksafe Regional Workshop, Yorkton 8:00 - 3:30 Gallagher Centre
- October 31**
Great Pumpkin Walk 6:30 pm at Jaycee Beach sponsored by Yorkton Coop
- November 4 - 7**
Harvest Showdown
- December 31**
Chamber New Year's Eve Party at the Painted Hand Casino. Dress Up Event.

New Year's Eve Party



DECEMBER 31, 2015
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**Dress Up and Dance the Night
Away with Saddles & Steel**
Doors open 8:30 PM - Midnight Lunch
Tickets: \$48 or \$90 per couple
AVAILABLE AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE

Go Terriers!



The Yorkton Terriers 2015 - 16 season is now underway! Prior to playing their Home Opener Sept 19, Corwin Stevely (L) and Regan Seiferling (R) presented Juanita Polegi and Sherry MacDonald with a Terrier sweater to display in the Chamber/Tourism Yorkton building. Go Terriers!

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Did You Know?

- The combined square footage of the 4 branches of the Western Development Museum make it the largest museum in Canada. Yorkton has "Story of People" at its branch.
- Sunrise Health Region has a Quality of Care Coordinator. In addition to listening to your concerns or suggestions for improvement, the Coordinator can also help you navigate through different service areas and connect you with the people or information you need. Call (306)786-0735 or email client.rep@shr.sk.ca
- The City of Yorkton has developed 2 new publications - Community Profile and Investment Profile. To learn more contact Samuel Twumasi,

EDO (306)786-1747.

- Over 6000 people visited the Visitor Information Centre during the summer. They came from all 10 provinces and 2 of the Territories; 13 American states; and 13 other countries.

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Not you - your business. As a Chamber member:

- your business is listed on the Member Roster
- your business website is linked to the Chamber's website
- your business is in the Member First Referral program

There are other ways to advertise through the Chamber:

- With the **new rental rates**, space on the Chamber's Sign Board is disappearing. What better way to let the thousands of tourists who stop each year at the Visitor Information Centre to learn about your business?
- How about a **banner ad** on the Chamber's website? Over 1000 unique people visit the Chamber's website each month.

The most popular page is the Member Roster followed by the Home Page.

To learn more about rates for sign board rentals and website banners, contact the Chamber office (306-783-4368).

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Are You a Future Director?

Would you like to expand your business network? Are you interested in serving on a well-run Board of Directors? Would you like to contribute to your community by volunteering? If you answered yes to some of these questions, you may want to consider allowing your name to stand for a Director on the Board of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce.

Nominations will open October 15. Nomination forms are available on the Chamber website

www.yorktonchamber.com or may be obtained from the Chamber



office. The deadline for submitting Nominations is noon October 31.

Eight two year terms are available. New Directors take their place at the Board Table at the January meeting, joining those Directors who will be in the second year of their terms. Directors set the policy for this dynamic and positive business organization

To learn more about the role and responsibilities of a Chamber Director, contact one of the current Directors or call the Chamber office (306-783-4368).