



COMMUNITY COURIER

The VOICE of Business

New Directors Share their Views

On January 1, 4 new Directors joined the Yorkton Chamber Board. Two thirds of the way into the first year of their two year term, we have asked them about why they wanted to serve the Chamber and their thoughts on the direction of both the Chamber and the City. We also have a Director who was appointed in late 2014 to fill a vacancy.



Brent Murdock believes that if the City does not invest in the Airport, it cannot move forward as a major player in the province.

Having served as a Yorkton Chamber Director in 2010-11, **Brent Murdock** served as a Director for a Chamber in Ontario. He said he sought another term as a Director in Yorkton because he likes to be involved in serving the City. And he very much likes how the Directors of the Yorkton Chamber are engaged in the Board, dealing with real issues. Over the remainder of his term, Brent would like to see the City implement some of the recommendations the Chamber has put forth in regard to the Airport.



Kelly Price says that the Chamber brings issues affecting business to the forefront and does a good job of advocating for business. He also likes the role the Chamber plays in informing the business community about city policies and bylaws.

Mike Popowich said that as he moved back to Yorkton a year ago he thought that by becoming a Chamber Director it would allow him to meet people with similar interests in the business community. To date he has enjoyed discussing issues with other business people and he has appreciated the opportunity to interact with other members of the business community at local Chamber events and at the Sask Chamber's Round Table. Mike looks forward to being involved with the organization and planning of the upcoming Yorkton Chamber Business Dinner.



Mike Popowich said that the Chamber enables him to network with other business leaders. He looks forward to collaborating with them to influence policy.



Shawn Patenaude considers Yorkton a vibrant community that is a good place in which to do business. It's important to him that the City maintain a business-friendly environment.

When approached to let his name stand for nomination, **Shawn Patenaude** realized he has a skill set he could offer to an organization that not only helps his own business but those of his clients, as well. Through his involvement in the Chamber Shawn said he has learned more about the business community and he enjoys being able to participate in the interaction between business and the community at large.

As the Chamber prepared a new 5 year Strategic Plan earlier this year, Shawn is looking forward to seeing a growth in membership numbers and the strengthening advocacy role for the Chamber during the remainder of his term.

A desire to contribute to the community is the reason **Kelly Price** let his name stand for Chamber Director. While Kelly was aware of the role the Chamber played in the community, having worked in the business community for over 18 years, he was nonetheless impressed by all that the Chamber accomplished in 2014 in terms of helping business, promoting the City and bringing issues to the forefront. In the remainder of his term, Kelly would like to see the gap narrow between what the city says it will do with regards to the Development Levies and what the business community perceives it will do. Kelly believes that though economic activity in the city seems to have levelled off, the business community is still doing very well.

Continued on Page 2

Congratulations!

- To **Royal Ford** on 30 years in business!
- To **Richard's Auto Detailing** on 5 years in business!
- To the **City of Yorkton** on receiving the 2015 Award of Excellence in Planning for the Yorkton Official Community Plan from the Sask Professional Planners Institute!
- 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.

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Just to mention a few . . .

New Directors Share their Views (continued)



Randy Hrywkiw likes the positive attitude the Chamber and City embody. Everyone is pulling in the same direction to make the City better.

Appointed in Sept 2014 to fill a vacancy on the Board, **Randy Hrywkiw** had been sitting on the Business Development committee. Randy enjoys serving as a Chamber Director because he brings the perspective of the trades people to the discussions. And he very much enjoys the discussions he has with his fellow Directors and business people. As a committee member and then Director, Randy has observed some positive changes occurring in the City because the Chamber and City have been communicating more openly. He is concerned that the City's growth remain strong as a slower economy has a big effect on the trades.

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Business Walk with the Mayor Successful

Directors of the Yorkton Chamber of Commerce, including Vice President Corey Werner, Carol Yaholnitsky and Kelly Price, each took a turn accompanying Mayor Bob Maloney on the Chamber's Second Annual Business Walk with the Mayor the week of July 20. Mayor Maloney also did some driving as the bulk of the Chamber member businesses he visited were outside the downtown area.

During the Mayor's visit, each business was asked a number of questions. In terms of the economic health of the City, the majority of the businesses indicated that the city has a positive economic climate. Most of the businesses indicated that the opening of the Parkland College's Trades & Technology Centre this fall will be a real asset to the city. Some of the businesses indicated that the city's amenities are attractive to both consumers and tourists. And many indicated that they have developed good working relationships with city staff.

Some of the issues that were brought to the attention of the Mayor included the need for enforced 2 hour parking; concern about the condition of the city's



Kim Li of Kim Li Textiles, one of the Chamber's newest members proudly showed her store to Director Kelly Price (L) and Mayor Maloney (R) during the Business Walk with the Mayor.

infrastructure; the potential for trains to impede vehicular traffic - especially during an emergency; and the need for the city to continue its efforts to attract businesses to the city.

When asked what is required of the City or the Chamber to help businesses grow and expand, many indicated Events bring people to the City and ultimately, to their business. Many indicated that finding labour/skilled staff is still a concern.

The Walk was an opportunity for the Mayor to discuss the city's plans for development and work on the infrastructure.

The Yorkton Chamber was pleased that Bruce Thurston, Chair of YBID, was able to accompany the Mayor on the day the Walk occurred in the downtown area.

The Chamber appreciates the time its member businesses and Mayor Maloney took to meet and to discuss the city's business climate.



Mayor Maloney and Director Carol Yaholnitsky discuss the business climate with Richard Kuschak of Richard's Auto Detail.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

September 10
Chamber Business Lunch.
Life Member Induction.

September 25 - 27
Culture Days in Yorkton.

September 30
Annual Chamber Business Dinner with Manjit Minhas as Guest Speaker.

October 8
All Candidates' Forum at the Gallagher Centre
7:00 pm.

October 29
Worksafe Regional Workshop, Yorkton
Dec 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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Did You Know?



- The Call letters for the Yorkton Regional Airport are YQV.
- The City of Yorkton has been described as the "Poster Child" for having a large scale composting project.
- The Compost Project began in 2008 and in 2014, took in 30,874 cubic yards of waste material.
- The City is planning to sell the compost once the contaminants have been removed.
- For more information about the Compost Project, contact the city's Environmental Services 306-828-2470.

Prepare for a Power Outage

The suggestion for this article came during a discussion at a recent meeting of the Chamber's Business Development committee. Information for this article came from 3 sources: BC Hydro, California Energy Commission and Bell Canada. A search of SaskPower's website and following several phone calls, it appears Sask Power does not have available similar information.

A power outage can shut down business. It may also lead to security risks. To reduce the risk of costly downtime for your business, you need to have a plan in place that serves to protect and backup vital systems and information.

The first step in preparing for a power outage is to create a Plan. BC Hydro has an excellent checklist that will help you to create a customized Outage Preparedness Plan for your business. It suggests you take 5 steps in preparing your plan:

- Know your building
- Know your equipment
- Have a plan
- Prepare your employees
- Check your back-up systems

The California Energy Commission(CEC) suggests using UL-listed surge protectors and battery back-up systems for critical computer systems. These will add protection for sensitive equipment and help prevent a computer crash if the power goes out. CEC reminds businesses to back up

computer data frequently throughout the business day.

When an outage occurs, remember the **Safety First rule**. Have Emergency Kits available that include Flashlights, a battery powered radio, extra batteries, a copy of your emergency plan and key phone numbers. If a power line is down, consider it energized and stay away! No one should be closer to a downed power line than 10 meters or 33 feet.

BC Hydro recommends that once the power goes out, turn off equipment and appliances, including computers and laptops, especially those that generate heat. This helps prevent equipment damage when power is restored.

Upon restoration of the power, turn on the most essential equipment first, and wait 10 to 15 minutes before reconnecting voltage-sensitive and less-critical equipment, to give the system a chance to stabilize. Then close the circuit breakers one at a time:

- Start with the non-critical single phase breakers first
- Wait 1 or 2 minutes to make sure the equipment is operating before moving to the next breaker
- Turn on any three-phase equipment at the end of this process

This article is a brief overview of the steps to take to ensure your business and computer systems are safe during a power outage. For more information, visit the websites of BC Hydro; California Energy Commission and Bell Canada.



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